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report online



# Sustainable solutions to help families and the economy bounce back

2021

ANNUAL  
REPORT



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Editor: Bettina Guigui  
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# INTRODUCTION

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## Preliminary words

Dear readers,  
Thank you for picking up our annual report. 2021 was not an easy year for families. The pandemic was a harsh reality for civil society and for families all over Europe. The important role of families as natural social safety nets and the need for an economy which cares became more obvious than ever before. As you read the pages of this annual report, you will discover that our actions to set the EU agenda, to drive change and to support both children and their families are captured in the word *Families*.

**F**amilies play an essential role in our societies. In so many fields, the solution starts at home. Policy-makers should capture the breadth of the relationship between family and society as a whole, including the economy.

**A**ll types of families should have equal opportunities.

**M**ainstreaming the family dimension in society and in policies beyond social policy is key to drive real changes.

**I**nvest in child and family well-being. European and national policies must therefore put children and their families first through a systemic two-generation approach based on the interrelated wellbeing of children and their parents.

**L**ife-course. Families of all ages must be supported in our fast-changing society to find a good work-life balance in family-friendly workplaces.

**I**ntergenerational solidarity and Inclusion for all is our motto.

**E**conomy at the service of society and families must fully recognise the important role of the family carers.

**S**ustainable and strong social policies. The European Pillar of Social Rights needs to deliver quality and impactful outputs for Europe's families.

Driven by our 2030 Child compass and our new strategic framework we defined our focus to support families to bounce back from the Covid-19 crisis. We harnessed the full potential of technologies and developed our European Family Lab further as a strong and innovative tool to reach out to families and build bridges between family professionals. In our rich illustrated S.H.I.F.T. report we collected inspiring practices to support our call for a societal shift towards meaningful inclusion for all persons with disabilities and their families.

We are happy to count on the support of the European Commission and to cooperate with a wide variety of partners. In 2021, we intensified our relations with OECD and we reached out to UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia and joined forces in the support of families in Europe and beyond.

We are especially grateful for the continuous support of our COFACE members, who have a firm foot at the national level. They are watchdogs of emerging trends and their involvement is our resource to harness and helps us to make thoughtful decisions and find lasting solutions.

COFACE Families Europe is well equipped and ready to go forward, towards an Economy which cares. We want to join forces to trigger change, we want to help shape the future "Care strategy", bring the Work Life Balance directive and the Child Guarantee to life, across Europe and build a better society for all families of today.

Annemie Drieskens  
President of COFACE Families Europe



## About us

**Founded in 1958 and with 50+ member organisations in 23 European countries, COFACE Families Europe is a network which represents millions of families, volunteers, and professionals.**

Our areas of work include social and family policy, education, disability rights, gender equality, child rights, migration, consumer issues as well as the impact of technological developments on families.

COFACE Families Europe advocates for policies of non-discrimination and equal opportunities between persons and between family forms, and specifically supports policies aimed at increasing equality between women and men, with a special focus on reconciliation between work, care and family life.

## COFACE Families Europe aims to achieve several positive overarching outcomes for families and society

Work Life balance and family-friendly work places

Gender equal and caring economy

Promote equal opportunities for all families

Inclusive education and societies

Digital citizenship and harnessing the potential of technology

Independent living for all, family carers and persons with disabilities

Child rights and family well-being

Financial inclusion and an economy that serves society and the planet

Social inclusion and poverty prevention



## MISSION

Our mission is to promote the well-being, health and security of families and their members in a changing society and serve as a trusted entity for family mainstreaming and for the voices of families in the EU and beyond.

## VALUES

COFACE Families Europe is rooted in a set of six core values:

**Non-discrimination.** COFACE Families Europe recognises all family forms.

**Equal opportunities** between women and men.

**Respect of human rights** for a decent quality of life.

**Empowerment** to all family members as citizens, consumers and workers.

**Social inclusion** of all families.

**Solidarity** between family members.

## VISION

COFACE Families Europe works towards a family-friendly environment, enabling all families and their members to benefit from sufficient financial resources, available quality services and adequate time arrangements in order to live and enjoy their family life in dignity and harmony.



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## Key activities

- Represent →** Representing COFACE member organisations towards the European and international institutions (UN, OECD, Council of Europe), and towards other organisations operating at European level (EU agencies and stakeholder groups, NGO alliances, forums, platforms).
- Advocate →** Carrying out advocacy campaigns for families and family organisations wherever the interests of families and their members are at stake.
- Coordinate →** Coordinating and facilitating projects, programmes, activities and initiatives of member organisations, bringing a European dimension to their local initiatives to drive change for families.
- Monitor →** Closely following EU and international initiatives, assessing the negative and positive impacts for families. Assess emerging family trends across Europe through studies in various fields, and making the link with EU/international initiatives.
- Network →** Establishing networking systems for the continuing exchange of information and actions with member organisations on matters arising within the European Union, as well as reaching out to individuals who support COFACE's mission.
- Initiate →** Developing new research, projects, conferences, seminars, trainings and study days, and putting in motion programmes of action at European level, in partnership with other organisations.



## What have we done in 2021?

### JANUARY

New webinar series launched: **Breakfast bytes**. These are short talks allowing for a deep dive into a specific family support (service, policy, campaign or other), aiming to connect people and spread knowledge on NGO-driven family supports across Europe.

Breakfast Byte spotlight on **teenage parenthood** hosted by Step by Step Parents' Association, Croatia.

### MARCH

For International Women's Day 2021, COFACE organises a **policy and advocacy session on closing the gender care gap**, with keynotes from EIGE and the German government.

**Launch of OECD study on family supports** through public webinar bringing together 100+ participants from 33 countries in Europe and other world regions.

Breakfast Byte **spotlight on loving long-distance**, hosted by Väestöliitto, Finland.

### FEBRUARY

**Setting up focus groups with parents and professionals** to develop the Skills4Parents self-learning guide to empower parents.

COFACE Families Europe **webinar on diverse representation in communication**, co-hosted with UNAF Spain.

Breakfast Byte spotlight on **digital parenting** hosted by Gezinsbond, Belgium.

### APRIL

**Online expert webinar on unlocking new economic thinking for a sustainable future**, in the presence of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and a representative from the cabinet of European Commission Executive Vice-President, Valdis Dombrovskis.



## MAY

Public webinar to launch the **SHIFT survey to collect good practices** on meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities in Europe.

COFACE General Assembly adopts its new 2021-2030 strategic framework.

Breakfast Byte spotlight on **housing and other connected supports for single mothers**, hosted by Women4Women, Czech Republic.

## JULY

COFACE Families Europe completes the **#BeTheSHIFT campaign** on disability rights.

COFACE joins meeting on **UNAPEI's campaign #jaipasécole** raising awareness on the exclusion of children with disabilities in schools in France and beyond.

## JUNE

Family organisations welcome the **European Child Guarantee** and call for swift implementation.

COFACE publishes an **opinion piece on diversity in communications**.

**The Digigen consortium organises its mid-term policy forum online**, opened by European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, to connect the Digigen research with policy, practice and industry realities.

Breakfast Byte spotlight on **how babies influence the boardroom**, by Pro Parents Netherlands.

## AUGUST

**The new website** creative process kicks off, with brainstorming on design, accessibility and diversity.

Coordination and building of the **Erasmus+ self-learning guide to support parents** in 5 areas: communication, empowerment, mediation, problem-solving and digital parenting.



## What have we done in 2021?

### SEPTEMBER

Breakfast Byte spotlight on **Family Group Conferencing**, by Tulip Foundation, Bulgaria.

**Towards an Economy which cares:**  
COFACE adopts its Economic Principles.

### NOVEMBER

The **“House of Giants”, an immersive exhibition on child safety at home**, is inaugurated by Gezinsbond, Ligue des Familles, COFACE Families Europe and partners in Brussels.

COFACE hosts a policy and advocacy session on **parent-child relationships in the digital era with youth participation**.

COFACE publishes a **joint statement** calling for **stronger EU legislation to end children’s exposure to unhealthy food marketing**.

### OCTOBER

Breakfast Byte spotlight on **building peer support to family carers of persons with disabilities**, by APF France Handicap.

Speaking at event on **EIGE’s Gender Equality Index Conference**. In 2021, the spotlight was on health.

**COFACE co-organises webinar on the European Child guarantee with DG REFORM of the European Commission** with ministry representatives from 20+ countries present.

### DECEMBER

**COFACE Families Europe launches its brand new website.**

COFACE publishes its **new S.H.I.F.T. report** shedding light on the meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities in Europe putting the spotlight on 45 initiatives.

Launch of COFACE **Policy Brief on Early childhood education and care**.

COFACE along with 40+ civil society actors call on EU to deliver on **Renovation Wave commitment to tackle energy poverty**.

COFACE’s last Breakfast Byte webinar of the year focused on **Family mediation** and how to address conflicts between parents and children in adolescence, by UNAF Spain.



## Looking back – 2021 highlights



**65,684**  
page views of the  
COFACE website

**8**  
media  
releases

**15**  
Families Corner  
newsletter issues

**1** European  
Family Lab

**31,988**  
users of the  
COFACE website

**35**  
videos  
produced

**4**  
active hashtag  
campaigns

**1** COFACE  
TV channel



Outreach and partnerships

**6**  
Training  
sessions

**4**  
COFACE statutory  
meetings

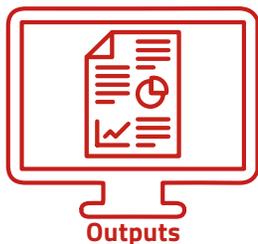
Advising  
**11**  
EU Projects

**5**  
European expert  
meetings

**700+**  
people across all world  
regions reached through  
2021 events

**7**  
public affairs  
events

**1** European Parliament interest  
group on solidarity between  
generations



**58**  
Good practices  
collected

**1**  
Policy brief on early childhood  
education and care

**8**  
Assessments  
of EU law

**27**  
reports

**10+**  
responses to EU  
consultations

**1**  
set of Economic  
principles

**1**  
2021-2030  
COFACE  
Strategic Framework



## Breakfast byte webinar series

The target group of the webinars was especially professionals working with families and children but is open to all (researchers, policy-makers, teachers, health workers, families, and more). It is more important than ever to connect professionals through transnational exchanges in order to tackle the social impacts of COVID-19 on families and children. This Breakfast Bytes series focused on diverse types of family supports in 9 countries, aiming to increase critical thinking and understanding of NGO-driven family support systems, aiming to have positive impacts on children and their families, and supporting the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Family professionals and families met nearly monthly in 2021 through these webinars, to learn about family support and put questions to COFACE experts.



**THANK YOU** to our network, which continued to show great solidarity, creativity and adaptability during these difficult times. Together we can continue to build back better.

### 2021 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

**January:** Building an online platform to engage with teenage parents: challenges and successes. By Parents Association Step By Step, Croatia.

**February:** The Flemish SafeOnline Initiative: how to deal with digital media in your family. By Gezinsbond, Belgium.

**March:** Loving long-distance. By Väestöliitto, Finland.

**April:** How to build parent communication skills with children so as to prevent and combat bullying behaviours. By KMOP, Greece.

**May:** Housing and other connected support for single mothers. By Women 4 Women, Czech Republic.

**June:** How babies influence the boardroom: supporting both parents and their employers with maternal & paternal wellbeing at work. By Pro Parents, The Netherlands.

**September:** Family Group Conferencing – a right and opportunity for every person and every family. By Tulip Foundation, Bulgaria.

**October:** Building peer support to family carers of persons with disabilities. By APF France Handicap, France.

**December:** Family mediation: addressing conflicts between parents and children in adolescence. By UNAF, Spain.

### MISSED THEM?

You can watch the talks of the 2021 Breakfast Bytes on our COFACE TV channel.



# EUROPEAN FAMILY LAB

## Spotlight on COFACE TV

This European Family Lab, which we have been busy developing since 2020, serves as an innovation incubator for ideas and cross-country knowledge transfer to help family professionals deliver the best possible supports for families and children. We continue to co-build the European Family Lab room by room, one of them being the COFACE TV room.

Our COFACE TV Youtube channel is where we publish videos on policy and practice ranging from internet safety, data protection, and sustainable economy to other important issues affecting families across Europe such as family mediation, building peer support for family carers and much more. In 2021, COFACE Families Europe launched its Breakfast Bytes webinar series on family support. Each of these webinars are recorded and published on our COFACE TV channel throughout the year hence putting a spotlight on the work of COFACE members who provide a wide range of family supports.

**In April 2021, we hosted an online conference to discuss economic thinking in light of caring for families and children. The conference dived into the needs of families today in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed the sustainability of the current economic system, using the doughnut economic model as a starting point. The intervention of the experts were subsequently shared on our COFACE TV channel, to spread knowledge and so that these important conversations could be viewed and accessed beyond COFACE Families Europe's network.**



### Unlocking new economic thinking | Presentation by Barbara Trachte,...

Families Europe



### Unlocking new economic thinking | Presentation by Olivier de Schutte...

Families Europe



### Unlocking new economic thinking | Presentation by Daniel Alvarez,...

Families Europe



### Unlocking new economic thinking | Presentation by Katy Wiese,...

Families Europe



### Unlocking new economic thinking | The world in 2042: an inspiraiona...

Families Europe



### Unlocking new economic thinking | Presentation by Jan Mayrhofer,...

Families Europe



### Unlocking new economic thinking | Presentation by Thierry...

Families Europe



# GROWING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

## Key public networking events

### POLICY & ADVOCACY SESSION ON GENDER INEQUALITIES IN CARE AND PAY IN THE EU

For international women's day 2021, COFACE organised this online webinar at a crucial moment of social developments within the EU, one year after the adoption of the European Commission's Gender Equality Strategy, a few months after the EPSCO Council conclusions adopted under the German Presidency of the EU with guidelines for closing the care gap, and **finally in the middle of the transposition of the EU Work-life balance directive adopted in 2019**. The key findings were published in a meeting report and disseminated widely.

### ONLINE CONFERENCE ON UNLOCKING NEW ECONOMIC THINKING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

This conference was held online for COFACE members and EU stakeholders on **building a caring economy which works for families and children**, especially important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic during which families acted as the main social safety net.

It started with a reality-check of the new needs of families of today in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, followed by a discussion on the social and environmental sustainability of the current economic system, and trying to trigger actions to sustainably reduce social inequalities, building an economy that works for society. The key findings of the discussions contributed to shaping the COFACE Economic Principles adopted later in the year.

### LAUNCH OF S.H.I.F.T. GOOD PRACTICE COLLECTION SURVEY

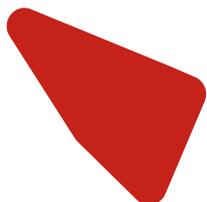
In the run-up to the international day of families 2021, this webinar on 11th May with COFACE Disability and COFACE members, partners and friends, aimed to **unlock the potential of the S.H.I.F.T. guide** in order to:

- ★ Trigger the meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities, their families and their carers, all over Europe;
- ★ Launch a European collection of existing S.H.I.F.T. good practices.

Opened by European Commissioner Helena Dalli, this webinar brought together different speakers including from a self-advocate organisation, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, the EU Social Protection Committee, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Disability Rights.

### PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS IN THE DIGITAL ERA

This policy and advocacy session took place online with 70 stakeholders present from a variety of backgrounds (children, parents, family professionals, teachers, ICT industry, researchers, national and EU policy-makers and more) from 29 countries. A couple of key topics were discussed with key messages and recommendations emerging, providing some of the latest research and listening to the opinions of children, families and professionals, on challenges and solutions to boost parent-child relationships. The starting point for discussion were speakers from the Horizon 2020 research project DigiGen and Better Internet for Kids Youth ambassadors, **putting the voice of children at the heart of discussions on the digital generation.**





## Joint international events

### LOOKING BEYOND COVID-19 – STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES



Bernard van Leer  FOUNDATION



The COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges for many families: in addition to health and economic issues, policy measures such as lockdowns, school closures and teleworking from home put considerable stress on families.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted immediate needs such as regarding financial resources or education supports for many families in vulnerable situations who are likely to be most affected by the long-term economic, educational, health, and well-being consequences of the pandemic, and Family services can play a key role in helping families cope with this situation. In that sense, the pandemic underscores previously existing challenges for family support services as identified in the new study on Family Support Services across the OECD.

This 2-hour webinar took place on 30th March 2021. It launched the new OECD study on family supports, presenting the overall conclusions of the study, and inviting reactions from experts in different world regions.

It involved 126 participants from 37 countries and a wide range of participant profiles (NGOs, research, government, banks, local/regional authorities, trade unions).

### WHAT'S NEXT? EXPANDING CHOICES THROUGH FAMILY-FRIENDLY POLICIES

#### Expanding Choices Through Family-Friendly Policies

Designing policies to transform gender roles & build more equal & prosperous societies



How do policies in the workplace impact gender equality and choices for families? The UN Population Fund Eastern Europe & Central Asia and COFACE organised a public conversation on this important and timely topic on Thursday, 27 May at 3 p.m. GMT+3 - the event took place via Facebook Live.

This event was hosted to mark International Day of Families 2021 by reflecting and raising awareness on the social, economic and demographic issues faced by families in the region – and how these have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Families, especially women, have borne the burden of this crisis, taking on increased caring for children and other relatives while maintaining their paid work responsibilities. But this challenging moment is also an opportunity to rethink and reshape societies, economies and institutions to promote greater gender equality.

Keynotes included representatives from COFACE, OECD, the cabinet of European Commission Vice-President Šuica, the University of Utrecht and more.



## Online communities

We ensured an ongoing society watchdog function to raise awareness about new trends and emerging challenges for families at EU and national level. We aim to foster transfer of knowledge across countries, sections and levels. We do so in order to develop and disseminate innovative policy and practices as well as give a voice to challenges and needs of all types of families in the EU and inspire one another to tackle current and future issues.

We built various online information and advocacy campaigns to disseminate COFACE/EU activities strategically to local communities in Europe and beyond and at the same time spread grassroots information to the EU level.

Our main communication channels helped in achieving our objectives. Social media are an integral part of our dissemination strategy. Through our activities on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram we have started building various communities of EU and family professionals from different backgrounds, individuals interested in family matters and partnerships across sectors, countries, languages and political beliefs. Equally our Families Corner newsletter gathers all relevant aspects about COFACE, its members, the EU and beyond which are sent out monthly to 4000+ people.



In 2021, we continued to publish our COFACE Families Corner newsletter and we connected you all by sharing key information and news affecting families across Europe and beyond through four sections:

- ★ **You&The EU:** European initiatives which affect our daily lives directly or indirectly.
- ★ **Creative Hub:** Highlights about the great work of the COFACE members and partners to support the rights of families.
- ★ **Discuss&Debate:** Opinions from inside and outside COFACE to show the pluralism of views in our inclusive and democratic European societies.
- ★ **Timeout:** A section with elements which will make you laugh and relax. Fun and smiles are an integral part of the Families Corner experience.

Become part of our community by signing up to our **newsletter** and following us on **social media**: <http://tinyurl.com/cofacenws>.



COFACE\_EU



Families Europe  
@COFACE.EU



Families Europe  
[youtube.com/user/coface2010](https://www.youtube.com/user/coface2010)



familieseurope



COFACE Families  
Europe

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Expert-meeting on Communications with a focus on diverse representation in communications | 8 Media releases                                 |
| 1 COFACE TV (Youtube channel)   | 1 online members' forum                          |
| 12 opinion pieces   | 9 breakfast byte webinars on family supports     |
| 35 videos   | 1 brand new multilingual website                 |
| 4 online campaigns  | 8k+ followers across four social media platforms |
| 15 Families Corner newsletters  |  |



## Campaigning

We build political momentum on family issues (family diversity, gender stereotypes, sexual and reproductive rights, cyber-bullying, challenges of family carers, family reunification of refugees) and on EU matters (European Pillar of Social Rights, Work-Life Balance, Sustainable Development Goals, EU Strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities, the EU Child Guarantee and more). We use international days (women, families, parents, children, disability and refugees) and communication partnerships (with NGOs, EU agencies, research) for greater multiplier effects and involvement of wider communities in our campaigns.



### #BETHESHIFT

In 2021, we were keen to bring #BeTheSHIFT dynamics to the next level. We launched a European collection of good practices alongside the 5 objectives, 15 tools, and 45 actions for the meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families in the areas of Support, Human rights, Independence, Families and society Transition as previously published in COFACE’s S.H.I.F.T. guide.

This collection resulted in the publication of a new report **Shedding light on existing practices across Europe to boost the shift towards fully inclusive societies**. The report provides a snapshot of 45 practices, matching the content of the S.H.I.F.T. guide, highlighting the transition towards meaningful inclusion as a **whole-family, whole-society process** and inviting everyone to join the #BeTheSHIFT movement.

### YOUR FUTURE. YOUR CHOICE.

For World Consumer Rights Day 2021, COFACE supported the European consumer education campaign **‘Your future. Your choice.’** It was launched in March 2021, around one year after our usual consumption brutally came to a halt as shops all around Europe were forced to close due to unprecedented lockdown measures. A year’s reflection to think about key questions linked to consuming like: What are my real needs? What is essential for my family?

The objective of the campaign was to empower families to reflect on their consumption behaviours, to educate themselves about their rights and to protest against potential market abuses and social injustices that undermine those rights.

The campaign’s four videos, created in partnership with youth and consumer organisations, helped to raise awareness in four specific areas: knowing your rights as a consumer, safely navigating the Internet, consuming more responsibly for the environment and managing your finances better to avoid falling into over-indebtedness.

FAMILIES EUROPE @COFACE\_EU · 21 mai 2021  
👤 Have you ever examined your **consumption** behaviour? Asking, what are my real needs? What is essential for my family?

Remember: Your purchases determine the future! A motto at the center of the #EU4Consumers campaign, which is coming to an end today.  
👉 bit.ly/3ozaSWD





# BUILDING BRIDGES

## EU projects

### RESEARCH ON THE DIGITAL GENERATION



COFACE Families Europe continued to engage in the work of the DigiGen Horizon 2020 research project to support the dissemination of research results into policy and practice across Europe.

The DigiGen (Digital Generation) project is developing significant knowledge about how children and young people use and are affected by the technological transformations in their everyday lives. The research is uncovering both harmful and beneficial effects of technology in the everyday lives of children and young people and includes a focus on the family, educational institutions, leisure time and children and young people's civic participation.

The three-year research project comprises a consortium of 8 research partners from Norway, Spain, Greece, Romania, Estonia, the UK, Austria and Germany.

In 2021, COFACE organised a mid-term policy forum online to bring researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and industry representatives together to discuss the preliminary results of the research, and also organised a series of webinars to launch different debates on the digital generation political voices, who are the digitally deprived children in Europe, how to work qualitatively with small children and more. Various working papers and policy briefs were published and disseminated across the EU institutions and national realities, feeding directly into EU policy discussions on child rights online, social rights, child poverty and more.

**i** More information: [www.digigen.eu](http://www.digigen.eu)

### SELF-LEARNING GUIDE TO EMPOWER AND SUPPORT PARENTS



Thanks to the Erasmus+ programme, the Skills4Parents project partners worked really hard in 2021 and finally completed the development of a Learning Guide for Parents.

Developed through the expertise of 6 organisations and founded on values of human rights, non-discrimination, social inclusion, gender equality, intergenerational solidarity and empowerment of all families, the Skills4Parents Learning Guide for parents contains learning packages to boost parenting skills in five areas: Communication, Empowerment, Meditation, Problem-Solving, and Digital.

The guide adopts a self-learning approach, allowing all learning parents to choose the content (tips, case studies, exercises) that they need to tackle the parenting challenges they are encountering at their own pace.

There is also an accompanying Handbook addressed to professionals working with parents and families. In other words, this handbook is for professionals who wish to use the self-learning content of the Skills4Parents Learning Guide and integrate it into their work with parents and families. The Handbook contains further explanations on how to transform the content of the Skills4Parents Learning Guide into training with a suggested learning plan for each of the learning packages, containing a mix of development activities, practicing activities, and activities for the evaluation of the knowledge and skills acquired. You will also find some tips on how to conduct trainings for parents and families – everything you need to get inspired and integrate the Skills4Parents learning into your activities!

**i** More information: [skills4parents.eu](http://skills4parents.eu)



## EU projects

### FINISHED PROJECTS

- ★ WAF Project: Work Autonomy, Flexibility and Work Life Balance
- ★ Families And Societies: studying diversity of family forms, relationships, and life courses in Europe
- ★ ENABLE: European Network Against Bullying in Learning and Leisure Environments
- ★ Delete Cyberbullying: European Awareness raising campaign on Cyberbullying
- ★ SIP-Bench III: Benchmarking of parental control tools for the online protection of children
- ★ Female breadwinner families in Europe: on the impact of earnings and distribution power in families
- ★ POSCON: Positive Online Content and Services for Children in Europe
- ★ EU CONVINCENCE – EU COmmon Values INclusive Education – Create an alliance of schools for inclusion
- ★ Digital Citizenship Education (with the Council of Europe)
- ★ Ad-PHS: Advancing Personal and Household Services
- ★ TRIPS – TRansport Innovation for disabled People needs Satisfaction

### CURRENT PROJECTS

- ★ European Platform for Investing in Children
- ★ CAPABLE Enhancing Capabilities? Rethinking Work-life Policies and their Impact from a New Perspective.
- ★ EuroFam-Net. The pan-European Family Support Research Network
- ★ Euroship – Closing gaps in social citizenship
- ★ More Years Better Lives: on the challenges of demographic change
- ★ DigiGen – The impact of technological transformations on the Digital Generation
- ★ EUSOCIALCIT – The state and future of social rights in Europe
- ★ Skills4Parents – Empowering families and professionals for positive parenting.
- ★ Children Online – Research and Evidence (CORE)
- ★ euCONSENT – Trust services for Children in Europe



## External cooperation

An important role of COFACE Families Europe is to function as a bridge between civil society organisations, research bodies and public authorities. We build on the experience of our member organisations and we listen to the needs of families at grassroots level and channel these to policy and decision makers at EU level, daily ensuring links between EU and local realities. In addition to consulting our member organisations, we regularly link up to other networks to exchange best practices, learn about other ways of solving societal problems, and grow our network, on which we can rely for our events, projects and advocacy work. We are actively engaged in a number of official European Commission stakeholder groups, to which we bring our knowledge about the needs of families across Europe. This is also the case with key Members of European Parliament. Finally, we also work closely with EU agencies and international bodies.

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- ★ Interest group on Solidarity between Generations
- ★ Disability Rights Intergroup
- ★ Child Rights Intergroup
- ★ Interest Group on Carers
- ★ Committees FEMM, EMPL

### EU ADVISORY GROUPS

- ★ Disability Platform (EMPL)
- ★ Financial Services Users Group (FISMA)
- ★ Alliance to Better Protect Minors Online (CNECT)
- ★ Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (EESC)

### EU AGENCIES

- ★ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND)
- ★ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- ★ Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)
- ★ European Banking Authority (EBA)
- ★ European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA)

### INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

- ★ United Nations (special consultative status at the ECOSOC)
- ★ Council of Europe
- ★ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)



## EU CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKS

- ★ EU Work-life balance coalition
- ★ Better Internet for Kids
- ★ eTwinning
- ★ EESC – Civil Society Liaison Group
- ★ EU Alliance for Investing in children
- ★ European coalition to end violence against women and girls
- ★ European Disability Forum (European NGO Group)
- ★ European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based settings (co-chair in 2020)
- ★ European Platform on Asylum and Migration
- ★ European Public Health Alliance
- ★ Finance Watch
- ★ Financial inclusion Europe
- ★ Right to Energy Coalition
- ★ Population Europe
- ★ Social Platform
- ★ Sustainable Development Goals Watch Europe

## CORPORATE NETWORKS

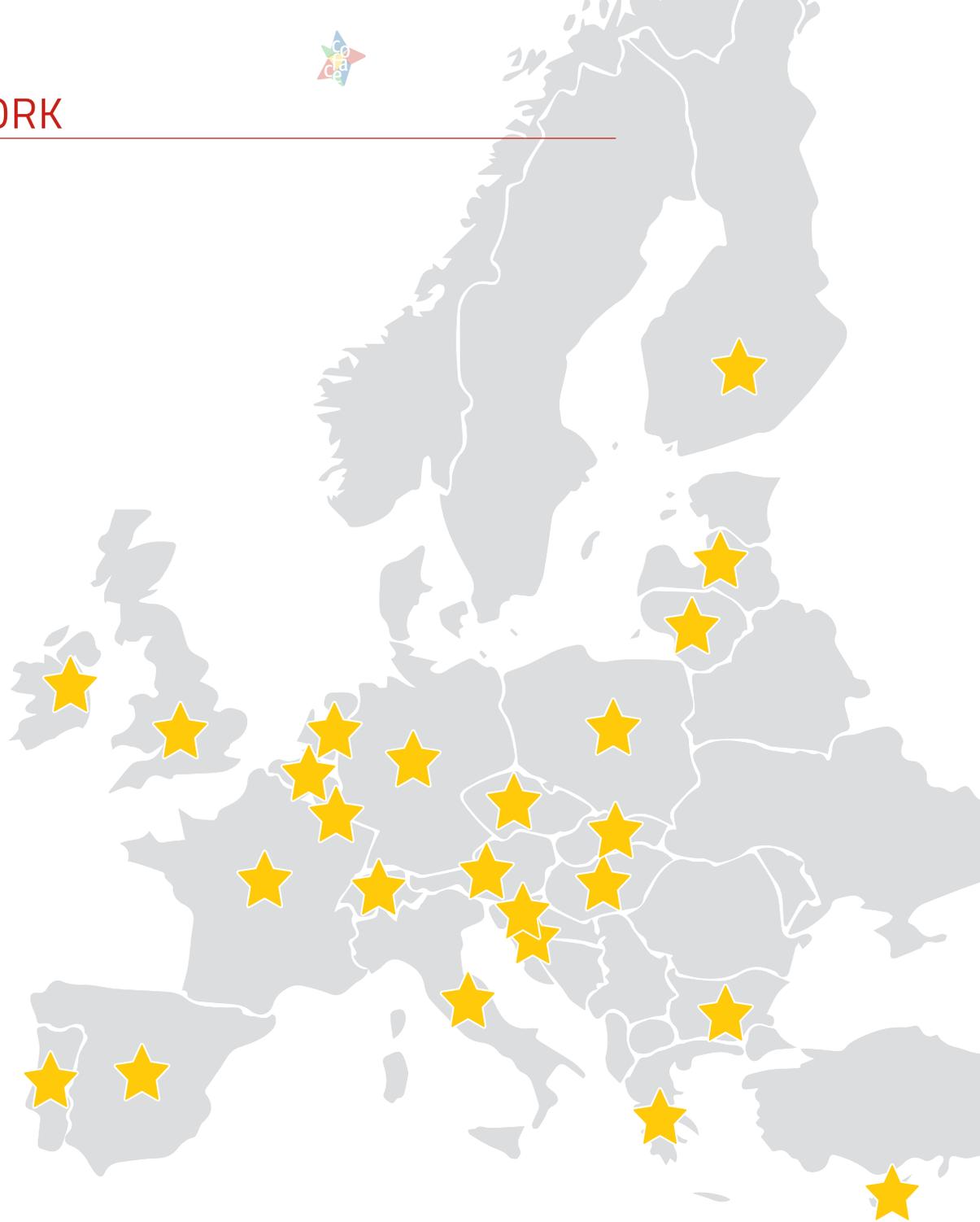
- ★ ICT Coalition for Children Online
- ★ EU Digital Citizenship Working Group



# THE NETWORK

## Members

- ★ Austria
- ★ Belgium
- ★ Bulgaria
- ★ Croatia
- ★ Cyprus
- ★ Czech Republic
- ★ Finland
- ★ France
- ★ Germany
- ★ Greece
- ★ Hungary
- ★ Ireland
- ★ Italy
- ★ Latvia
- ★ Lithuania
- ★ Luxembourg
- ★ The Netherlands
- ★ Poland
- ★ Portugal
- ★ Slovakia
- ★ Slovenia
- ★ Spain
- ★ Switzerland
- ★ United Kingdom





## Digital Hub to connect people



### COFACE's new website: fresher look and better accessibility

#### MODERN, INTERACTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE

The complete redesign of COFACE's former website - which focused primarily on accessibility - was built in order to improve overall user experience. The first step was to look at the former design and identify how to improve its readability, interactivity, and responsiveness. Along with the web designers, COFACE's secretariat followed a consistent set of guidelines and worked on several iterations until we reached an ideal solution. As a result, we have developed a brand new accessible and multi-lingual website to function as a hub for EU family matters. We experimented further ways to boost accessibility of our communications by working with easy-to-read translators in English and French to make parts of our website more accessible to persons with intellectual disabilities.

The overall design and structure of the website adopt a mobile-focused approach and is fully responsive to various browsers and devices making it easily accessible from your mobile phone, tablet, or desktop. We have also made the website more accessible through new features such as a plugin for translations and a new search field, on the top of each page allowing you to find any topic of interests related to COFACE's work and publications.

#### CONTENT AND INFORMATION SIMPLIFIED

We have also revised the categorisation and improved the readability of the information and content of our website for the benefit of our members and the public alike. The website is broken down into clear sections and sub-sections that are simple to navigate from the homepage and any other parts of the site. These include key categories such as "About us", "Latest", "Connect", "Campaigns" and "Events". Amongst these key elements, the homepage also features a main call-to-action that gives you one-click access to the contact information of COFACE's secretariat.

We experimented further ways to boost accessibility of our communications by working with easy-to-read translators in English and French to make parts of our website more accessible to persons with intellectual disabilities, as well as some key documents like our S.H.I.F.T. guide.

Our desire is to continue expanding and refining this digital hub, including a member's area, in order to provide the best users experiences as possible. We hope that these improvements will make your reading and research experience much more enjoyable and therefore more welcoming to come back!

**You can access our website from your mobile phone, tablet or desktop PC here: <https://www.coface-eu.org/> or by scanning the QR code!** If you want to share your feedback or questions about our new website, please feel free to contact our Communication Officer at [bguigui@coface-eu.org](mailto:bguigui@coface-eu.org) or COFACE Families Europe's secretariat at [info@coface-eu.org](mailto:info@coface-eu.org).





# BEHIND THE SCENES

## We would like to thank...

ALL our members for their enthusiasm and active involvement offline and online.

In 2021 we welcomed three new member organisations:

- ★ LEAP (Ireland)
- ★ Genitori Tosti (Italy)
- ★ Magenta (Belgium)

The **COFACE Administrative Council** members: Elisabeth Potzinger (AT), Annemie Drieskens (BE), Christophe Cocu (BE), Maria Petkova (BG), Michaela Marksovà (CZ), Sven Iversen (DE), Antonia Torrens (EL), Amaia Echevarria (ES), Eija Koivuranta (FI), Marie-Agnès Besnard (FR), Jean-Raphaël Brault-Hurreau (FR), Silvija Stanić (HR), Anna Nagy (HU), Anne Payne (IE), Gaetano Santonocito (IT), Rasa Zemaite (LT), Romain Kraemer (LU), Gonçalo Solla (PT), Peter Grabner (SL), Chantal Bruno (COFACE Disability Platform for the rights of persons with disabilities and their families).

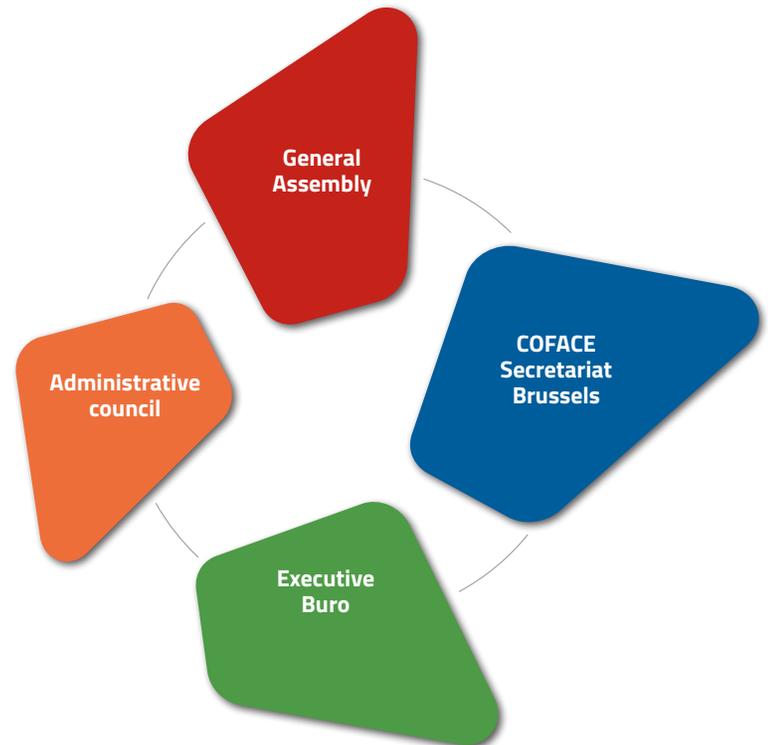
The **four Executive Bureau** members: Annemie Drieskens (BE) - President, Silvija Stanić (HR) - Treasurer, Antonia Torrens (EL) - Vice-President and Sven Iversen (DE) - Vice-President.

All the members of the **COFACE Disability platform** for the rights of persons with disabilities and their families, and namely the co-chairs of the platform: Sylvie Hirtz (APEMH) and Chantal Bruno (APF France Handicap).

Our **COFACE Secretariat in Brussels**, in charge of ensuring the organisation of all those events, in close cooperation with COFACE members and partners. The Secretariat is made up of Elizabeth Gosme (Director), Florian Charron (Senior Project

and Finance Manager), Bettina Guigui (Communication Officer), Martin Schmalzried (Senior Policy and Advocacy Manager), Camille Roux (Policy and Advocacy Officer), Holly Shorey (Project and Advocacy Officer), Attila Böhm (Policy and Advocacy Officer), Martino Serapioni (Project coordinator for the European Observatory on Family Policy) and Beybin Tunç (Education programme coordinator). We would also like to thank Isabell, Nienke, Pascual and Tesnim for their great work in COFACE, as well as our COFACE penguin family.

And last but not least thank you to all our partners, followers, fans, supporters, colleagues, friends, and of course, our main funder, the European Commission and in particular, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.





## Join us!

- ★ Is your organisation an NGO representing families or services to families?
- ★ Do you want to join an international community of practice to work collectively in the interest of families?
- ★ Do you want to become an expert on EU family matters?
- ★ Do you have a local innovation you would like to scale up across other EU countries?
- ★ Are you looking for best practices from other countries or seeking to set up new European projects?

**If you are interested in any of the above, you're in the right place.**



*Rue de Londres 17, 1050 Brussels, Belgium  
+32 2 511 41 79  
secretariat@coface-eu.org  
www.coface-eu.org*

 *@COFACE\_EU*  
 *@COFACE\_EU*  
 *COFACE Families Europe*  
 *familieseurope*  
 *Families Europe*



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