



**Family Complexity and Social Work (FACSK).
A comparative study of family-based welfare
work in different welfare regimes.**

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This research project aims to compare family policies and family-based services in eight countries (Bulgaria, Chile, Ireland, Lithuania Mexico, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom) by asking:

1. How social workers understand notions of family, and
2. How social workers describe their own practices and objectives when it comes to family social work in four service areas:
 - child protection
 - drug/alcohol abuse treatment
 - migrating families
 - people with mental health disabilities

OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH METHOD

Data will be collected using focus group session/interviews with groups of 5-9 social work professionals working in the four service areas in each country. The focus group sessions will include a three-stage case vignette to stimulate discussions among participants. The focus groups will be held in the native language of each country.

Participants will be handed the vignette in three stages. At each stage they will listen to an audio of the vignette, which has been simulated and pre-recorded by actors. The participants will be asked to discuss the vignette after each stage is presented.

INSTRUCTIONS TO FACILITATOR

Please make yourself familiar with the vignette and the method prior to focus group sessions.

A. At the beginning of the session, please inform your participants about the following:

- the aim of this study
- their participation is voluntary
- the session will be audio-taped; however, what is discussed during the session will be confidential, i.e. answers cannot be traced back to them as individuals.
- what will happen during the session
- the approximate duration of the session

- your role as a facilitator is

B. Consent and Participant information

- Ask participants to read Participants Information and sign Consent Form.
- Ask participants to fill in the 'Participation information form' and collect.

C. Ask the participants to introduce themselves...

State work place and service area.

THE SESSION

1. Hand out copies of Overview and Stage 1. Then play 'Overview' and 'Stage 1' of the audio-taped vignette. Facilitate discussions between participants.

- How do you see this situation?
- What are the issues that you see as important to deal with right now? How/why?
- What would you as a social worker do in this situation? How/why?
- Which of the persons in this case would you be involved with?
- What other service providers (if any) would you work with in this case and why?

Possible prompts/follow-up questions:

- * What would be your responsibility in the case?
- * Are there issues or persons in the case that you would not see as your jurisdiction/responsibility to deal with?
- * Here it is possible to add prompts re migration

2. Hand out Stage 2, then play 'Stage 2' of the audio-taped vignette. Facilitate discussions between participants.

- How do see the situation now?
- What are the issues you are concerned about?
- What actions would you take? How/why?
- Who would you work with in this case and why?

Possible prompts/follow-up questions:

- * What would be your responsibility in the case?
- * Are there issues or persons in the case that you would not see as your jurisdiction/responsibility to deal with?

3. Hand out Stage 3, then play 'Stage 3' of the audio-taped vignette. Facilitate discussions between participants.

- How do you see the situation now?
- What are the issues you are concerned about?
- What actions would you take? How/Why?
- Who would you work with in this case and why?

Possible follow-up questions:

- How would decisions be made about what to do? (who would decide what to do?)
- Which relations in the case directs your attention...
- How do you assess/evaluate this family...
- ...

4. Concluding prompts

- Is family an important concept in your social work practice – if so, in what way? If not, any thoughts on why?

AT THE END OF THE SESSION, PLEASE

- Thank the participants (If you have any questions, in the first instance please do not hesitate to contact the Principal Investigator for [insert country] or Principal Project Lead.)
- Explain the next steps in using the data
- Ensure all participants have contact details in case any follow up with you is needed

Thank you for facilitating the focus group sessions.