

Content

Preface	38
1 Roots of the early childhood education and care (ECEC) system in Germany	39
1.1 Early beginnings in the 19th century	39
1.2 The pioneering work of Friedrich Wilhelm August Froebel	40
2 Developments in the early 20th century	43
2.1 The Weimar Republic – key legislation with long-term consequences	44
2.2 The Fascist period – party-affiliated appropriation of ECEC	45
3 After the Second World War: two systems of early childhood education and care	46
3.1 German Democratic Republic (GDR, East Germany)	47
3.2 Federal Republic of Germany (FRG, West Germany)	47
4. Joint legislation following unification: a meeting of two different cultures of ECEC	51
4.1 Implications for the ›new federal states‹	51
4.2 Implications for unified Germany	52
5 Current reform initiatives and development potentials	53
6 Diversity of educational approaches	58
7 Germany in the European context: similarities and differences in early childhood education and care systems	60
8 The role of the Pestalozzi Froebel Association (<i>pfv</i>) in the system of early childhood education and care	64
8.1 The <i>pfv</i> and current challenges in the field of early childhood education	64
8.2 What needs to be done?	66
References and further reading	67