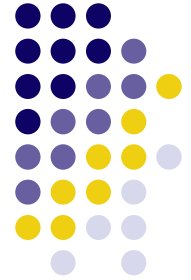
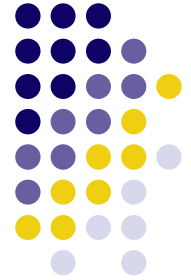


# Who is OPEN?



- National network of local lone parent groups in Ireland
  - Represent lone parents, particularly those in or at risk of poverty, and promote their inclusion and progression in society
  - Support member groups to build their own capacity and campaign for change
- Policy and Research Unit focuses on three core areas identified by membership:
  - Income adequacy, including access to and progression within the labour market
  - Childcare
  - Housing and Accommodation

# Interest re SSH programme



- 2006: Government proposed new policy for lone parents - labour market activation
  - A new departure for Ireland, but not yet implemented
- Current labour market services failing to meet lone parents' needs
- Interested in conducting research with the aim of improving services to support activation for lone parents
  - Capturing lone parents' experience of engagement with services
  - Focusing on effectiveness, efficiency and co-ordination of services
  - Interested in comparative research to support learning

# CARE (Christian Action Research Education) for Europe



*works to support and strengthen families and parenting, encourage healthy marriages and support all families that need assistance.*



## CARING ACTIVITIES:

- a network of over 180 crisis pregnancy centres across Europe,
- a resource entitled *Evaluate* – designed for sex and relationship education in schools
- a website for adults struggling with internet misuse
- publication of educational and research materials on parenting, marriage and other family issues  
e.g. the tax burden on UK families compares to other EU countries.

## Values

- promote the notion of care for the human capital
- shaping of a family friendly society
- recognize and value the social role of parents



### *EXPERTISE:*

- Regular monitoring of EU family policies
- Response to the EC Consultation on “a social reality stocktaking”
- Response to the public consultation on "Confronting demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations" and was represented at Austrian presidency conference on “Demographic Challenges – Family needs Partnership”.

For more information:  
[info@careforeurope.org](mailto:info@careforeurope.org)  
[www.careforeurope.eu](http://www.careforeurope.eu)



# World Movement of Mothers

(Mouvement Mondial des Mères)

Founded in 1947,

Independent NGO

General Consultative Status at the UN

Federates associations in 40 countries

Represents 6 million mothers

[www.mouvement-mondial-des-meres.org](http://www.mouvement-mondial-des-meres.org)



## Actions

- Network to share expertise and vision
- Train mothers to act for peace in family and community
- Raise awareness of the importance of mothers' role; incite them to be part of policy making at all levels
- Promote government policy to support mothers in their family and professional life
- Voice their interests to national and international authorities



## Who are we?

- An international non-profit-making network of **59 full members** and **14 associate and honorary members from 27 EU countries** and **3 from non-EU**
- Brings together both **NGOs, public authorities, researchers and ombudsmen**
- Our work is underpinned by the principles enshrined in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**
- **Promoting the rights and well-being of children and young people** by influencing policy at European level and strengthening members' capacity to influence policy at national levels
- Empowering children and young people to be young citizens who have a right to be heard and who can make a contribution to society; **makes a critical connection between child poverty, social exclusion and the ability to exercise rights**
- Co-funded by the European Commission under the **PROGRESS programme** for Employment and Social Solidarity

## *What do we do?*

- **Partner in the EU Open Method of Coordination (OMC)**
  - evaluating the National Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion (NAPs/Incl.)
  - contribution to peer review seminars
  - follow-up to the child well-being report
  
- **Influencing EU/national policy development**

for example:

  - early years
  - parenting support
  
- **Events and information dissemination**
  
- **Partner in applied research on family and child right policies**

## ***Our views on family policies***

### **Promoting a child's best interest in policy development**

- Grow up in a **positive family environment**
- Create the right conditions for **positive parenting** and remove barriers
- Promoting policies to improve the **reconciliation of professional, private and family life** and raising awareness of the value of positive parenting to parents, children, and the state
- Take into account the **diversity of family structures** and provide special measures for the most disadvantaged
- Aspire to **integrated, holistic family policies**, going beyond active inclusion to address all aspects of child and family well-being



# Confederation of **Family Organisations** in the European Union

- COFACE links together general and single-issue national family organizations.
- 56 member organizations across 20 Member States of the EU.
- 1 of the 12 key European-level networks of organisations involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion funded under the EU PROGRESS Programme.
- Issues: family and social policies; inclusive policies for disabled and other dependent persons and their families; consumer protection, services and public health policies; education and new information technologies.



# Confederation of **Family Organisations** in the European Union

- As spokesperson for family organisations, COFACE liaises with the European authorities in all sectors relating to the rights and interests of families.
- COFACE informs national organisations of developments in the European Union, and encourages greater awareness of the Community dimension.
- COFACE organises exchanges of ideas and experiences as well as mutual aid between family organisations in different countries.



# Confederation of **Family Organisations** in the European Union

➤ Added-value of COFACE's participation into the Social Platform on Research for Families and Family Policies: 50 years of expertise, EU-wide network, direct contacts with the grass-roots and with EU institutions.

➤ Contact details:

Rue de Londres 17, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 511 41 79 Fax: +32 2 514 47 73

[secretariat@coface-eu.org](mailto:secretariat@coface-eu.org) - [www.coface-eu.org](http://www.coface-eu.org)



# **& Lesbian Parents Association**

- The association is now 22 years old.
- It is the largest L&G association in France.

## **Intense activity along 4 lines:**

- Supporting every form of L&G families.
- Promoting social & legal recognition of L&G Families.
- Initiating research on L&G families in various fields.
- Being present in the media (visibility).



# « Europe » Committee of the APGL

- Setting up a living network of European associations of L&G families.
- Organizing a congress in late January 2010.
- Conducting a public campaign in IDF about L&G families.

## What contribution could we make in the SP?

- Making L&G families present in the research fields.
- Giving the SP the benefit of our Biblio guide.
- Putting the SP in touch with our partners (assoc. &

# **Council of Europe Questionnaire**

## ***Family policy: Institutional framework and Objectives***

- **Introduction**
- **Fred DEVEN Ph.D, Kenniscentrum WVG (Department of Well-Being, Health & Family), Brussels**
- *together with*
- **Karin Wall Ph.D, Instituto de Ciências Sociais (University of Lisbon)**
- **Agnes von MARAVIC, Children's Rights and Family Policies Division (Council of Europe), Strasbourg**

# **Council of Europe Questionnaire**

## ***Family policy: Institutional framework and Objectives***

- *Committee of Experts on Social Policy for Families and Children (CS-SPFC)* requested a *Family Policy Group* to design a core Questionnaire to collect baseline information on national family policies and some related issues.
- The data collection based on the Questionnaire aims to involve all 47 Member States of the Council of Europe. At present, the data collection already draws upon 70% of replies received till now.
- During the 1990s there were a number of collaborative and comparative projects, see especially Neubauer et al. (1993), Dumon (1994), Pfenning & Bahle (2000) Hantrais & Letablier (1996).
- This data collection by the Council of Europe differs in a number of ways from those previous collaborative and comparative projects
- Section 1 of this Council of Europe Questionnaire ("*Family policy: institutional framework and objectives*") distinguishes 2 major issues:
  - (a) The institutional framework for family policies, and
  - (b) Main objectives and policy drivers.



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The Centre d'Estudis Jordi Pujol ([www.jordipujol.cat](http://www.jordipujol.cat)), a Foundation created by Jordi Pujol, President of the Government of Catalonia for 23 years, is an instrument designed to promote and analyse contemporary political, social, economic and cultural thought.

The Centre's main goal is to foment thought based on a criterion of renewal, formulating an idea of society that combines identity and openness, community spirit and cohesion, continuity and innovation, as well as collective values with the primacy of people.

The Centre d'Estudis Jordi Pujol believes that a society without clear *Ideas*, solid *Values* and positive *Attitudes* cannot move forward.



**The ancient President of  
Catalonia (1980-2003)**

## Activities:



Europe is currently facing a serious demographic challenge with a population that is both aging and undergoing a net loss. This poses a serious threat of decline, leading to a reduction in dynamism, ambition and the capacity for innovation.

The family is a key institution in reversing this situation. Family is to society what enterprise is to the economy, a factor of social stability and solidity and the best place to implement both solidarity and responsibility. The family provides the right framework for educating children and passing on values.

At the CEJP, we work to promote the family as the power house of progress, analysing comparative policies at a European level, assessing the impact of demographics on the welfare state, proposing policies that can balance work and family life and studying the needs of new family models.



# Governo italiano

*Politiche per la famiglia*

*Family Policies*

- From 2006, a Department for Family Policies (DFP) of the Presidency of Council of Ministers was established and dedicated to the implementation of such policies.
- At present, a Secretary of State, member of the Government, Senator Carlo Giovanardi, is responsible for the Department.
- Main competences of the DFP:
  - **Family and its rights;**
  - **Family and Welfare;**
  - **Reconciling family and working life;**
  - **Safeguarding maternity and paternity;**
  - **Children Protection and services for early childhood;**
  - **International Adoption**



**Governo italiano**

*Politiche per la famiglia*

**PRIORITIES AND RESEARCH FOCUS**

- WORK-LIFE BALANCE
- CHILDCARE SERVICES
- FAMILY FRIENDLY, FAMILY RESPONSIBLE ENTERPRISES and INSTITUTIONS

**OBJECTIVE:** Analysing models and practices to be promoted and implemented .



***Comune di Parma - Italy***  
***Agenzia per la Famiglia***

**Parma: Building a Local Welfare for the Family**

**Presentation**

**Bruxelles, 23rd October 2008**

Info: [s.avanzi@comune.parma.it](mailto:s.avanzi@comune.parma.it),  
[greci@comune.parma.it](mailto:greci@comune.parma.it)

tel.0039-0521-218949

- The family is a significant resource to the society. However, the Italian society, either the public or the private side, seems to be organised without taking in consideration the families' needs and wants; even in some cases decisions are taken “against” their interests:
  - Fiscal matters, urbanism, working hours, services availability, assistance and school.
  - The evidence is that these decisions hinder the natural desire **to be and have a family**.
  - This conclusion does not mean to surrender BUT to accept the challenge as the Municipality of Parma did by the introduction of inter-councillor institute called “**Agenzia per la Famiglia**”
    - Aim: to study and promote innovative politics and projects
    - Resources engaged to realise our objectives:
      - **Consulta delle associazioni familiari**: The Council of the Family Associations which works on the interest of the families (founded in 2004; today it has 40 associations)
      - **Forum Nazionale delle associazioni familiari** in Roma: National Forum for family associations (founded in 1992, made up of 50 national associations, 20 regional committees and the CISF/The International Center for Family Studies in Milano; [www.cisf.it](http://www.cisf.it))
      - **Applied research** carried in the town of Parma on 900 families
      - Establishment of a **Scientific Committee** for family-customised welfare



***Parma: Building a Local Welfare for the Family***

- **Projects:**
  - **Laboratorio Famiglia:** Laboratory for the family associations
  - **Friendly family:** to establish and maintain services and spaces planned as “family friendly”
  - **Family Card:** to support shopkeepers and small traders who offer better conditions for families
  - **Political taxes for families:** to review the taxation system and the local taxes in relation to the number of the members in the same household in order to support big families and the relative health care charges
  - **Work and family conciliation:** to adapt the work and the city conditions to the needs of families with children and with frail members
  - **Communication activities:**
    - **21 november 2008:** Conference “Challenge of a City with local customised-family policies and subsidiary welfare” (in relation to the “European Network of Cities for Families”)
    - **Autumn 2009:** International event: cooperation among urban territories to continue to sustain important decisions related to families: Birth promotions, family and work reconciliation, development of domiciliary care



***Parma: Building a Local Welfare for the Family***

# Family Research in South Africa

- **Extensive capacity: e.g. national Human Sciences Research Council's Child, Youth, Family and Social Development division**
- **Priority research theme: “Changing structure and role of family”**
  - **Dynamics: e.g. women joining labour force – high-level female-headed households; impact HIV-AIDS**
  - **Family-to-work conflict**
  - **Work-to-family conflict**
  - **Policy recommendations: family-friendly employment research**



# South Africa in the FP7

- South Africa participates with funding as International Cooperation Partner Country (ICPC)
- Very active relationship – close to 70 participations
- Dedicated national seed and co-investment funding instruments
- SSH NCP: [cvanzyl@hsrc.ac.za](mailto:cvanzyl@hsrc.ac.za)
- Brussels representative:
  - Daan du Toit ([daan.dutoit@dst.gov.za](mailto:daan.dutoit@dst.gov.za))

