



# HESTIA

RESEARCH PROJECT

Analysing case files of child abuse and neglect in three European countries: methodological challenges

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# PRESENTATION

## Hestia research project

- *England, Germany and the Netherlands*

## Case file analysis

## Dutch child protection system

## Challenges

# HESTIA RESEARCH PROJECT

**NORFACE** the Future of Welfare States

European Union's 7th Framework Programme

**England, Germany & The Netherlands**

## **University of York**

- Prof. dr. Nina Biehal
- Helen Baldwin, MSc.

## **German Youth Institut**

- Prof. dr. Sabine Walper
- Dr. Heinz Kindler
- Dr. Eric van Santen
- Susanne Witte, MSc.

## **University of Groningen**

- Prof. dr. Hans Grietens
- Prof. dr. Erik Knorth
- Dr. Mónica López López
- Helen Bouma, MSc.

# HESTIA RESEARCH PROJECT

*Policies and responses with regard to child abuse and neglect in England, Germany and the Netherlands: a comparative multi-site study.*

## **3 parts:**

1. Policy analysis
2. **Case file analysis**
3. Interviews parents

# CASE FILE ANALYSIS

- Case files of child maltreatment
- Overview of the practical aspects of the child protection systems
- 400 per country
- 4 sites per country
- Coding scheme

→ **Challenges**

# CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

## The Dutch definition of child maltreatment:

*Any kind of violent or threatening behaviour towards minors of physical, psychological or sexual nature. This behaviour is forced on minors (actively or passively) by their parents or others to which these minors are in a relationship of dependency and lack of freedom. This behaviour (threatens to) cause serious physical or psychological harm to the minor. (Jeugdwet, article 1.1)*

## Types of child maltreatment:

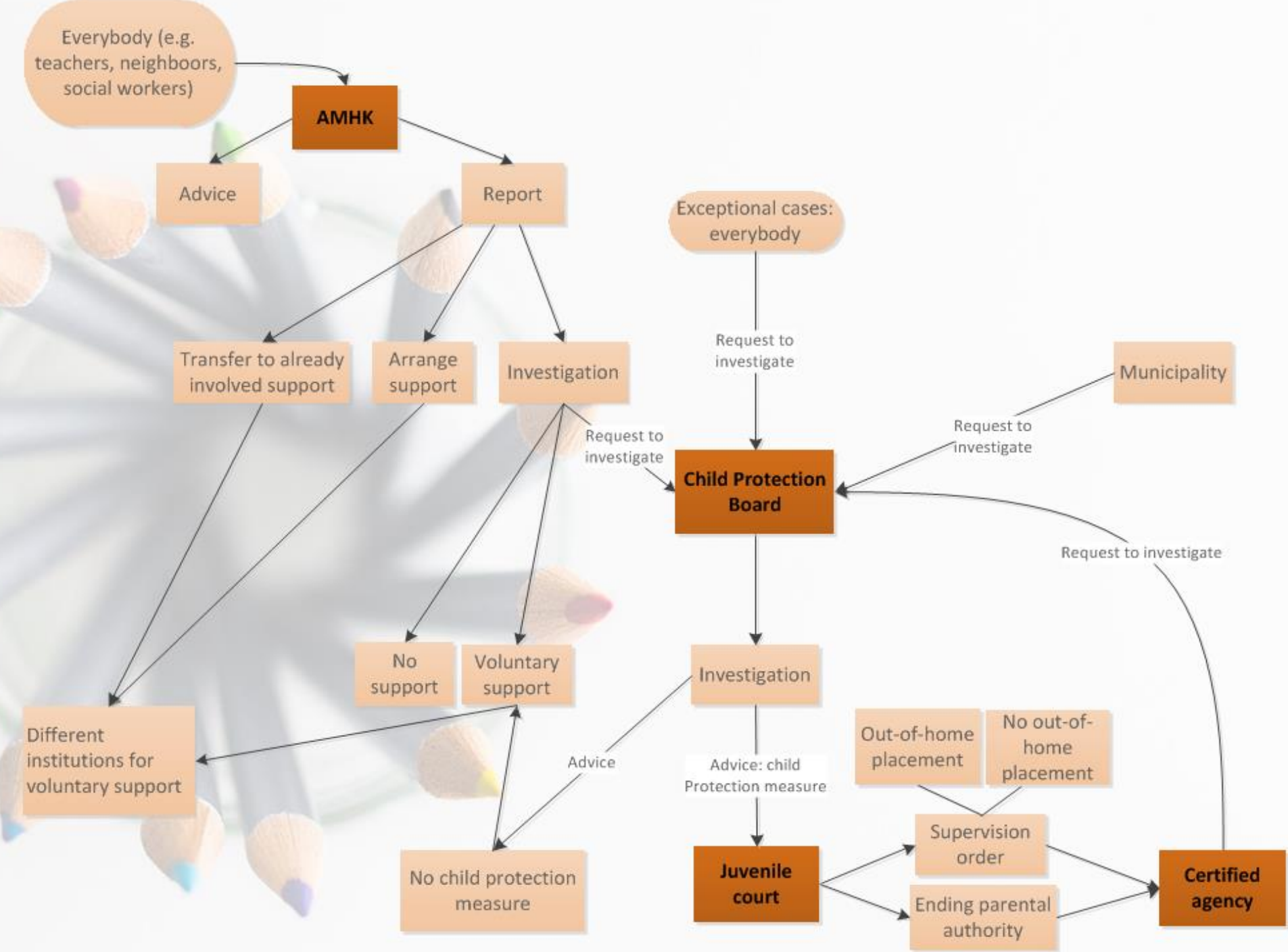
- Physical abuse
- Physical neglect
- Psychological/emotional abuse
- Psychological/emotional neglect
- Sexual abuse (Rijksoverheid, n.d.)



# CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

## Youth Act

- January 2015
- Transition
- Decentralisation
- Wider youth care system
- More accessible, simple and cost-effective
- Focus: prevention and early detection





# CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

## AMHK

- AMK + SHG
- Voluntary support

## Child Protection Board

- Compulsory child protection measures

## Juvenile court

- Enforcing child protection measures

## Certified agencies

- Performing child protection measures

# CHALLENGES

## Challenges:

- Three countries: worlds apart?
- The Netherlands: a system in transition

# CHALLENGES

## Three countries: worlds apart?

- Type of case files
- Overall, international coding scheme
- Sample period
- Exclude double case files

# CHALLENGES

## The Netherlands: a system in transition

- Youth Act 2015
- Transition of AMK and SHG into AMHK
- Complexity of child protection system
- AMHK and CPB

# DISCUSSION

Questions?

Ideas to overcome the challenges





# REFERENCES

*Jeugdwet 2015*. (2014, March 1). Retrived from [http://wetten.overheid.nl/ BWBR0034925](http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0034925)

Rijksoverheid. (n.d.). Kindermishandeling. Retrieved from <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/kindermishandeling>

# HESTIA

RESEARCH PROJECT

**Thank you!**

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