#### **ECER 2021**

**Network 04: Inclusive Education** 



#### Tanja Lindacher

Erfurt University, Germany tanja.lindacher@uni-erfurt.de

How Do Co-Teachers Perceive Their Instructional Responsibilities in Inclusive Classrooms?

A Case Study in Secondary Education



# What is the presentation about?



**Co-teaching** 

**Instructional** responsibilities

**Inclusion** 

Regular teachers

Special education teachers

## Inclusive education in Germany



- Variations of inclusive education throughout the 16 federal states
- Different forms of inclusive classrooms:
  - (1) 'cooperative' form:
    - Common instruction, but different legal status for pupils with special needs
  - (2) 'inclusive' form:
    - Common instruction and same legal status for pupils with special needs
- Curriculum reform in 2016: school-type-specific teaching techniques
- Secondary education: 'secondary schools' and 'community schools' (and other school types)

### Research questions



 How are professional co-teaching relationships between regular and special education teachers perceived by them in inclusive classrooms?



- Question explored from two perspectives
- Differences and/or similarities?

## Methodology



- Qualitative empirical approach
- Basis for recruiting participants: purposive sampling (three criteria)
- In this study: focus on 8 (4 male, 4 female) out of 14 participants, i.e. 4 cases/tandems
- Instrument: semi-structured interview guide, each participant interviewed on his/her own
- Data collection: June 2018 May 2019
- Data analysis: a structuring technique of qualitative content analysis (Mayring, 2015),
   MAXQDA, a total of 178 codings (interview passages) analyzed

#### Data: 4 cases/tandems



- Case 1: secondary school, cooperative form of inclusion, cooperation with a nearby special school focusing on mental development, grades 5 and 7
- Case 2: secondary school, cooperative form of inclusion, cooperation with a nearby special school focusing on physical/movement skills and mental development, grade 6
- Case 3: community school, inclusive form of cooperation from grades 5 to 10 with a focus
  on emotional and social development, pupils with special needs usually in one class of a
  grade
- Case 4: community school, inclusive form of cooperation from grades 5 to 10, pupils with special needs in different classes within one grade

# A comparison of the cases...

... will be presented in the session.



### International dimension of the study



- Co-teaching: not just an arrangement between two professionals, but part of a school development process
- Do the suggested organizational forms of inclusive education in Germany really
  provide an answer to the guidelines formulated by the United Nations (2006)? Or: How
  can school-type-specific characteristics in secondary education meet the
  requirements of an inclusive education (Göransson & Nilholm, 2014)?

#### References



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