

Highlights of FGC in Norway 2014

Norway: 5,6 million inhabitants

The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir) is the governmental office under the Ministry of Children and family Affairs that is responsible for child welfare.

Since 2007 Bufdir is given responsibility of implementation of FGC. Subordinate to the Directorate are the five regional offices in Norway (Bufetat) with twenty-six regional response and consultation teams.

In the 26 teams, there are one or several persons with a responsibility for FGC. The state responsibilities:

- Training in all municipalities / communities (3 days – free)
- Support / council social workers in method fidelity after training
- The 26 regional response and consultation teams are in charge of around 300 coordinators in Norway (Recruitment, training, group-consultation and individual consultation)

Some changes regarding organisation of the work can be expected.

Almost all of 430 municipalities / communities are trained in FGC.

FGC activity child welfare	
2007	250-300
2008	300-350
2009	350-400
2010	400-450
2012	650
2014	800?

Still a challenge: social workers in child welfare decide more or less for themselves who should be offered a FGC

Highlights:

National research project "Trying out FGC in foster care" (2011-2014)

Some of the early results from the project are now published (articles in English and Norwegian, presentation at conferences in Norway and in other countries). In November 2015 we plan a big FGC conference (2-3 days) in Norway where the national project will be presented. This will be in connection with the Nordic FGC conference.

The politicians in Norway have stated that FGC should be a recommended method in foster care.

Norwegian researchers have recently finished an international review of all the different evaluations and research regarding FGC.

Start November 2013 – finished October 2014. Published November. Cost: 50 000 Euro
Necessary to know more of output and outcome results in FGC.
We are planning a translation of the report into English.

Implementing FGC in several child welfare institutions all over Norway – overall implementation in the eastern part of Norway

One of the most populated regions in Norway (Norway are divided into five regions), have decided to implement FGC in every state child-welfare institution. Good experiences so far in all types of institutions. The training in the institutions are finished, but the implementation will continue for years.

MultifunC institutions (they are working evidence-based) are special institutions for youths with behavioural problem and drug-abuse. This type of institutions also exist in Denmark and Sweden. One out of four has implemented FGC, and offer FGC to every youth and family. Everybody except one has attended FGC. Because the outcome of FGC is good, key-persons are promoting FGC to surroundings who maybe are reluctant to the method.

A project is still ongoing in charge of a NGO (Voksne for barn / Adults for children) in Norway. The project will last until August 2015. Youths living in child-welfare institutions who participate in a FGC are challenged by a certain method to give feedback on how to improve FGC. This feedback will hopefully improve how we arrange for a FGC in the framework of the institution. The youths will create materials, and also make a film.

Using FGC in acute crises in child welfare

Challenge in Norway: 50 % of placements are acute.

We are offering FGC when:

- There has been a placement acute
- To prevent such a placement

Promising results! A FGC regarding the *acute crises* is arranged for between 24 hours and one week. This meeting is only about solving the acute situation. There should always be an "ordinary" FGC after 4-8 weeks - and if necessary several FGC following-ups. So far this year we have arranged for 100-150 FGC in these situations.

Researchers in Norway consider this way of working as very promising, and argue for research.

Pilot: FGC in mediation

Four family counselling offices are now trying out FGC in situations with extreme conflicts between parents after a divorce. The project will only have an internal evaluation, but if the results are good, it might lead to a research-project.

During the project period, we have kept strictly to the principles in FGC:

- Extended family participate
- Families have private time
- Independent coordinator
- A positive attitude towards the family plan
- Children's participation needs special attention.

Politicians are positive to FGC

Debates in the government how to increase the use of FGC, and our Minister has stated in a letter that she wants to increase the use of FGC both in fostercare and overall. Political change last year – our government is at the moment right-wing

The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs have a new role as a Directorate for the municipalities

- The consequences are not yet clear
- Making recommended standards in FGC for both municipalities and the state will start early 2015 and the work will be in charge of an external person together with key persons. The work will finish during 2015
- Some municipalities in Norway now use FGC outside the child welfare, and we think this will increase

Perspectives from Norway

- **We need more focus on research regarding FGC in Europe, Norway (and overall)**
- **Because FGC is so much connected to the Convention of Human Rights and the Convention of Childrens Rights (Articles 3, 12) – this obvious connection should be more promoted.**
- **We are not promoting FGC as a quick-fix model. We “understand” why some social workers can struggle working within the complex decision-making between the right of the child to participate (Article 12) and the need for children to be protected (Best interest of the child Article 3). Social workers need to have time and a culture to reflect upon these difficult dilemmas within a framework of recognition.**
- **Two new ongoing PhD projects in Norway (The Arctic University of Norway)**