

## Concept Note - ECCE seminar 11 September 2024

Partnership for Change, aiming at contributing to a gender equal society with inclusive growth, will annually host a seminar on topics relevant for development cooperation.

In 2023 the focus was on «ECCE, a “kinderegg” in development cooperation». We launched the concept of «Triple Win»: ECCE is good for children, frees women’s time for professional work and creates thousands of new ECCE-sector professional jobs; hereunder the delivery of goods and services demanded from the sector.

In 2024, the focus will continue on ECCE-development, but from another entry-point: Work - Family Balance. This topic is extensively discussed in all international fora working with **equality in work life and family policies aimed at gender equity**.

Many nations have legally regulated the right to paid parental leave, ECCE, right to paid leave of absence when children are sick, after school services, flexible hours when that is possible, and right to part-time work (shorter working hours when possible). UN and its’ agencies, ILO and EU state that enhancing and securing the **work-family life balance**, will benefit both men and women, the workplace and the children. “Care at work”, ECCE, paid parental leave and other measures as mentioned above, will contribute to a more inclusive economy and more welfare for families.

PfC harvested many relevant insights and experiences working with ILO on the project «Care @Work» aimed at more gender equity in the garment factories of Ethiopia (2023-24), where the majority if workers are women in fertile age. In several factories we managed to train workers, leaders and unions in care policies, including establishing ECCE- entities in 3 of the factories.

PfC holds the opinion that **work-family balance** is paramount for reaching gender equality and develop a rights-based, inclusive economy with focus on welfare and productivity for women, men, children and families. EU has set work-family balance on top priority of their gender equality Action Plan. EU is also a large donor in developing countries.

On this background we invite you to a seminar on **11 September 2024 at 15:00 – 17:00**, at Formue (Henrik Ibsens gate 53).

### The programme:

- Keynote speech from ILO, Geneva, Ms. Laura Addati, family policy expert
- Researcher Hege Kitterød, Institutt for Samfunnsforskning: Family policies in work life
- Julie Lødrup, LO: Work-life balance in developing countries
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Sidsel Bleken)
- Birikit Terefe, ECCE Programme Manager, PfC: Care@Work experiences and insights
- Panel discussion: NORFUND (Signe Sørensen), UNICEF (Sara Bondø), Equality Check (Marie Louise Sunde) and PfC

Panel leader: Eva Bratholm, former Director of Communications at NORAD, currently member of PfC’s board.

- Closing remarks