



Our aims for 2020-2024

Easy-to-read text

'Easy-to-read' is information that is written in a simple and clear way so that people with intellectual disabilities and all people can understand it. You can find more information about easy-to-read at www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read.



Who we are

We are 'COFACE Families Europe'.
We are an organisation that works for the rights of all families in Europe since 1958.
In short, we are called 'COFACE'.



At COFACE, we want to make sure that all families can enjoy a good, healthy and safe life.

What this booklet is about

We wrote this booklet to talk about our aims for 2020-2024.

There are 10 aims we ask the European Union to make happen by 2024:

1. Recognise all forms of families
2. Recognise parents as equal
3. Make sure all children have a good and safe life
4. Support families of people with disabilities
5. Listen to the needs of families
6. Make access to internet possible for all people
7. Support families that are poor or left out
8. Support family carers
9. Respect the rights of all families
10. Make the Sustainable Development Goals happen



In the following pages,
we will explain more about each of these aims.

All the difficult words in the text are marked in **bold**
and you can find their explanation at the end of this booklet.

1. Recognise all forms of families

We often think of families
as parents and children.
But families can have many forms.
For example,
there are children who grow up
with only one parent or with their grandparents.
There are also children who grow up
with two fathers or two mothers.

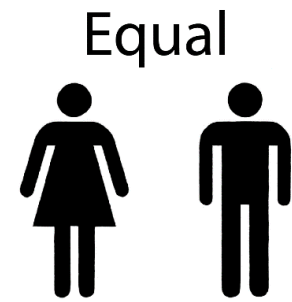


At COFACE, we believe that
all forms of families are equal
and they have the same rights.

By 2024,
the European Union should work to make sure
that no family is left out just because it has a different form.

2. Recognise parents as equal

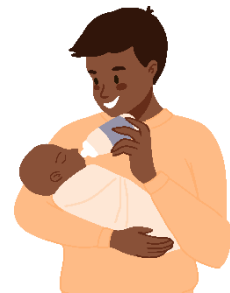
Men and women are equal.
They both have the same rights and duties
when they become parents.
It should not be expected
only from one of them
to look after their child.



However, in practice,
often mothers are expected
to look after the children more than fathers.
For example,
women may take time off from work
to look after their child.
But men can take very little or no time off
from work to look after their child.
This is unfair because it does not allow
women and men to:



- Care for their children equally,
- Have the same chances at their work.



By 2024,
the European Union should work to make sure
that women and men have an equal role in raising their children
and the same chances at their work.

3. Make sure all children have a good and safe life

All children have the right to a good and safe life.

For example, they should be able to:

- Go to school with other children,
- Have good and healthy food,
- Take part in decisions about their lives,
- Be protected from being treated badly,
- Be safe when they use the internet.



By 2024, the European Union should work to make sure that all children can live a good and safe life.

4. Support families of people with disabilities

People with disabilities have the right to take part in all things in life like everyone else.

The **European Union** and all its countries have signed ‘the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**’. In short, we call it ‘the UN Convention’. They agreed to do



what the UN Convention says to protect the rights of all people with disabilities. For example, they should:

- Make sure children with disabilities can go to school together with other children.
- Make things and services **accessible** so that people with disabilities can use them to take part in the community.
- Support people with disabilities to **live independently**.



By 2024, the European Union should work to make the UN Convention happen and support the families of people with disabilities.

5. Listen to the needs of families

Families are an important part of **society** and they can play an active role in making society better.

That is why countries should talk with families and their organisations and listen to their needs and ideas when they decide about important things.

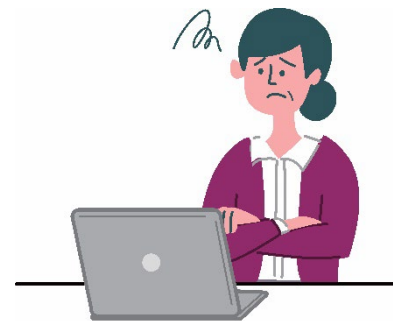


By 2024,
the European Union should talk more
with families and their organisations and help them to have
an active role in society.

6. Make access to internet possible for all people

Today, the internet is a big part of our life.
It is a very useful tool
to work, study, learn new skills
and stay in contact with other people.

But some families
do not have access to internet.
That can be because
they do not have the money to pay for it
or because they do not know how to use it.
Without internet,
families may be left out of a lot of things.



By 2024,
the European Union should make sure that all families
have the chance to use the internet.

7. Support families that are poor or left out

Many families in Europe are poor or left out.
They may not have enough money

to buy things they need to have a good life,
send their children to school,
or go to the doctor when they are sick.
They may be left out of the community
and feel helpless.

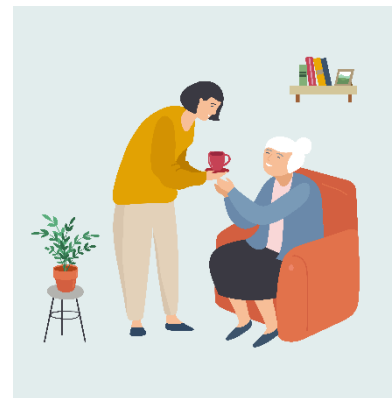


By 2024,
the European Union should work to support families in need
and make sure they are not left out.

8. Support family carers

Family carer is a member of a family
that looks after another member
that has a disability or is older
and needs support.

The role of family carers is very important.
But it can be a tough job
if they must do it all alone
without any support.



By 2024,
the European Union should recognise the important role of family carers
and give them the support they need to continue.

9. Respect the rights of all families

All families have the right to have a good life.

The **European Union** has signed important agreements and promised to protect the rights of all families. For example, it has signed an agreement that says what rights children have. Also, it has signed an agreement that says what rights people with disabilities and their families have.



By 2024, the European Union should work to respect the rights in these agreements and make things better for all families.

10. Make the Sustainable Development Goals happen

The **Sustainable Development Goals** are goals set by many countries in the world to look after the planet and its people and make a difference by 2030. Amongst others, the goals say that countries should work together to make sure that all people:

- Are treated as equal and have the same chances in life,
- Have a good job and a fair salary,



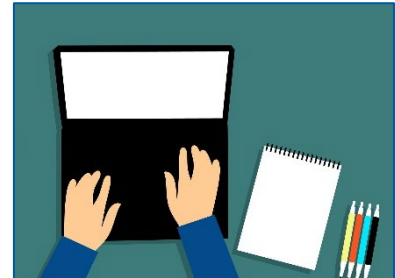
- Can go to the hospital and get good health care when they are sick,
- Have food and clean water.

If these goals happen,
the world will be a better place for children and families.

By 2024,
the European Union should work hard
to make the Sustainable Development Goals happen
for the good of the people and the planet.

More information

If you want to know more
about the work we do at COFACE
or if you have a question,
you can send us an email at
secretariat@coface-eu.org.



Explanation of difficult words

European Union

The European Union is a group of 27 countries in Europe that work together to make things better for their people.



UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

This is an agreement that many countries in the world have signed. It says what rights people with disabilities have and how countries can protect these rights. In short, we call it ‘the UN Convention’ or ‘the CRPD’.

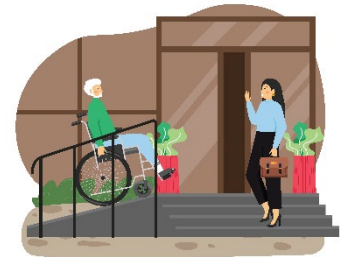


The European Union and all its countries have signed the UN Convention.

That means that they have agreed to work to make it happen and to protect the rights of all people with disabilities.

Accessible

Things are accessible when they are easy to use for people with disabilities and all people. For example, when buildings have ramps that people in wheelchairs can use to get in. Or when information is easy to read and people with intellectual disabilities can understand it.



Live independently

To live independently means you can make your own choices about your life. For example, you can choose where, how and with whom you want to live. All people have the right to live independently but some people may need support to be able to enjoy this right. For example, people with disabilities or older people.



Society

Society is a large group of people who live in communities in an organised way. They may share similar rules, rights, way of life and other things.



Family carer

Family carer is a member of a family that looks after another member that has a disability or is older and needs support.



Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals are goals set by many countries in the world to look after the planet and its people and make a difference by 2030. In short, we call them “SDGs”.

