

Social Research Call

Title: The perspective of children and adolescents in vulnerable social contexts: what do they say?



Acronym: CHILDRISK

Project leader: Dra. Carme Montserrat

Host organisation: Universitat de Girona

Main purpose of the project: It sets out how to deal with situations of **social risk in childhood promoting community-based services** to prevent children being separated from their families. It will be carried out with children attending **daily after-school care services** in Catalonia (Spain) with the aim to find out **how they assess their lives and the role of these community-based services**, according to them and to professionals.

Design/methodology/approach: A mixed method design co-created with the children and adolescents attending day-care services and cross-checked with key stakeholders, with the assessment of an international advisory group. Techniques: i) **a survey to a representative sample** of 2,000 children (9-17 years old) and 100 professionals, ii) **focus groups** with a total of 40 children and 10 professionals.

Potential results: a) to cover the gap of knowledge regarding **subjective well-being** of children at social risk b) to provide evidence from the **children's assessment** of day-care services, c) to display new insights into **the complex role of these day-care services** in dealing with situations of child maltreatment, as well as the compensatory and preventive role of day-care services regarding education inequalities and poverty.

Social relevance of the research: The research project is framed in the context of **the model's transition** from 'open centres' to 'day-care services', presenting itself as a very appropriate, relevant and current strategic challenge at a political, social, and scientific level. It provides a unique opportunity to assess the new direction that these services are taking and prompting questions about their role in prevention and social inclusion.

Originality/value of the project: The research project will be co-designed and developed with and from the perspective of children users of day-care services, a subgroup that is always left behind, by the creation of **children's expert groups**. It pursues an impact to inform decision-making in professional practice and policy to deal with social risk in childhood from community-based resources.