



The contribution of civil society: Good practices

The International Federation for Family Development, IFFD:

Diego Barroso and Eloïse Leboutte

Advisor and Editor:

James-Stuart Duffin, Laura Carlson and Livia Sz. Oláh

© Copyright is held by the author(s).



The contribution of civil society:

Good practices

The International Federation for Family Development, IFFD:

Diego Barroso and Eloïse Leboutte

Advisor and Editor:

James-Stuart Duffin¹, Laura Carlson² and Livia Sz. Oláh²

Abstract:

The International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) presents this compendium of practices illustrating the ecology of family forms, well-being and recognizing the diverse nature of family forms. The compendium demonstrates a structural framework of a diverse range of needs, such as education, economic inclusion and security, opportunity and respect, intergenerational connectivity and work-family reconciliation. To this end, good practices are here described as real-world stimulants helping to deliver family well-being, confidence and dignity.

These initiatives have been developed and delivered at local levels. However, they do demonstrate in certain family circumstances, intervention(s) are needed to ensure family success and create a more cohesive society. The case studies are not universal solutions; however, the practices are encouraging as they tend to have real positive impact on family (and societal) life at the micro and macro levels.

The paper is a useful tool in furthering the understanding of family perspectives in overall policy forming and making, as we strive to improve the wellbeing of European families, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised. Our joint goals are to build stronger European families, end child abuse and neglect, eliminate family and domestic violence and advance the needs of marginalised families and communities.

Families—whatever diverse form they take—are our most time-honoured settings for giving and receiving love, understanding and nurturing. Therefore, our research, our understanding and our practices of family policy becomes a cornerstone of delivering a cohesive society.

Keywords: good practices, family perspective, family-cohesion, diversity collection and dissemination of information

Affiliation:

1. WOMEN FOR WOMEN, Czech Republic
2. Stockholm University, Sweden

Acknowledgement: The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no. 320116 for the research project FamiliesAndSocieties.

Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
GOOD PRACTICES	5
1 Life course transitions projects	5
1.1 National youth policy development program: youth's transition to adulthood and economic independence (Lithuania).....	5
1.2 The Institute of Family Relationships, for everyone (Lithuania).....	6
2 Childbearing and childcare projects	8
2.1 Community Mothers Programme (Ireland).....	8
3 Equal opportunities for children from vulnerable families' projects	10
3.1 "Barnablick" (Sweden).....	10
3.2 Ariel Trust (UK).....	12
3.3 Parler bambin ("Speaking toddlers") (France).....	13
3.4 HomeStart program (UK and 22 countries).....	14
3.5 Yo voy ("I go") (Spain).....	16
3.6 Family Nurseries (Italy).....	17
4 Work-Family reconciliation projects	18
4.1 Welfare to work (Ireland).....	18
4.2 The European Reconciliation Package Families Europe (COFACE).....	20
4.3 IFREI (Family Responsible Employer Index) (Spain and 23 other countries).....	22
5 Intergeneration solidarity projects	24
5.1 Senior-Student and Family-Student (Belgium).....	24
5.2 Le 8ème jour (The 8th day) (Belgium).....	26
5.3 The Betties (Belgium).....	27
5.4 Hoy salimos (Today we went out) (Spain).....	29
6 Social inclusion of migrants and minority ethnic families' projects	31
6.1 Right to education for irregular migrants (Belgium).....	31
6.2 Education Cooperation Program (Germany).....	33
7 Family training and development projects	35
7.1 IFFD Family Enrichment courses (Spain and 66 other countries).....	35
7.2 Vaestoliitto (Finland).....	37
7.3 Incredible years (UK, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Portugal).....	39
7.4 Szkoła Letnia Akademii Familijnej. (Family Enrichment Summer School) (Poland).....	41
7.5 Empowering Parents with the Child in Focus (Sweden).....	42
7.6 FamilyFutures (Czech Republic).....	43
8 Family Policies Projects	46
8.1 Family pressure gauge (UK).....	46
SUMMARY	48
REFERENCES	49

INTRODUCTION

This report presents a compendium of good practices that is the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) contribution to WP11 on “Synthesis and Policy Implications”. As an overarching non-governmental organization, IFFD contributes to *FamiliesAndSocieties*’ research with insights from a range of perspectives from civil society organizations and agencies. Its commentaries and suggestions are intended to complement the efforts made by the academic research team in assessing the compatibility of existing policies to the diversity of family forms, relationships and life courses in Europe.

This compendium of good and best practices focuses on the ecological¹ dimensions of family well-being and security, such as (1) life course transitions, (2) childbearing and childcare, (3) equality of opportunity for children, vulnerable and diverse family forms, (4) work-family reconciliation, (5) intergenerational solidarity, (6) social inclusion of migrants and minority ethnic families, (7) family learning and development and (8) family policies and practices, all in national and international context(s). Therefore, our approach includes initiatives that can be regarded as good practices in terms of their contribution to family well-being and security. Local and community level interventions and initiatives, are not being suggested as universal models but their impacts on families and children merit recognition as they tend to have a real impact on family life at personal, social and economic level(s) and support society objectives of cohesion.

This report responds to the needs formulated in terms of research on families and the exchange of information, knowledge and experience by presenting a compendium of current initiatives taken at a local level. It has been prepared with a view to encourage further family focused evaluation in overall policy making and delivering a research in practice agenda.

First, the IFFD and the Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development, together with the United Nations Focal Point on the Family, organized a European Expert Group meeting in Brussels (6-8 June 2012). It was hosted by the European Union Committee of the Regions and gave the opportunity to 26 experts, practitioners and observers from 15 countries to deliberate on family-oriented policies, strategies and tactics, which focus on family poverty, social and economic exclusion, work-family balance, social (and economic) integration and inter-generational solidarity. The expert group concluded and asserted the importance of collecting and disseminating good practices in family policy making across Europe and presented them in this report.

Secondly, the work performed within the scope of the project *FamiliesAndSocieties* was reviewed. As was the contributions of stakeholders, which were voiced through stakeholder seminars and plenary events. A survey was conducted which included stakeholder partners and other

¹ Bronfenbrenner, U. (1974). *Is Early Intervention Effective? A Report On Longitudinal Evaluations Of Preschool Programs*. Washington, D. C.: Office of Child Development, Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare

representatives from civil society organizations across Europe. This exercise highlighted the need for enhance work and information as illustrated by a good practice case-study from Lithuania, a country classified as post-socialist welfare regime. This exercise concluded that there are gaps in the literature and suggested ways to address them within *FamiliesAndSocieties* project.

The European Platform for Investing in Children² is the third tool used to review good practices, as it is a portal devoted to family policies in the European Union. More specifically, the framework aims to create impetus to generate and enhance family-friendly (or impactful) policies through exchanges of ideas and experiences in Member States. The team selected two different projects from the same field: helping vulnerable children, supporting parenting and assisting with childcare. A third example has been selected to illustrate the efforts made to reduce the stress of parenting and to encourage families, especially families at risk through neglect and/or abuse.

Another valuable source of information used refers to the work done by our *FamiliesAndSocieties* partner ELFAC (European Large Families Confederation), especially General Secretary Raúl Sánchez and International Administrator Iwona Sztajner, who provided information on large families initiatives, focusing on solidarity mechanisms (Helping Program).

Regarding good practices in the field of migration, we have chosen two different projects:

- (1) The case of Belgium and its migration policies as presented in the UNICEF report on “Examples of good practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration”. UNICEF report contributed to OHCHR study on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration.
- (2) The German Red Cross and their practices regarding migrant families and the right to education and future life chance.

We looked for good practices that specifically address disabilities and their need for autonomy. We illustrated this issue with a project promoting independent housing for people with disabilities.

We are very grateful to Veneto Region for their contribution with one project: Family Nurseries.

In terms of integration/reconciliation between work and family life, the European Reconciliation Package³ inspired us, since we have selected some initiatives from different places, like Ireland and Spain. Plus, we utilised the IFREI (Family Responsible Employer Index), a corporate diagnosis tool to assess how family-friendly internal policies are in any type of organisation from SMEs, large companies, to NGOs and public authorities.

IFFD is a federation of non-profit, independent and private Family Enrichment Centres in different countries, therefore this knowledge was used to collect experiences in family-related fields,

² <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1246&langId=en> accessed 14.02.2017.

³ COFACE, European Reconciliation Package, March 2015,

especially in Family Enrichment training programmes. James-Stuart Duffin advised and recommended on best and good practices across Europe and together with Laura Carlson and Livia Sz. Oláh provided the role of contributing editor for the final report.

Best Practices

FamiliesAndSocieties research aims to help governments, organizations (all sectors), teams and people to access, understand and apply evidence in their work with children, young people and families. We aim to enable enhanced decision-making, more effective resource allocation and robust family centred practice. Our research reports and outcomes provide professionals with a range of resources and learning opportunities to support their efforts to improve the lives of families.

Enabling the right decisions

The FamiliesAndSocieties research reports bring together academic research, practice expertise and the evidence from stakeholders' experiences engaging with services for professionals at all levels to have the right knowledge and skills to work effectively.

The purpose of this review of best practices evolved through the FamiliesAndSocieties team's engagement with our stakeholder reference group. In addition, we aimed to support the creation of welcoming, caring, respectful learning that fosters diversity. This approach enabled policy developers and decision makers to use best practices in creating and supporting a family policy ecology that respects diversity by:

1. reviewing and revising existing policies, regulations and procedures;
2. creating new policies, regulations, procedures and resources;
3. informing professional development planning and professional conversations; and
4. communicating more effectively with decision makers, families and community members.

We see this review of best practices as a guide, a resource to be used to develop and/or revise policies, regulations, and procedures related to creating inclusive family policies and practices as well as growing social and economic cohesion.

The outcome of the compendium is to enrich our understanding of the way in which family policy and political realities interact across the EU and its member states: how policy choices can alleviate political pressures; how policy choices in turn reshape society, and how policymakers and formers can express enhanced policy to practice. The case studies illustrate how good family policy and practices can function in the interplay of competing forces. Also, they illustrate how we, as a society, balance concerns for substantive policy objectives, institutional politics to achieve change. In addition, attention is given to the role of policy analysis and analysts in shaping policy decisions, seeking to identify their potential for positive impact.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who help us in making this report.

GOOD PRACTICES

1 Life course transitions projects

1.1 National youth policy development program: youth's transition to adulthood and economic independence (Lithuania)

Background:

Youth's transition to adulthood and economic independence is an area of concern for post-socialist regimes, and specifically in Lithuania. During the last few years youth issues have been among the top priorities of Lithuanian social policy.

Initiative:

Youth centres are involving young people in acceptable and meaningful activities in a youth-friendly environment and are helping to prepare young people, especially from disadvantaged families, in their transition to adulthood, and helping them to find a job.

Objective of the initiative:

To foster youth employment in Lithuania.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Young people, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Lithuania employers.

Financing of the initiative:

Lithuania approved the National Program for Voluntary Activities of Youth. This program aimed at creating conditions for young people to participate in voluntary activities and acquire professional competences and work experience, thus, assisting them to choose a profession and prepare for the labour market. Since 1st August 2012, a new form of assistance is offered to employers: employers receive compensation for part of the wage of young people hired for the first time in the labour market. This compensation is provided according to the measure Support for the First Job financed by EU funds.

Concrete measures:

One of the major decisions of the Plan of Measures for 2011–2013 of the National Youth Policy Development Program for 2011–2019 concerns the work of young people and the outlook for its development. Under this Program, youth centres have been opened. According to the Ministry of Social Affairs, in 2012, national and regional youth structures and youth organizations were reinforced with a view to encourage young people to participate in social life and to become active and aware citizens. 37 programs and projects aimed at strengthening youth organizations were financed.

Impact of the initiative:

All these above-mentioned measures are starting; thus, the results will be seen in the future. The problem is that majority of young unemployed people live in rural areas of Lithuania, where the access to social services (e.g. youth centers) and to potential work places are limited. These young people are dependent on their low-income families and it is one of the reasons why the number of young emigrants from Lithuania (aged 20-24) is rather large.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Lithuanian Ministry of Social Affairs.

Dr. Agne Sirinskiene, associate professor at Mykolas Romeris University, Faculty of Law. She also works as an expert in the Committee on Health Affairs (since 2008) in the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania: spotas@delfi.lt

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working Paper 68(2017)** *Family Dynamics and Inequalities in Children's Life Chances: Summary and Key Findings from WP5*, by Diederik Boertien, Fabrizio Bernardi and Juho Härkönen
- **Working Paper 53(2016)** *Intentions in the life courses* by Dimiter Philipov, Maria Rita Testa and Ina Jaschinski
- **Working Paper 34(2015)** *Aid policies for young people in Europe and the OECD countries*, by Olivier Thévenon
- **Working Paper 4(2013)** *State-of-the-art report: Effects of family forms and dynamics on children's well-being and life chances: literature review*, by Fabrizio Bernardi, Juho Härkönen, and Diederik Boertien, with Linus Andersson Rydell, Kim Bastaits, and Dimitri Mortelmans

1.2 The Institute of Family Relationships, for everyone (Lithuania)

Background:

Our mother and father help us grow and discover the world, be children, dream, create, follow rules, work, become a personality, meet people, communicate, create a family and raise children. This is a continuously spinning wheel of life: a generation grows, matures and raises a new generation. In 2001 on the imitative of Roma Šerkšnienė, Birutė Kazilionytė, Gedas Malinauskas and Darius Leskauskas a non-governmental, non-profit organisation – the Institute of Family Relations was founded.

Initiative:

The mission of the Family Relations Institute is to help parents become better parents, to help children grow and tackle challenges and crises, to help couples find ways to communicate positively, to provide further knowledge for professionals who work with families in different areas. All that is important and useful to the family is important to us.

Objective of the initiative:

The main goal of the institution is to excel in the delivery of services aimed at improving the quality of life and well-being of the family. Their definition of well-being includes the presence of positive physical, emotional, social and work-related factors.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Kaunas City Municipality and Open Society Fund Lithuania Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Vytautas Magnus University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Psychology and the Institute of Social Labour. Currently, there are 17 full-time employees at the Institute of Family Relations. They provide social, psychological, psychiatric and psycho-therapeutic assistance, organise training courses for professionals and organisations, families and children.

Financing of the initiative:

In 1998 on the initiative of a psychiatrist and psychotherapist Roma Šerkšniene Children and Adolescents' Psychiatry Clinic was founded at Hospital of Kaunas University of Medicine Kaunas Clinics. Children and their families were provided with wide-range assistance. However, institutional assistance is only one of the ways to support families. In 2001 Institute of Family Relations was founded with the intention to help families and their members to overcome crises. Since 2002 the Institute, complying with the major objective to take care of comprehensive family welfare and its quality, has been administering various programmes which ensure free of charge services to be provided for the citizens of Kaunas City and Kaunas Region. The programmes are funded by Kaunas City Municipality, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and the EU.

In 2002 Day Centre of Psychosocial Rehabilitation was opened at the Institute of Family Relations for children with social, psychological and other problems. The Day Centre cooperates with Kaunas Municipal and Kaunas Region Children Rights Protection Service, Kaunas City Municipality Administration Social Services Division, Mental Health Centre of Kaunas Municipality, schools and kindergartens of Kaunas.

Concrete measures:

Constant development and enhancement of cooperation of the Institute with communities of Kaunas City and Kaunas Region have revealed an obvious need for family services. The changing community, changing values and a growing need for services adjusted and widened directions of the activities: complex support is provided for abused children and their families, women who suffered from violence, men who committed acts of violence, as well as the search for and training of foster parents and step families. Services are provided for citizens of Kaunas City, Kaunas Region and Kaunas County.

Impact of the initiative:

Goals for impact:

1. to provide professional development programmes, training courses and seminars for professionals and give public lectures;

2. to educate society, especially the younger generation, about the importance of healthy lifestyle and mental health care by publishing relevant scientific and educational literature;
3. to reduce social exclusion and gender inequality by promoting a healthy work and family life balance.

The underlying direction of the Institute is support for the family. The staff of the Institute believes that professional development and training of professionals working with children in various fields is important in creating a healthy, safe and family-friendly environment. Consequently, the major activity guideline of the Institute is implementation of methodological work in Lithuania. In 2007, the Institute of Family Relations became a methodological centre and is responsible for organising training courses for social workers and social worker assistants.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

ŠĮ Šeimoms Santykių Institutas, Zamenhofo g. 9 / Kurpių g. 10 44287 Kaunas, Tel (8-37) 750935 Web www.ssinstitut.lt/en/for-everyone/ E pagalba@ssinstitut.lt

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 66(2017)** *Futures of families in times of multifaceted societal changes: a foresight approach*, by Bernhard Riederer, Monika Mynarska, Maria Winkler-Dworak, Thomas Fent, Bernhard Rengs andDimitar Philipov
- **Working paper 65(2017)** *Vulnerability of families with children: experts' opinions about the future and what families think about it*, by Bernhard Riederer, Dimitar Philipov and Bernhard Rengs
- **Working paper 53(2016)** *Intentions in the life courses*, by Dimitar Philipov, Maria Rita Testa and Ina Jaschinski

2 Childbearing and childcare projects

2.1 Community Mothers Programme (Ireland)

Background:

The Community Mothers' Programme was first started in Dublin (1989) and is facilitated by the Health Service Executive, a public organization responsible for the provision of healthcare and personal social services for everyone living in Ireland, to help vulnerable children, supporting parenting and assisting with childcare. The Community Mothers Programme is a Parent Support Programme in which friendly local woman known as Community Mothers carry out monthly visits to first time parents in their own home. These visits are made by appointment and they focus on health care, nutrition and the baby's overall development. The Community Mothers are volunteers and are guided and supported by Family Development Nurses.

Initiative:

The program focuses on promoting parent capacity and parent empowerment, specifically by developing parenting skills and enhancing parents' self-esteem. The Community Mothers Programme recognises parents as being the most important people in their baby's life.

Objective of the initiative:

Support vulnerable families with children and provide a quality and alternative children care trainings.

The Programme sets out:

- To recognise that parents are the expert with their own baby
- To help parents enjoy their baby
- To boost their self-confidence
- To help them develop a wide range of parenting skills
- To exchange ideas and information
- To provide you with on-going support during the first year of your baby's life

Joining the Community Mothers Programme is worthwhile and can make a real contribution to parent support. When mothers join the Programme, they will:

- Learn new skills
- Share experiences with new parents
- Make a difference in the community
- Have a sense of fulfilment
- Enjoy the support of a group

Actors involved in the initiative:

The program targets first-time parents living in areas experiencing disadvantaged (low-income families): young children (age 0 to 5) and adults (age 20+). Community mothers are volunteers who were first identified by local public health nurses. As a second step, a regional family development nurse assesses their suitability interviewing them on an individual basis. After being identified as suitable candidates, Community mothers undergo four weeks of training before starting to work under the guidance of a family development nurse. This training focuses on health care, nutritional improvement and overall child development. The work of each Community mothers consists in monitoring between five and fifteen families during monthly home visits during the first year of the child's life.

Financing of the initiative:

Health Service Executive. <http://www.hse.ie/eng/>

Concrete measures:

The program is aimed at providing support and encouragement to first-time parents through home visits from "community mothers". Some of the methods used include the promotion of parents' potential through a behavioural approach in which parents are encouraged to stimulate, breast-feed, and praise their children, as well as ensure their safety. The Community Mothers Programme also uses

illustrated sequences to trigger discussions on healthy and developmentally appropriate means of coping with various child-rearing challenges.

Impact of the initiative:

A seven-year follow-up study reports statistically significant positive outcomes for several outcomes.

The full study results can be found at: <http://urlz.fr/10Om>

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Health Service Executive. State/district or other sub-national government.

Margaret Costello: margaret.costello@hse.ie

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers:

- **Working paper 49(2015)** *Vulnerability of families with children: Major risks, future challenges and policy recommendations*, by Monika Mynarska, Bernhard Riederer, Ina Jaschinski, Desiree Krivanek, Gerda Neyer, and Livia Oláh
- **Working Paper 31 (2015)** *Does child care availability play a role in maternal employment and children's development? Evidence from Italy*, by Ylenia Brilli, Daniela Del Boca, and Chiara Daniela Pronzato

3 Equal opportunities for children from vulnerable families' projects

3.1 “Barnablick” (Sweden)

“Barnablick” (“Through the eyes of the child”). Sweden. The Official name of the Organization Stockholm City Mission (Stockholm Stadsmissionen). Barnablick is a Swedish word that means “through the eyes of the child”).

Background:

All children who live have rights and children's rights to be respected everywhere in society, every day. The basis for a safe and healthy upbringing of children and young people is to feel good, to have access to education and to get the feel involved in the community. Stockholm is an increasingly segregated city where overcrowding is spreading, economic disparities are increasing and where everyone has the same opportunities for good education. “Barnablick” offers schools and places where children and young people are welcome, therapy and counselling and camp during the holidays. The agency gives each child a chance to tell their life story, feel important and have time to develop secure relationships.

Initiative:

The emphasis is on seeing the human in the child within a child friendly environment. Through formative evaluation, observation and feedback, both child and worker could adjust the various services on a continuous basis to most effectively meet both short and long term needs of the child and

the family. Workers roles are to is to stand on the children's side and demand change when we see that society is not living up to its responsibility and to always ensure the child's best interests.

Objective of the initiative:

The purpose of this project was to broaden the definition of child advocacy. To correctly carry a child's voice into an adult world, to demand change and act as an important complement to what the state is offering to vulnerable children, requires a trusted relationship between child and a social worker, a relationship built over time with mutual honesty and open communication about expectations.

Actors involved in the initiative:

The target group is children aged from 8 to 15 years of age, and their networks, who live at the margin in terms of their living conditions. The families reached are often isolated, segregated, have language difficulties and generally are economically poor. More than 80% are single mothers with a non-Swedish background, often a non-European/western background. Parent often have traumatic experiences and/or suffer from psychological weaknesses.

Financing of the initiative:

Stockholm City Mission (*Stockholm Stadsmissionen*): it is a non-profit organization that works to make Stockholm a more humane city for everyone.

Concrete measures:

The main activities conducted within the scope of the project are: 1) "Open Thursday Nights" (41 occasions, 456 people of which 162 children), 2) One-on-one help and counselling services (30 cases, 30 families with one or more children involved), 3) Excursions on weekends (13 occasions, 405 people of which 244 children) where children and their parents get to interact in a positive, supportive environment, and 4) Children and family camps during school breaks.

They help children and young people who need the support of adults, families in crisis, single mothers who do not get together their family financially, young adults who need therapy, young parents who need support and advice, older people living alone, as well as all the men and women living in homelessness or abuse.

More information available at: <http://www.stadsmissionen.se/UngaStation>

http://www.nofocif.org/wp-content/uploads/C_Martin_Broby.pdf

Impact of the initiative:

External qualitative analysis shows that the project's work is primarily about risk prevention. Risk factors that have a significant impact on child's development such as isolation, economic poverty and consequent psychosocial problems within the child's family have been identified.

Children feel that meeting the worker and participating in the various services is meaningful and provides momentary freedom from daily worries. Parents find motivation in seeing their children interact with other children in a positive manner. Both child and parent feel confident in turning to the

worker in times of need. However, despite reaching out so many children and families, the project has only reached a small percentage of children and families that need such a service.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Stockholm City Mission (*Stockholm Stadsmissionen*): it is a non-profit organization that works to make Stockholm a more humane city for everyone. <http://www.stadsmissionen.se/Omoss/>

Martin Brody, Project Manager/Social Worker: martin.brody@stadsmissionen.se

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 41(2015)** *Early childcare, maternal education and family origins: differences in cognitive and linguistic outcomes throughout childhood*, by Daniela Bulgarelli and Paola Molina
- **Working paper 17(2014)** *Household choices and child development*, by Daniela Del Boca, Christopher Flinn and Matthew Wiswall
- **Working paper 1(2013)** *State-of-the-art report: Intergenerational linkages in families*, by Pearl A. Dykstra, Thijs van den Broek, Cornelia Muresan, Mihaela Haragus, Paul-Teodor Haragus, Anita Abramowska-Kmon, Irena E. Kotowska

3.2 Ariel Trust (UK)

Ariel Trust established in 1982 to work with disadvantaged young people and use digital multimedia to re-engage communities and improve life chances.

Initiative:

Ariel Trust is an Educational Charity based in Liverpool that was set up in 1982 to improve the life chances of young people and give them a greater understanding of and access to Media from which they feel alienated. They aim to support the development of resilient young people, working with them to tackle important issues in their lives

Objective of the initiative:

Their mission is to improve the quality of education. The trust will develop models of best practice based on multimedia projects tackling social themes. At the heart of our work is an evidence-based approach designed to motivate and engage young people changing their attitudes, behaviour and levels of achievement. This is achieved both through face to face work with disadvantaged young people and through the development of anti-violence education programmes, which are used by schools across the UK.

Financing of the initiative:

Ariel receives funding from several Trusts and Foundations, Lottery Fund, Esmee Fairbairn Trust PH Holt Foundation, Violence Prevention Education Programme, Liverpool a Safe City, Merseyside Police, FutureBuilders and GiveACar

Concrete measures:

Since 2007 they have developed a suite of interactive software programmes that support teachers to respond to challenging social issues. The resources take a skills-based approach to preventative education and are designed to be used in mainstream education settings, both primary and secondary. The issues that are addressed are decided in consultation with young people, public sector partners and with teachers and represent the current and emerging threats to our young people. These include racial and homophobic bullying, alcohol misuse and grooming and sexual exploitation.

Impact of the initiative:

Ariel's software based resources were originally developed for schools in Liverpool; since 2012 they have been rolling them out more widely as part of the Big Lottery funded programme. During 2015/16 they had expanded their reach to work with more than 300 schools and 21,000 young people.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Ariel Trust is a Liverpool based educational charity with a small, passionate staff team -

www.arieltrust.com/

Main Office phone line: 0151 707 8211

Realising Ambition Enquiries: trish@arieltrust.com (For projects in Sefton, Knowsley, Wirral, Derbyshire and Greater Manchester.)

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 34(2015)** *Aid policies for young people in Europe and the OECD countries* by Olivier Thévenon
- **Working paper 9(2014)** *Self investments of adolescents and their cognitive development*, by Daniela del Boca, Chiara Monfardini, and Cheti Nicoletti
- **Working paper 4(2013)** *State-of-the-art report Effects of family forms and dynamics on children's well-being and life chances: literature review*, by Fabrizio Bernardi, Juho Härkönen, and Diederik Boertien, with Linus Andersson Rydell, Kim Bastaits, and Dimitri Mortelmans

3.3 Parler bambin (“Speaking toddlers”) (France)

Background:

There is a strong link between the family's low social background and the learning difficulties of children that do not have enough words and language skills, due to a lack of parental stimulation and involvement⁴. In the program, the early childhood educators are trained to develop the language skills for toddlers and use interactive means to engage in conversations with each child to stimulate them.

⁴ [Int J Equity Health](#), 2016; 15: 203. Published online 2016 Dec 12. Relationship between socioeconomic status and adolescent life satisfaction: mediating or moderating? Evidence from Czech data [Thomas Buijs](#),¹ [Lea Maes](#),¹ [Ferdinand Salonna](#),² [Joris Van Damme](#),¹ [Anne Hublet](#),¹ [Vladimir Kebza](#),³ [Caroline Costongs](#),⁴ [Candace Currie](#),⁵ and [Bart De Clercq](#)¹

Initiative:

Language development (and social development) to “late talking” children.

Objective of the initiative:

The aim of the project is to enhance early conversation with toddlers to improve future learning and development.

Actors involved in the initiative:

All the children from 0 to 3 years old are welcomed in day-care facilities, especially the children identified as ‘late talkers’ (test based on a scientific scale of language development).

Financing of the initiative:

Centre Communal d’Action Sociale (CCAS) de la ville de Grenoble (France)

More information available at: <http://www.grenoble.fr/8-solidarites.htm>

Concrete measures:

When a child arrives in the day-care, the educators and the parents evaluate the level of their language development using a questionnaire. If the child is identified as a ‘late talker’ the educator invites the child twice a week to an interactive group with two other children.

Impact of the initiative:

Starting in 2008, around 3.000 children from 0 to 3 attend annually in the 27 day-care facilities of the city of Grenoble. This initiative has shown a very positive effect on the language development and performance of children, and those from disadvantaged and/or marginalized families, whose language skills have been lower than expected for their age.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Centre Communal d’Action Sociale (CCAS) de la ville de Grenoble (France)

More information available at: <http://www.grenoble.fr/8-solidarites.htm>

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working Paper 41(2015)** *Early childcare, maternal education and family origins: differences in cognitive and linguistic outcomes throughout childhood*, by Daniella Bulgarelli and Paola Molina
- **WorkingPaper 29(2015)** *Mother’s time allocation, child care and child cognitive development* , by Ylenia Brillì
- **Working Paper 17(2014)** *Household Choices and Child Development*, by Daniela Del Boca, Christopher Flinn and Matthew Wiswall

3.4 HomeStart program (UK and 22 countries)

Background:

The program was founded in the UK in 1973 and since has expanded into 22 countries, including the Czech Republic, Denmark, Norway, Hungary, and The Netherlands.

Initiative:

The Home-Start program is a home visiting intervention in which volunteers with childcare experience give support to struggling families with children younger than five years of age.

Objective of the initiative:

To enhance family support and the qualities of alternative care settings, to provide children with a safe, adequate housing and living environment: supporting parenting and assisting with childcare. It aims to reduce the stress of parenting and to encourage families, especially families at risk, so that a nurturing environment for their children may be created, consequently reducing neglect and abuse. A child's early years are critical to their future.

HomeStart helps families give their children the best start in life.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Home-Start targets families and mothers with little experience of good enough parenting and/or who lack social (family) support networks, or who may have minor physical or mental health challenges. The program is aimed at mothers and their young children (age 0 to 5). Entry and exit to the Home-Start program is entirely voluntary and all visits are on the agreement of participating families.

Financing of the initiative:

Home-Start UK and charitable donations.

Concrete measures:

A Home-Start volunteer from the local community visits the family home for a few hours each week until the youngest child turns five or the family decides to exit from the program. On average, volunteers visit families for 6 months, and visits last for around 3-4 hours. The volunteers give emotional support and assistance with household tasks and outings as needed by each family. The volunteers provide friendship, encouragement, and an example of affectionate childcare behaviour.

Impact of the initiative:

There are 314 local schemes of Home-Start UK located in the United Kingdom and in British Forces Germany and Cyprus.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Home-Start UK. <http://www.home-start.org.uk/>

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **WorkingPaper 66(2017)** *Futures of families in times of multifaceted societal changes: a foresight approach*, by Bernhard Riederer, Monika Mynarska, Maria Winkler-Dworak, Thomas Fent, Bernhard Rengs and Dimiter Philipov
- **Working Paper 65(2017)** *Vulnerability of families with children: experts' opinions about the future and what families think about it* , by Bernhard Riederer, Dimiter Philipov and Bernhard Rengs
- **WorkingPaper 49(2015)** *Vulnerability of families with children: Major risks, future challenges and policy recommendations*, by Monika Mynarska, Bernhard Riederer, Ina Jaschinski, Desiree Krivanek, Gerda Neyer, and Livia Oláh

3.5 Yo voy (“I go”) (Spain)

Background:

In general, parents of large families are time poor to deal with the administration for scholarships, financial aids, social benefits, etc. Sometimes the bureaucratic process of presenting all the documentation needed, requires that parents must ask for work leave (paid and/or unpaid) to submit documents or make appointments. Also, it may require attending an interview in restricted opening times and schedules, etc. All this means a large amount of time is dedicated to deal with such obligations. Therefore, through the help of “Yo voy” this gives greater support to the family with the aim of improving their quality of life.

Initiative:

A person from the Large Families Association office helps parents to prepare and apply for legal family social benefits and other forms of financial assistance.

Objective of the initiative:

The aim is to provide a personalized and effective service to families. The service collects the documentation necessary and is given authorization to mediate their way through the bureaucracy, and facilitating family improvement.

Actors involved in the initiative:

The program is targeted at large families.

Financing of the initiative:

Association of Large Families of Aragon (3ymás). Non-profit organization.

Concrete measures:

Since 2013, through the “Yo voy” service, the Association of Large Families of Aragon (3ymás) integrated into the FEFN (Spanish Federation of Large Families), deals with administrative tasks (burdens) of large families (application or renewal of the large family title, new entries in the Registry, application for the social bonus or bonuses to reduce the cost of water supply, housing tax bonuses, etc.).

Impact of the initiative:

Participants have given a positive assessment of the program, as it allows them to optimize their time and devote more attention to the care of their children, without compromising work-life balance. “Yo voy” has already handled almost 400 administrative tasks, for more than 150 families, in a typical two days’ delivery time. Additionally, the service replied to more than 1.500 questions, and has undoubtedly improved their quality of life, while helping them to reconciling work and family responsibilities.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

3ymás (Ass. of Large Families of Aragon. Argualas 40, local. Zaragoza. Web-site: <http://www.3ymas.com/servicios/yo-voy/>)

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 44(2015)** *Changing families in the European Union: trends and policy implications* by Livia Sz. Oláh
- **Working paper 29(2015)** *Mother's time allocation, child care and child cognitive development* by Ylenia Brilli

3.6 Family Nurseries (Italy)

Background:

This project offers educational and care services for children up to 3 years old. The person in charge receives training through a regional qualification program. Since 2008, the service is coordinated at regional level. The organisers have a plan to check and monitor the work of the home educators.

Family Nurseries are an answer to the involvement in the work environment of women interested in maintaining their role within the family, or for women who have stopped their professional career to have a family. The Veneto Region coordinates trains and assesses the process and gives “Family vouchers” to the families that benefit from the service, to reduce the cost. Legal base: DGR n. 1502 2011.

Initiative:

Small nurseries (up to 6 children) attended by one of the mothers, at her home.

Objective of the initiative:

Help families, by promoting working possibilities to a target group who is often excluded from work due to family commitments. Other objectives are:

- Activation of flexible services.
- Family nurseries which can be adapted to the work and family commitments.
- Creation of new working opportunities improving work and family life balance
- Integration of women in the labour market.
- Eliminating illegal work

Actors involved in the initiative:

Educators- family coaches- supervisors of family nurseries, parents, families, children, women.

Financing of the initiative:

Veneto Region Social and Health Services-Child and Family Department. Web site:

<http://www.regione.veneto.it/web/Sociale/>

Concrete measures:

Each worker looks after 6 children (maximum) in their own homes. The care includes meals and nap time for children. Family nurseries provide a small and flexible organization which is adaptable to the

needs of children and their families. They have flexible opening hours, to meet the needs of everyone with different working hours. The project introduces new professional competences initiated in unusual contexts and helps to normalize a type of work which is underestimated and often undeclared (tax evasion, precarious conditions, lack of security, lack of discussion with others having same job).

Impact of the initiative:

Dec 2015, the program is followed by 336 family nurseries in the Veneto Region: 43 supervisors (max. 20 nurseries), 336 formal educators, 221 supporting staff members. A total of 1.344 children are involved.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Veneto Region Social and Health Services-Child and Family Department:

- dr.ssa Laura Nardini. Dipartimento Servizi Sociosanitari e Sociali. Settore Minori Giovani e Famiglia. Ufficio Politiche e Coordinamento Piani e Programmi per la Famiglia. e-mail: laura.nardini@regione.veneto.it

Contact person: Veneto Region's Brussels Office. Director Marco Paolo Mantile. elena.curtopassi@regione.veneto.it

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 62(2016)** *Child Care and Child Outcomes: A Comparison Across European Countries* by Daniela Del Boca, Chiara Monfardini and Sarah Grace See
- **Working paper 20(2014)** *Early child care and child outcomes: the role of grandparents Evidence from the Millennium Cohort Study* by Daniela Del Boca, Daniela Piazzalunga and Chiara Pronzato
- **Working paper 2(2013)** *State-of-the-art report Child care arrangements: determinants and consequences* by Ylenia Brilli, Daniela Del Boca and Chiara Monfardini

4 Work-Family reconciliation projects

4.1 Welfare to work (Ireland)

Background:

Raising skills and aspirations by helping participants to overcome the barriers that prevent them from fully participating in work, education and/or skill development. In 2008, the project focused on building confidence and is underpinned by mentoring and key-working support.

One Family is an organization working to ensure a positive and equal future for all members of all one-parent families in Ireland, changing attitudes, services, policies and lives. Together with one-parent families and those working with them, the organization is committed to achieve equality and respect for all families.

Initiative:

Trainings and skill development to lone parents to help them with personal effectiveness and career development.

Objective of the initiative:

To help creating positive futures for people who parent alone, where they can learn new skills to progress to training, education and employment.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Lone parents who want to take steps to ensure their economic independence.

Financing of the initiative:

One Family has service level agreements from Pobal (Pobal acts as an intermediary for programmes funded by the Irish Government and the EU) Tusla (The Child and Family Agency is a dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children), Department of Social Protection, Department of Education and Skills.

More information available at: www.onefamily.ie

Concrete measures:

New Futures, developed and delivered, by One Family provides an integrated response to the aspirations of lone parents who want to take steps to ensure their economic independence. The program offers an innovative motivational, interagency progression program designed especially for lone parents.

The model is based on international best practices for supporting groups most displaced from the labour market and incorporates proactive community-based recruitment, thorough needs-assessment, key working and mentoring. Specialist parenting and family support services underpin New Futures.

One Family therefore proposes programs to help create positive futures for people who parent alone, where they can learn new skills to progress to training, education and employment. It is about understanding the experience of parenting alone and sharing parenting, and how challenging it can be to move back into education or find fulfilling employment.

One Family offers everyone registered in the programs to get to work with their own mentor and coach.

The courses provide accreditations recognized on the National Framework of Qualifications and One Family also offers participants free, on-site childcare.

Impact of the initiative:

What really emerged from the pilot programs was the extreme importance of dealing with the breadth of barriers that lone parents face in moving from welfare to work. The parents felt that they were better able to engage with skills training once they had overcome personal challenges.

One Family's New Futures project succeeded in helping the lone parents involved building their confidence and self-esteem. It also gave them hope: many parents indicated that after the program,

they had greater clarity on how to really achieve their aims and ambitions and a greater belief in their ability to build a positive future for themselves and their family.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Cherish Ltd t/a One Family. More information available at: www.onefamily.ie

Director of Policy and Programmes: James Stuart Duffin

E-mail: programmes@onefamily.ie , info@onefamily.ie Tel.: +353 1 662 9212.

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers:

- **Working Paper 45(2015)** *Do parental separation and single motherhood strengthen intergenerational inequality in educational attainment? A decomposition analysis for Germany, Italy, the UK and the US* by Fabrizio Bernardi and Diederik Boertien
- **Working Paper 44(2015)** *Changing families in the European Union: trends and policy implications* by Livia Sz. Oláh
- **Working Paper 15(2014)** *Parental divorce during childhood in Sweden: Changed experience, unchanged effect* by Michael Gähler and Eva-Lisa Palmtag

4.2 The European Reconciliation Package Families Europe (COFACE)

Background:

It is a unique policy document, as it covers the entire European Union, as well applies a systemic approach to the complex issue of work-life balance, to both its related challenges and possible solutions. It is the main policy outcome of the 2014 Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life in Europe.

Initiative:

Over the past years COFACE observed an increased preoccupation of European families with the challenges of balancing their family life and work responsibilities. Increased childcare costs, limited places, long commutes, hectic schedules coupled with job-insecurities mean that working parents and carers are finding it increasingly difficult to find long-term solutions that serve the interest of all family members.

Objective of the initiative:

COFACE spent the past years cataloguing the problems faced by families, and analysing and collecting inspiring practices and legal instruments at regional, national and EU level, as well as workplace solutions that work for all – not only working parents with small children.

Actors involved in the initiative

The ERP - European Reconciliation Package - was developed throughout the “2014: Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life in Europe” campaign, which was led by COFACE. The content of the ERP is based on knowledge that was generated during the campaign years, as it also includes many of the ideas and principles of the “Roadmap” document, mainly in the Introduction. The ERP is also

the result of a collaborative effort of COFACE members, researchers, policy makers and employers, and takes inspiration from the three conferences organised by COFACE in 2014.

Financing of the initiative:

COFACE Resources via European Commission Funding

Concrete measures:

This package highlights different policies and practices developed at local and national level that can support families in reconciling their work, family and care responsibilities. It reflects on the challenges and opportunities and presents recommendations of what needs to be done at EU and national level to empower families, and ultimately contributing to gender and pay equality, increased employment, improved childcare and care infrastructure and better well-being overall.

The European Reconciliation Package analyses four main areas:

Chapter1: Reconciling for Carers

Chapter2: Women at Work

Chapter3: Reconciling at the Workplace

Chapter4: Childcare, Education and Parenting

For each area, a legislative and policy background outlines the current situation and some recommendation are putting forward as well as several existing practices in Europe.

Impact of the initiative

Policies to facilitate the combination of work and family life are essential for families to benefit from sufficient financial resources, available quality services, and adequate time arrangements to enjoy their family life in dignity. Work-life balance is at the very core of COFACE's work, with a focus on three key areas of action:

Time arrangements: promoting different types of leave (maternity, paternity, parental, carers).

Services: advocating for access to affordable and quality services (different forms of childcare, but also long-term care services).

Gender equality: fostering gender equality and female labour force participation through a variety of actions (policy, research, enterprise).

Organization implementing the practice and contact

Families Europe (COFACE) Director Liz Gosme E-mail: lgosme@coface-eu.org

The reconciliation Package can be downloaded at <http://www.coface-eu.org/resources/european-reconciliation-package/>

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers:

- **Working paper 71(2017)** *The new roles of men and women and implications for families and societies: Summary report of key findings from WP3* by Livia Sz. Oláh, Rudolf Richter and Irena E. Kotowska
- **Working paper 48(2015)** *Gender equality within dual-earner and dual-career couples across different policy regimes and norm systems in Europe* by Susanne Fahlén

- **Working paper 44(2015)** *Changing families in the European Union: trends and policy implications* by Livia Sz. Oláh
- **Working paper 23(2014)** *Families with disabled children in different European countries* by Paola Di Giulio, Dimiter Philipov, and Ina Jaschinski
- **Working paper 11(2014)** *State-of-the art report: The new roles of men and women and implications for families and societies* by Livia Sz. Oláh, Rudolf Richter and Irena E. Kotowska

4.3 IFREI (Family Responsible Employer Index) (Spain and 23 other countries)

Background:

The IFREI Study analyses the environment in which people work. Since 1999, it makes a diagnosing degree of the Corporate Family Responsibility (CFR) and its impact on individuals, families, society. IFREI also checks the results of the companies, to promote, in business, leadership, culture and reconciliation policies that facilitate the integration of work, family and personal lives of employees.

The company is without doubt the institution with the greatest impact on the human ecosystem, i.e., persons, families and society. It influences the quality of life of its employees and their ability to satisfy other vital roles. Therefore, it is crucial that companies contribute so that work, family and personal life enrich each other, since they are fundamental, indispensable and complementary dimensions in the life of men women.

Initiative:

Family Responsibility Corporate diagnosis.

Objective of the initiative:

To promote, in business, leadership, culture and reconciliation policies that facilitate the integration of work, family and personal lives of employees.

Actors involved in the initiative:

It is directed to workers (managers and employees) of companies worldwide.

Financing of the initiative:

IFREI charges their consultant work to the costumers who ask for the audit.

Concrete measures:

The CFR level is determined according to three dimensions: policies, supervisor support and the organizational culture that affects whether the worker may reconcile his professional, personal and family life, factors that make-up and contribute to the environment in which the employee works.

A low level of CFR is which hinders the systematic integration of professional-family-personal life. This situation produces what we name as a “polluted environment” that in turn creates a high degree of dissatisfaction, stress and loss of motivation by employees, which leads to the desire to leave the company.

On the other hand, companies that promote CFR create what we name “enriching environments” that foster satisfaction with the reconciliation of work and family; this in turn creates high commitment, higher quality of life and a higher level of general health. CFR also facilitates a greater amount of time dedicated to raising small children, caring for the elderly and other dependent people, and tending to different commitments in various fields of social life.

An environmental culture, which is favourable to CFR have:

1. Fewer intentions to leave the company.
2. Higher satisfaction with work-family balance.
3. More productivity.
4. Higher perception of company support.
5. Better health. Especially when employees must take care of young children or dependent parents.
6. More dedication to their young children.
7. Better quality of life.

Impact of the initiative:

The IFREI contributes to economic, social and ethical values, and enables a more just, productive and sustainable society, in which women and men to care for their families and enjoy the same rights and opportunities. So far there were involved more than 30,000 people from 23 countries on five continents.

The research data indicate that only 46% of the surveyed population is in environments that promote the integration of work, family and personal life (15% in an enriching environment, 31% in a favourable environment); the rest of the population surveyed, 54%, work in a difficult and hostile environment toward family and integration (41% in an unfavourable environment, 13% in a polluted environment). The results around the world confirm that people who have their supervisor’s support, have access to conciliatory policies.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

International Centre for Work and Family (ICWF) & IESE Women in Leadership (I WIL). IESE Business School, Barcelona. Website of the practice: <http://ifrei.iese.edu>

Professor Nuria Chinchilla. E-mail address: mchinchilla@iese.edu

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 71(2017)** *The new roles of men and women and implications for families and societies: Summary report of key findings for WP3* by Livia Sz. Oláh, Rudolf Richter and Irena E. Kotowska
- **Working paper 60(2016)** *The effects of the parental leave reform and the economic crisis on childbearing behaviour in Iceland at the dawn of a new millennium* by Ari Klængur Jónsson
- **Working paper 48(2015)** *Gender equality within dual-earner and dual-career couples across different policy regimes and norm systems in Europe* by Susanne Fahlén

5 Intergeneration solidarity projects

5.1 Senior-Student and Family-Student (Belgium)

Background:

The purpose of the association 1Toit 2 Âges ASBL (*1 Roof 2 Ages*) is based on a simple idea: accommodating students under 30 years, with an elderly person who has a spare room, or in a family with children. This cohabitation style does not create any relationship of subordination between the people involved. This helps to fight against the loneliness of the elderly and gives students the opportunity to have a quiet accommodation conducive to their academic success. Or if placed in a family the student is helping with children. The initiative began in 2009 in Brussels, in 2011 in Namur and Louvain-la-Neuve and in 2012 in Mons, Charleroi and Liège.

Initiative:

University student living in another family home and helping each other.

Objective of the initiative:

The initiative has two different approaches/solutions:

- Formula Senior-Student: The objective is to connect the host people (over 50 years) and students whose needs are compatible. The aim is to contribute to the maintenance of a link between two generations, enriching for everyone.
- Formula Family-Student: the aim is to connect host families with students whose expectations are compatible. This is a "helping hand" that is given by the students during the week (maximum 5 hours) to support parents, while creating special ties between young and very young.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Seniors who want to break the solitude and/or families who want an additional help and students who need supplementary income. The practice also targets students who are looking for cheaper accommodation and who are willing to offer time and skills to seniors/family (who need a helping hand).

Financing of the initiative:

The association 1 Toit 2 Âges ASBL (*1 Roof 2 Ages*) receive payments from the costumers using the service. This is a social enterprise model.

Concrete measures:

1 Roof 2 Ages connects the host and students whose expectations are compatible. At first, the association meets each individually, those who are interested in this project to ensure their compatibility to participate in this process, which involves discretion, respect and trust. The association visits the person's home: they ensure the quality of housing proposed and conduct an in-depth interview; and define the formula that best suits.

Similarly, the association has a thorough discussion with students to ensure they are comfortable with the spirit of living together and their availability to support the person at home. When they assess that

there is a match, the association put the persons in touch. If the two candidates after meeting decided to go forward, they sign an agreement specifying the choice of the formula, defining their contribution and the finances to the association.

Impact of the initiative:

The association's experience shows that each pair creates its own history, contributing to a real win-win for both parties.

The benefits for seniors are:

- Living together and breaking the solitude by a reassuring presence
- Sharing time, conversations, memories and living
- Feeling of safety: staying at home without being alone
- Additional income

The senior gives to a student:

- Accessible housing
- A friendly environment
- Allow a young person to study and feel secure

Benefits for students:

- Budget accommodation
- An environment conducive to the success of his/her study
- Human interaction
- Emotional and motivational support

The student brings to a senior/family:

- Allow seniors to stay at home as long as possible
- Increase their security, break their solitude and bring joy
- Specific help for children
- Free time for leisure
- The opportunity to save care expenses

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

1 Toit 2 Âges ASBL. Belgian association (*1 Roof 2 Ages*).

More information available at: <http://www.1toit2ages.be/fr>

Claire de Kerautem. Contact: direction@1toit2ages.be

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 61(2016)** *Intergenerational linkages in the family: The organization of caring and financial responsibilities: Summary of results* by Kasia Karpinska, Pearl A. Dykstra, Thijs van den Broek, Maja Djundeva, Anita Abramowska-Kmon, Irena I. Kotowska, Michaela Haragus, Paul-Teodor Haragus, Cornelia Muresan and Pau Marí-Klose
- **Working paper 7(2014)** *Family policies and diversity in Europe: The state-of-the-art regarding fertility, work, care, leave, laws and self-sufficiency* Edited by Olivier Thévenon and Gerda Neyer

- **Working paper 1(2013)** *State-of-the-art report* Intergenerational linkages in families by Pearl A. Dykstra, Thijs van den Broek, Cornelia Muresan, Mihaela Haragus, Paul-Teodor Haragus, Anita Abramowska-Kmon, Irena E. Kotowska

5.2 Le 8ème jour (The 8th day) (Belgium)

Background:

Initially, in 1995, a group of parents of children with intellectual disabilities, distraught by the lack of adequate structures, decided to meet and define their concerns.

These were expressed as follows:

1. the future and the future of their children after parent disappeared;
2. the sexuality of these young people;
3. the right to live as their siblings despite their difference;
4. Life in a supervised apartment was tending not to respond to their needs in terms of security and generating a certain social and emotional isolation.

As traditional homes are not suitable for them, these young adults risk losing their autonomy because of invasive support systems. So, a community of enthusiastic adults, with intellectual disability, who wished to avoid entering a home where they would lose autonomy or a supervised apartment, where they would feel lonely, delivered a solution expressing their desire to live near one another in individual houses. The idea was to become independent without being self-isolated, while feeling safe, without being in a permanent institutional framework. This synergy between parents, youth and services support gave rise to “Le 8ème jour” project.

Initiative:

People with disabilities living independently, but in the same building or in the same neighbourhood and/or community.

Objective of the initiative:

The project aims to give people with varying abilities an equal place in society while giving them the opportunity to choose their own lifestyle. The underpinning objective is about autonomy of the individual who would live in an accommodation close to other people with similar challenges, consequently improving social networks, individual and collective social capital.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Adults with intellectual disabilities (including Down syndrome 21), but without behavioural disorders, who are otherwise independent in their movements and everyday life.

Financing of the initiative:

Association “Le 8ème jour”

Concrete measures:

Since 2000, the project brings security and emotional support to people with intellectual disabilities by ensuring the presence of people living in solidarity in the neighbourhood. According to the needs, the project also helps the residents and the community coping with parental death and/or the inability of the parent to maintain frequent contact due to illness, etc. and even with parental desertion.

Impact of the initiative:

The project has led to a set of apartments where young people can live autonomously and independently while being closed to each other.

Service support offer the possibility of assistance and the project also favours communal open space to promote conviviality and mutual support. The initiative promotes external and internal professional assistance services with social workers and youth leaders who ensure and work to community development principles, so that residents participate in the neighbourhood and are supported to integration into the local community and society in general.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Association “Le 8ème jour”. Web: <http://www.lehuitiemejour.eu/contact/?lang=fr>

Sophie Vankriekinge, Director: sophie.vankriekinge@lehuitiemejour.eu

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 49(2015)** *Vulnerability of families with children: Major risks, future challenges and policy recommendations* by Monika Mynarska, Bernhard Riederer, Ina Jaschinski, Desiree Krivanek, Gerda Neyer, and Livia Oláh
- **Working paper 23(2014)** *Families with disabled children in different European countries* by Paola Di Giulio, Dimiter Philipov, and Ina Jaschinski

5.3 The Betties (Belgium)

Background:

Every day in Huis Perrekes they experience the power of music. Huis Perrekes is a small scale organization for persons with dementia. The initiative consists of three houses for 16 residents each and a house for day care support. Each house has a music therapist to help bring meaning to residents. Music therapy is a positive daily experience that brings the residents closer together.

The Betties choir another initiative, brings members together and helps to promote joy and vitality enabling residents to share this with the world around them. Residents want to be heard, and they want dementia to have a place in society, as well as raising awareness for dementia.

The Betties are about keeping the fundamental philosophy of Huis Perrekes alive, now and in the future. The underpinning philosophy is the social necessity for individual care for each person with dementia. Huis Perrekes strives to halt splitting of society and care into different sectors and aspires to an intrinsic relationship with culture, in the widest sense of the word.

Initiative:

An intergenerational choir composed of people with dementia.

Objective of the initiative:

To stimulate encounters between people with and without dementia through the lived experience of singing and performing together with younger people.

The Betties try to create a social support for people with dementia, fragile people and ‘people’ in the broadest sense of the word.

Actors involved in the initiative:

People with dementia, and those impacted such as t families (partner, siblings, son/daughter...), caregivers, children of the local school, children of employees, grandchildren, volunteers.

Financing of the initiative:

Huis Perrekes vzw.

Concrete measures:

In 2010, the initiative celebrated the 25th anniversary of Huis Perrekes, which started with a small group of enthusiastic members. In the meantime, the group has grown – dynamically and organically - and now has 80 members.

Fortnightly rehearsals and concerts stimulate encounters between people with and without dementia through the lived experience of singing and performing together. At first, they performed exclusively at their own events, gradually they received more requests from various other organizations, such as Christmas or Easter or other religious festivals, symposiums, conferences, concerts, parties and festivals.

In collaboration with a local school, children participate in the choir. During holidays, children of employees are involved in rehearsals.

Members of the choir are encouraged to be compassionate with one another. When a resident and member of the choir dies, members receive a lot of comforting emails for the relatives and their social network. Through music, the choir moves and affects people on a human level, in character with each other.

Impact of the initiative:

This project has the support of the head of the local school and of the specific teacher involved. They witness (and hear from the parents) that the children share their unique experiences with each other. So, they pass on their joy, connectedness, vitality and respect.

During holidays, children of employees are encouraged to be part of the group and perceive every person as a person – consequently people with dementia are not unusual to them, but are part of their life. This enables the children to build empathy and in human caring values, which they are eager to share.

The enthusiastic response of audiences makes it clear that enthusiasm has a positive contagious effect. Meanwhile, the outside world is encouraged to frame critical questions regarding care, dementia, music therapy, social commitment and the initiatives underpinning philosophy of respect and dignity.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Huis Perrekes vzw. (Geel/Belgium) www.perrekes.be.

Zammelseweg 1. B – 2440 Geel – Oosterlo. Tel. 0032 14 86 83 43

<http://www.perrekes.be/debetties.html>

Contact: Lieselotte Ronse: de.betties@perrekes.be

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working Paper 61(2016)** *Intergenerational linkages in the family: The organization of caring and financial responsibilities: Summary of results* By Kasia Karpinska, Pearl A. Dykstra, Thijs van den Broek, Maja Djundeva, Anita Abramowska-Kmon, Irena I. Kotowska, Michaela Haragus, Paul-Teodor Haragus, Cornelia Muresan and Pau Marí-Klose
- **Working paper 1(2013)** *State-of-the-art report Intergenerational linkages in families* By Pearl A. Dykstra, Thijs van den Broek, Cornelia Muresan, Mihaela Haragus, Paul-Teodor Haragus, Anita Abramowska-Kmon, Irena E. Kotowska

5.4 Hoy salimos (Today we went out) (Spain)

Background:

Leisure is essential to the promotion of autonomy and the socialization of people with intellectual disabilities, and especially people at risk of exclusion, and single-parent families, etc. This project is carried out with the collaboration of 500 volunteers. This program tries to open a channel of relationship between people with disabilities and people without disabilities that promotes the enjoyment of leisure and the promotion of personal autonomy through recreational activities in which both groups generate links of friendship, companionship, and mutual learning.

Initiative:

Inclusive leisure for children and adults with intellectual disabilities in risk of social exclusion, delivered on Saturday mornings.

Objective of the initiative:

The objective of the program is the enjoyment of leisure for more than 100 people with disabilities (from 3 to 50 years old), belonging to marginalized, single-parent families, or those at risk of social exclusion.

Actors involved in the initiative:

The project relies on the participation of: a) People with intellectual disabilities from families at risk of social exclusion and b) Volunteers (individuals and families) from the NGO: Desarrollo&Asistencia.

Financing of the initiative:

The project is led by the Foundation Desarrollo&Asistencia, which receives the support of the Regional Social Ministry, and donations from private organizations.

Concrete measures:

The project has three phases: 1) Assessment of cases: the social workers of the educational and occupational centers assess the cases who are at greater risk of social exclusion to offer them activities of leisure and free time. (2) Distribution of groups for activities: a) Children under 12-year-old; and b) Children older than 13-years-old (up to 50 years) that will be attending as volunteers. (3) Delivery of activities of leisure on Saturday mornings (from 10:00 am to 14:00 pm). Each volunteer collects to the person with a disability in his/her home and then joins with the rest of the volunteers for the activity scheduled. Once the activity is finished, they accompany the participant home. They enjoy leisure activities such as: excursions through the city, visits to museums, exhibitions, cultural centers, bowling, cinema, sports journeys, walks in the countryside, special events (Carnival, Summer party or Christmas party), etc.

Impact of the initiative:

The benefits of this project of inclusive leisure are rewarding experiences for people with disabilities and for their families. a) The benefits for people with disabilities are: promoting autonomy, social inclusion, and integration into the group, active participation, a sense of social belonging, networks and links of friendship and trust, reduction of a passive lifestyle, stress-reduction, and improvement of their quality of life. b) The benefits for families are: integration into the culture of inclusive leisure, increase of social confidence, increase of networks of social relations, family respite, few hours of rest for the primary caregiver on Saturday.

Additionally, this project has a positive impact in the volunteer since there is a solidarity “on the job training” for all of them.

In 2015, 50 young people under 12 years-old and 100 people aged between 13 and 50 years-old, with physical or intellectual disabilities. Most of them belonging to public schools or special education schools located in Madrid and surroundings.

Organization implementing the practice and contact.

Fundación Desarrollo&Asistencia. Madrid (Spain) NGO. <http://desarrolloyasistencia.org/que-hacemos/>

Mar Garrido, Research and Programs Manager: margarrido@desarrolloyasistencia.org

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 49(2015)** *Vulnerability of families with children: Major risks, future challenges and policy recommendations* By Monika Mynarska, Bernhard Riederer, Ina Jaschinski, Desiree Krivanek, Gerda Neyer, and Livia Oláh
- **Working paper 23(2014)** *Families with disabled children in different European countries* By Paola Di Giulio, Dimiter Philipov, and Ina Jaschinski

6 Social inclusion of migrants and minority ethnic families' projects

6.1 Right to education for irregular migrants (Belgium)

Background:

We chose to present the situation in Belgium, which is documented by PICUM-the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, for example in their report 'Protecting Undocumented Children: Promising practices from governments', and in more detail in their country brief on Belgium.

There are indeed explicit references on the right to education for irregular migrants in the legislation of Belgium as the country has constitutional protection for the right to education, accompanied by legislation that puts this principle into practice. Responsibility for the implementation of this principle falls under the governments of the different linguistic communities (French and Flemish).

The initiative described is implemented by the Belgian government, and indeed the French-speaking and Flemish-speaking Communities. PICUM's role is simply to highlight the legal frame work in Belgium as a positive one.

Initiative:

To provide education to undocumented children in Belgium.

Objective of the initiative:

To guarantee the education of irregular migrant children in Belgium.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Belgian government, governments of the French-speaking and Flemish-speaking Communities, schools, migrant children and families.

Financing of the initiative:

Governments of the French-speaking and Flemish-speaking Communities.

Concrete measures:

The Belgian Constitution states that, "Everyone has the right to education with the respect of fundamental rights and freedoms. Access to education is free until the end of obligatory school. Education in Belgium is compulsory from age 6 to 18. Full-time education is compulsory from age 6 to 16 (sometimes 15). From age 16 to 18, part-time education is compulsory, and children can choose to continue their full-time education or participate in a "cooperative education" (work-study) programme, including an official apprenticeship or traineeship.

In both the French and Flemish speaking communities, the inclusion of undocumented children in the right to education is explicit:

1. In the French speaking community, the Decree of 30 June 1998 states: "Children staying illegally on French-speaking territory are, if they stay with their parent or guardian, admitted into educational establishments."

2. In the Flemish community, the Minister of Education sent a circular letter on 24 February 2003 explicitly stating that: “All children residing on the Belgian territory have the right to education (...) A registration cannot be refused on basis of the sole finding that the residence status of the pupil or his parents is not regular. (...) If, at registration, the pupil cannot prove his identity with documents, he can still be enrolled, under the condition that the pupil is present during the registration.”

Further, in both the French and Flemish speaking communities, school registration procedures are regulated to protect undocumented children’s access to education, and prevent refusals of registration based on residence status, and the right to receive official certification of studies completed and diplomas is also made explicit.

The issue of detection is also addressed on national level. Police services cannot enter schools to carry out a deportation. The arrest of children during school time is forbidden, and it is recommended that police do not wait for children at school gates. It is also possible for families to request that their deportation be postponed until their child finishes the school year.

Impact of the initiative:

This initiative is highlighted as promising practice because it addresses many of the legal, practical and administrative barriers that undocumented children face to accessing their right to education.

The explicit references to children’s right to education regardless of their residence status is important, because often, when the law only refers to ‘all children’, implicitly including undocumented children, it can result in undocumented children facing limitations within the education system, for example, being unable to take official exams, receive certification for studies completed, or undertake vocational training courses. It can also contribute to a lack of awareness among educational staff and undocumented families, and result in inappropriate refusals of registration, discriminatory refusals of registration or even denunciation of the undocumented family to immigration authorities.

The legislation in the French and Flemish speaking communities of Belgium explicitly mention the rights of undocumented children and address some of these practical and administrative barriers.

This is reflected in the administrative procedures: Registration is possible, even if no ID documents are available, based on the child’s presence and testimonial evidence of their name, age and educational level. While there remain some important practical issues around access, most children in an irregular migration situation can register in primary and secondary schools in Belgium.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

More information can be found, contacting PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants) <http://picum.org/en>

Lilana Keith: lilana.keith@picum.org

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 50(2016)** *Transition to adulthood in France: Do descendants of immigrants differ from natives?* by Giulia Ferrari and Ariane Pailhé

- **Working paper 40(2015)** *A comparative study on fertility among the descendants of immigrants in Europe* by Hill Kulu, Tina Hannemann, Ariane Pailhé, Karel Neels, Leen Rahn, Allan Puur, Sandra Krapf, Amparo González-Ferrer, Teresa Castro-Martin, Elisabeth Kraus, Laura Bernardi, Andrés Guarín, Gunnar Andersson, Lotta Persson
- **Working paper 37(2015)** *Determinants of mental well-being among Latin American adolescents in Spain* by Héctor Cebolla-Boado and Yumiko Aaratani

6.2 Education Cooperation Program (Germany)

Background:

One of the major problems in the German education system is that a child's chances are linked to its cultural and social background. This means that children from socially deprived families and/or with a migrant background have poor chances in the education system, thus also in future i.e. on the labour market.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) initiated the federal program "Parents' chance is children's chance" (Elternchance ist Kinderchance – www.elternchance.de) where more than 5.000 parental advisors were trained.

The German Red Cross initiated the Education Cooperation Program in 2011 with 30 nationwide project locations within the scope of the federal program. The Education Cooperation Program was implemented to put new approaches in the field of educational consultation and guidance to the test. Successful approaches were subsequently embedded in integrated structures of family education.

Initiative:

Parents and children education program for immigrants.

Objective of the initiative:

The goal of the Education Cooperation Program is to strengthen parental competencies, whereas they are activated to partake and support the educational process of their children.

The overall aim is that parents can encourage their children's development and that children, without any regard of their cultural or social background, have the same opportunities in the education system, thus in life.

Actors involved in the initiative:

The target groups of the Education Cooperation Program are children, adolescents and their parents from an educationally deprived background.

Financing of the initiative:

German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

Concrete measures:

Families are reached through easily accessible consultations measures, promoting topics like children's development and education within parent-child-groups, day care facilities, family centres, immigration counselling, parents' café's in schools or other facilities where parents can be

approached. Parents' educational aspirations for their children are discussed in educational consultations as one issue among many others. Parents' aspirations may include a certain linguistic or artistic focus. Parental advisors emphasize the consequences of their decisions concerning their children's educational biography and in addition to that, their chances on the labour market.

Parental advisors have different techniques to raise awareness about educational consultation, thus addressing parents. Parents either inform themselves about educational consultation or are addressed directly through parental advisors. Whereas a vast number of families with different cultural and social backgrounds were reached by means of educational consultations, thus benefitted from guidance through direct approaches as well as collaborations with various forms of cooperation's within the social environment of these families.

Impact of the initiative:

The Education Cooperation Program was evaluated scientifically from the beginning. The impact of educational consultation was analysed on various levels: benefits through different measures, impact on informal educational processes within families, impact on parental competencies and benefit to a child's advancement.

More than 17.500 families were reached through more than 93.500 consultations from 2012 to 2014. These consultations addressed several topics like early childhood education, education itself including transitions in the educational system, linguistic development and promotion but also daily life topics like work-life balance, dealing with new technologies and media as well as issues concerning their residency or legal status. Leaving no one behind, providing equal chances and opportunities for all children and adolescents can only be achieved if they are no longer distinguished due to their cultural or social origin.

Parents as well as parental advisors completed surveys by which the effect of the different measures was evaluated. The analysis highlights that competent consultations and guidance have a positive impact on a child's educational advancement i.e. development. The consultation e.g. significantly influenced the frequency of activities within families. 70% of all parents said, that their child benefitted from the consultation and even 90% would recommend such consultations to other parents.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

The "Education Cooperation Program" was initiated by the German Red Cross, National Headquarters and is funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

Djamila Younis: (+49) 30 85404-822. E-mail: younisd@drk.de

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 65(2017)** *Vulnerability of families with children: experts' opinions about the future and what families think about it* by Bernhard Riederer, Dimiter Philipov and Bernhard Rengs
- **Working paper 62(2016)** *Child Care and Child Outcomes: A Comparison Across European Countries* by Daniela Del Boca, Chiara Monfardini and Sarah Grace See

- **Working paper 58(2016)** *Double Disadvantage in a Nordic Welfare State: A Demographic Analysis of the Single Mother Employment Gap in Finland, 1987–2011* by Juho Härkönen, Eevi Lappalainen and Marika Jalovaara
- **Working paper 55(2016)** *Social cognition in preschoolers: effect of early experience and individual differences* by Daniela Bulgarelli and Paola Molina

7 Family training and development projects

7.1 IFFD Family Enrichment courses (Spain and 66 other countries)

Background:

IFFD (International Federation for Family Development) mission is to help families around the world to build stronger and happier relationships, through strengthening the role of parents when they attend our courses. The “Case method” is used to help transmit to parents the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be able to execute their roles as parents. It is the same methodology used by some Business Schools around the world. The IFFD educational method requires a greater involvement and a very active participation of parents in their own training. This will help parents to transfer the learnings to their everyday life.

Initiative:

Parents trainings according the stage of development of their children.

Objective of the initiative:

Help families to build stronger and happier relationships with children, through strengthening the role of parents.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Parents with children, IFFD moderators to conduct sessions and IFFD local steering teams in several countries.

Financing of the initiative:

IFFD (International Federation for Family Development), donations and course participation fees.

Concrete measures:

IFFD courses for parents are designed to suit the different stages of child development. All courses are structured on the participant-based method using cases involving real situations. Each case is first analyzed in small teams formed by 4-5 couples, and later the case is discussed at General Session (15-20 couples), which is moderated by an expert in one or more Family Development training topics.

The current courses and related to the different stages of child development:

- First Steps: Program for parents with children from birth to 3 years old, or for young couples planning to become parents.
- First Letters: Program for parents with children from 4 to 7 years old.

- First Decisions: Program for parents with children from 8 to 11 years old.
- Pre-adolescents: Program for parents with children from 11 to 13 years old.
- Adolescents: Program for parents with children from 14 to 16 years old.

The courses are coordinated by volunteer couples (Local Steering Team). It has created an extensive network of support from parents who are other parents in an atmosphere of friendship.

Impact of the initiative:

Family Enrichment activities began in the 1960's when it was developed as aid programs for parents based on applying participative methodology. These initiatives soon extended throughout the whole world.

The program promotes communication and helps couples achieve a level of consensus about the upbringing of their children. It also allows parents to discuss together about a case and compare different points of view.

In 2015, IFFD promoted more than 700 courses in 66 countries, with more than 20.000 participant parents.

The direct effects from IFFD courses in the life family are very positive: (1) more fluid and serene communication, (2) greater family harmony, (3) exercise of parent's positive authority, (4) reduces punishments, (5) increases the communication and relation parent-child, (6) greater involvement of parents and children in the home tasks, (7) greater involvement of parents (both) in the education of their children and (8) better coordination of family – school.

As indirect benefits IFFD courses help to reduce situations of vulnerability of children (alcohol, drugs, abuse, crime, violence and low academic performance) and from parents (alcoholism, drugs and domestic violence).

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

IFFD (International Federation for Family Development). Web site: <http://iffd.org> Leticia Rodríguez: mail@iffd.org

Supporting Families and Societies Working Papers

- **Working paper 68(2017)** *Family Dynamics and Inequalities in Children's Life Chances: Summary and Key Findings from WP5* by Diederik Boertien, Fabrizio Bernardi and Juho Härkönen
- **Working paper 66(2017)** *Futures of families in times of multifaceted societal changes: a foresight approach* by Bernhard Riederer, Monika Mynarska, Maria Winkler-Dworak, Thomas Fent, Bernhard Rengs and Dimiter Philipov
- **Working paper 49(2015)** *Vulnerability of families with children: Major risks, future challenges and policy recommendations* by Monika Mynarska, Bernhard Riederer, Ina Jaschinski, Desiree Krivanek, Gerda Neyer, and Livia Oláh

7.2 Vaestoliitto (Finland)

Background

The Population Research Institute studies family formation and fertility, sexual health and behaviour, and immigration. They focus on Finland and Finnish family policies, in European and global contexts. The Institute provides information for the media, adult education, academic communities, students and health care professionals as well as for Väestöliitto's own activity and advocacy work.

Initiative

Väestöliitto provides various services for families. The couple relationship centre provides counselling and therapy for couples, as well as training and consultation for professionals.

The Family Network provides counselling for parents of small children by appointment, on the internet, by phone and training for professionals working with families. The Family Federation's Centre for Multicultural Expertise functions as a centre for expertise and resources on psychosocial issues concerning immigrants, particularly relating to family life, childrearing and parenthood.

Objective of the Initiative

Väestöliitto, works in the fields of social affairs and health. Väestöliitto was founded in 1941 and is composed of 34 member organizations. Väestöliitto has 65 employees. Väestöliitto produces and disseminates information about families, young people, immigrants and the size and structure of the population. The Federation also acts as an advocate in improving families' life circumstances. A healthy, safe and balanced life begins in the home, which is why the Federation especially focuses on the family and on what is required for it to function.

Väestöliitto promotes sexual health and sexual health education among young people as well as the sexual health of the adult population. The Federation is also an active promoter of a multicultural and tolerant Finland. Väestöliitto carries out multicultural family work and participates in development cooperation work in the population and sexual and reproductive health and rights field. Väestöliitto has an active role in influencing social policy. It wants to promote social policy and family-friendly attitudes that improve the living conditions of families with children. Väestöliitto's aim is to increase support for family formation, parenthood and the permanence of couple relationships. The Federation strives to impact these issues by providing direct services to families and their members and by proposing initiatives and carrying out research.

The Federation's research focus is on the family, the population and sexology. Väestöliitto publishes human relationship and sex education material. It develops new models for action for promoting the well-being of couple relationships.

Actors involved in the initiative:

The Federation owns companies that produce infertility treatment, childcare and home help, counselling and therapy for individuals and couples, publications, and professional training.

The Family Federation's fertility clinics form the largest infertility research and treatment organization in Finland. Clinics apply international research and treatment methods that comply with the latest assisted reproductive technology standards. Clinics have 70 employees.

Financing of the initiative:

State, municipality, subscriptions and trading income.

Concrete measures

The Vaestoliitto promise is: Furthering hope, happiness and human rights. The Family Federation of Finland is a national organisation working in the social affairs and health sector and supporting human rights. It is a developer of interpersonal relationships, an intersection of peer networks and a creative leader.

- To help people recognise their resources and resolve issues with interpersonal relationships, and provide support with life management and crises
- To protect balanced growth of children and youths
- To strengthen individuals' and organisations' trust in their own resources
- To provide information, skills and hope during social change
- To advocate for sexual health and rights as well as respect for diversity in families and in the entire population in Finland and internationally.

Impact of Initiative:

The Federation's activities can be divided into the services it provides, advocacy work and research. Together they form the foundation of the Federation's expertise.

The services provided by the Federation are targeted at families and their members. Services are available for very young children, for young people and for the adults in the family. Their aim in providing these services is to support the formation of families and the health and well-being of the members of these families.

Advocacy work is carried out concerning family, population, sexual health and development cooperation policy. This activity aims at influencing legislation and decision-makers in these fields to create a more child- and family-friendly society. Part of this advocacy work focuses also on public opinion. Impacting the media is an important part of the Federation's activities.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Väestöliitto's Administration and most of their activities are situated in Helsinki. Väestöliitto has Fertility Clinics also in Oulu and Turku. http://www.vaestoliitto.fi/in_english

Street address: Kalevankatu 16

Mailing address: P.O.Box 849, FI 00101 Helsinki, FINLAND

E-mail address: first name.last name@vaestoliitto.fi

Telephone exchange: +358 9 228 050

Managing Director *Eija Koivuranta tel +358 (0)9 2280 5101*

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 69(2017)** *Childlessness and Assisted Reproduction in Europe. Summary Report of Key Findings for WP4* by Patrick Präg, Tomáš Sobotka, Eevi Lappalainen, Anneli Miettinen, Anna Rotkirch, Judit Takács, Annalisa Donno, Maria Letizia Tanturri, and Melinda Mills
- **Working paper 58(2016)** *Double Disadvantage in a Nordic Welfare State: A Demographic Analysis of the Single Mother Employment Gap in Finland, 1987–2011* by Juho Härkönen, Eevi Lappalainen and Marika Jalovaara
- **Working paper 43(2015)** *Assisted reproductive technology in Europe. Usage and regulation in the context of cross-border reproductive care* by Patrick Präg and Melinda C. Mills
- **Working paper 39(2015)** *Country-specific case studies on fertility among the descendants of immigrants* by Hill Kulu and Tina Hanneman; Germany: Sandra Krapf and Katharina Wolf Sweden: Gunnar Andersson and Lotta Persson United Kingdom: Hill Kulu and Tina Hannemann France: Ariane Pailhé Spain: Amparo González-Ferrer, Teresa Castro-Martín and Elisabeth Kraus Switzerland: Andrés Guarín and Laura Bernardi
- **Working paper 33(2015)** *Increasing childlessness in Europe: Time trends and country differences* By Anneli Miettinen, Anna Rotkirch, Ivett Szalma, Annalisa Donno and Maria-Letizia Tanturri
- **Working paper 32(2015)** *State-of-the-art report: Childlessness in Europe* by Maria Letizia Tanturri, Melinda Mills, Anan Rotkirch, Tomas Sobotka, Judit Takács, Anneli Miettinen, Cristina Faludi, Venetia Kantsa, and Despina Naziri

7.3 Incredible years (UK, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Portugal)

Background:

Incredible Years is a series of interlocking, evidence-based programs for parents, children, and teachers, supported by over 30 years of research. The goal is to prevent and treat young children's behaviour problems and promote their social, emotional, and academic competence. The programs are used worldwide in schools and mental health centres, and have been shown to work across cultures and socioeconomic groups.

Consistency of implementation is ensured by providing uniform course materials to each instructor, ensuring instructors attend training, having instructors and parents complete self-evaluation surveys, providing course specific checklists, and taping sessions for review by an Incredible Years trainer (Hutchings, et al. 2008).

The project started in 2001, and the countries that have implemented this practice are: Denmark, United Kingdom, Norway, Ireland, Portugal, and Sweden.

Initiative:

Training course for parents with children.

Objective of the initiative:

Reduce inequality at a young age by investing in early childhood education and care: helping vulnerable children, supporting parenting and assisting with childcare. Parent Training Teacher Training Child Social Skills, Emotion & Problem Solving Training Proven effective programs for

reducing children's aggression and behaviour problems and increasing social competence and emotional regulation at home and at school

Actors involved in the initiative:

Middle childhood (age 6 to 12) and young children (age 0 to 5)

Financing of the initiative:

Project Incredible Years

Concrete measures:

The Incredible Years program consists of twelve weeks of 2-2.5 hours parenting sessions designed to teach parents how to recognize and treat their child's emotional and behavioural problems through positive parenting.

This program can be used for parents of both pre-school and school-aged children who already have or are at risk of developing conduct problems (including antisocial behaviour, frequent anger, and a propensity towards violence):

- Using praise and incentives to reinforce positive child behaviour
- Improving parent-child interaction
- Limit setting and non-aversive child management strategies to deal with child misbehaviour
- Applying consistent gentle consequences for problem behaviour

In addition, the program uses a variety of teaching techniques, including:

- Parent/child role play
- Helping parents understand social learning principles
- Modelling positive behaviours by example
- Discussing previous experiences with and feelings about raising their children
- Practicing new skills during the session and through homework
- Analysing video material of family behaviour for discussion

Impact of the initiative:

Implementation results demonstrate improvement for both parents and children participating in the Incredible Years Teacher Program.

More information available at the awards and recognition: <http://incredibleyears.com/about/awards-and-recognition/>

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Private human services organization and private education organization.

More information available at: <http://incredibleyears.com>

Project Incredible Years - Phone number: +1(888) 506-3562

Contact: Megan Pahl: meganp@incredibleyears.com

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 31(2015)** *Does child care availability play a role in maternal employment and children's development? Evidence from Italy* by Ylenia Brilli, Daniela Del Boca, Chiara Daniela Pronzato
- **Working paper 29(2015)** *Mother's time allocation, child care and child cognitive development* by Ylenia Brilli
- **Working paper 21(2014)** *Children's time use and family structure in Italy* by Letizia Mencarini, Silvia Pasqua and Agnese Romiti

7.4 Szkoła Letnia Akademii Familijnej. (Family Enrichment Summer School) (Poland)

Background:

Parents have limited time to improve their parenting skills, since they must attend their professional work, the family and some social events. During the summer vacation period, they could spend some of their leisure time to improve their educational knowledge and parenting skills.

Initiative:

Family vacation and parents training.

Objective of the initiative:

Provide a possibility for parents, especially with little parenting experience, to spend part of their holidays in a meaningful way, combining parents' education with holiday relax.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Parents, especially with little parenting experience.

Financing of the initiative:

Stowarzyszenie Akademia Familijna. Each participant pays an attendance fee.

Concrete measures:

The Summer School lasts one week and is currently organized in three Polish locations during summer holiday: at the seaside, in the mountains and at the lakes. Each day during the week there are different workshops and lectures from about 10:00 am to about 13:00 pm, the rest of the time all families spend as they want.

Many workshops are based on the exchange of experience between non-experienced and experienced parents. Two times there are also some team-building activities organized in the afternoons. During the morning time child-care is provided for younger children and different activities for the older ones. This format of the meeting provides plenty of occasions to develop new, friendly relations between parents and children, which often last for years.

Impact of the initiative:

The project started in 2005, develops with every year and more and more people want to participate. Usually, there are more participants than what we can accept. We started in just one place, now we have three. Last summer 100 families with about 300 children participated in the three Summer

Schools. After the Summer School, many parents involve themselves into different activities for parents, e.g. regular courses of Family Enrichment, based on the case study method.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Stowarzyszenie Akademia Familijna, Poland. Web: <http://www.akademiasfamilijna.pl/>

Janusz Wardak. E-mail: janusz@wardakowie.pl. Phone: +48 512 332 761.

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 71(2017)** *The new roles of men and women and implications for families and societies: Summary report of key findings for WP3* by Livia Sz. Oláh, Rudolf Richter and Irena E. Kotowska
- **Working paper 24(2015)** *Shared physical custody and children's experience of stress* by Jani Turunen
- **Working paper 17(2014)** *Household choices and child development* by Daniela Del Boca, Christopher Flinn and Matthew Wiswall

7.5 Empowering Parents with the Child in Focus (Sweden)

Background:

Parents need to know how to parent. Many parents do not know how to set limits, how to discipline, how to handle disappointment and aggression, or how to help their children mature to their full emotional and intellectual potential. But once the key role of relationship and attachment is presented the understanding seems to fall into place with relative ease.

The Haro organisation has engaged the Swedish Neufeld-Institute to present this knowledge – a form which has proven both inspiring and easy to understand.

Initiative:

Swedish Neufeld-institute presentations on:

- How to keep children safe in a dynamic world,
- Parenting in the digital world and
- Why children need a safe and secure family to flourish

Objective of the initiative:

Help parents to set limits, how to discipline, how to handle disappointment and aggression, and how to help their children mature to their full emotional and intellectual potential.

Actors involved in the initiative:

The primary target group are parents of children of all ages, but we also invite teachers, counsellors, psychologists, school nurses, social workers and others who work professionally with children.

Financing of the initiative:

Haro sponsors the lecture which is offered free to whoever wants to listen.

Concrete measures:

The Haro organisation has engaged an educator from the Swedish Neufeld-institute to travel locally in Sweden, primarily to areas where Haro has active members, including the north of Sweden. The setting is informal with the possibility to ask questions and discuss. Some parents stay afterwards to learn more. Usually Haro presents a second lecture in the same city with a new topic 6-9 months later than the first one.

Impact of the initiative:

During 2010 this Haro project evolved into an information event for the public.

In 2012 started with regular lectures by the Swedish Neufeld-institute.

Haro organised these presentations also outside of their members' meetings.

In 2015, twelve parental lectures were presented from the north of Sweden (Kiruna), to the south (Helsingborg). In 2016 Haro expected to present parental lectures in new regions of Sweden.

The lectures are usually attended by 20-85 people at a time.

Organization implementing the practice and contact

Riksorganisationen Haro, Box 737, SE-114 79 Stockholm. <http://www.haro.se/>

Ingvild Segersam, Haro chair: ingvild.segersam@gmail.com

Swedish Neufeld-institute <http://neufeldinstitute.org/#>

Jonas Himmelstrand, Swedish Neufeld-institute, Director: jonas@hmab.eu

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 66(2017)** *Futures of families in times of multifaceted societal changes: a foresight approach* by Bernhard Riederer, Monika Mynarska, Maria Winkler-Dworak, Thomas Fent, Bernhard Rengs and Dimitar Philipov
- **Working paper 42(2015)** *Children who do not attend daycare: What are the implications for educational outcomes?* by Heikki Hiilamo, Anita Haataja and Marko Merikukka

7.6 FamilyFutures (Czech Republic)

Background:

Established in 2012, WOMEN FOR WOMEN is a leading national organization whose overall mission is to work with and on behalf of one parent families; women experiencing disadvantage and women who have ambition. It is a private philanthropic organization founded by Ivana and Pavel Tykac.

The value supporting women and helping families succeed, enabling them to benefit from life's opportunities, to fulfil their potential. Enabling families to secure a home provides the foundation for our work.

Initiative:

FamilyFutures focuses on parenting and family coaching with programmes tailored to the varying needs of parents.

Objectives of the initiative:

FamilyFutures aims to support parents to understand the principles of parenting positively and how to implement these skills for increasing parental confidence. Once a parent is confident in how they parent and why they make the choices they do, children will tend to flourish as will the parent-child relationship. All of which will ensure quality outcomes for the parent, the child and in the long-term the family.

Although, each service possesses its own theoretical approach that best governs its focus, each has a humanistic underpinning. They are client-centred and solution-focused. WOMEN FOR WOMEN coordinates the activities of each of its client services using Bronfenbrenner's⁵ Ecological Theory model. That is we understand that children and families are not in isolation. We aim to ensure that the services are effective, evidence-informed with well-formed outcomes and remain responsive to client needs, providing a holistic model of coaching and progression.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Parents, children, WOMEN FOR WOMEN counsellors and facilitators.

Financing of the initiative:

WOMEN FOR WOMEN. Czech Republic.

Concrete measures:

In delivering this service FamilyFutures works through parent and family coaching. The Team is made up of counsellors and facilitators and who provide individual and group work to parents, their children and other family members. Services are supportive and solution focused.

Parent & Family Coaches can assist families by focusing on parent-child interactions. Often, the goal is to help parents avoid ineffective parenting responses by learning effective ways of managing their children's behaviour, and how to intervene with specific child and adolescent problems.

Progression development enables parents and families to take charge of their own progression. Progression becomes a proactive as well as reactive process, designed and prioritized to support immediate development needs as well as longer term ambitions. The account enables parents to identify key areas of development activity that will enable them to progress, out of debt, solve legal issues or either acquire new or develop existing skills and behavioural attributes.

Therefore, each client should have a SMART Plan, which maps out this process. The SMART plan will act as a psychological contract with the client and form the basis of the coaching relationship that WOMEN FOR WOMEN will have with each client. The SMART Plan will be fully discussed, agreed and signed-off by each client.

This agreement will be reviewed every 3 months, ideally should form part of the family and parenting coaching appraisal process. However, it can be equally valuable when undertaken as a stand-alone activity.

⁵ Bronfenbrenner, Urie (1989). *Annals of child development*, 6: 187–249

Impact of the initiative:

The power of family and parenting coaching: Coaching is a one-to-one approach to personal effectiveness. It can provide parents and families with support in developing their potential.

Coaching works by having a clear purpose and defined outcomes that you identify at the start and helps parents and families to:

- achieve their full potential as a family
- enhance performance
- reflect on how they might behave differently to make greater impact
- deliver better outcomes
- build self-confidence
- increase family resilience
- deal with change
- find solutions

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

WOMEN FOR WOMEN. Czech Republic. <https://www.facebook.com/womenforwomencz/>

More information, James-Stuart Duffin, CEO : stuart.duffin@women-for-women.cz

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 59(2016)** *The Impact of Women's Employment on Divorce: Real Effect, Selection, or Anticipation?* by Daniele Vignoli, Anna Matysiak, Marta Styrac and Valentina Tocchioni
- **Working paper 49(2015)** *Vulnerability of families with children: Major risks, future challenges and policy recommendations* by Monika Mynarska, Bernhard Riederer, Ina Jaschinski, Desiree Krivanek, Gerda Neyer, and Livia Oláh
- **Working paper 45(2015)** *Do parental separation and single motherhood strengthen intergenerational inequality in educational attainment? A decomposition analysis for Germany, Italy, the UK and the US* by Fabrizio Bernardi and Diederik Boertien

8 Family Policies Projects

8.1 Family pressure gauge (UK)

Background:

Relationships Foundation is the think tank for a better-connected society. It believes that a good society is built on good relationships, from family and community to public service and business. They study the effect that culture, business and government have on relationships. They create new ideas for strengthening social connections and campaign on issues where relationships are being undermined. And they train and equip people to think relationally for themselves. Relationships Foundation works with a wide range of policy-makers and leaders in business, academia, public services and politics to implement relational ideas.

Initiative:

UK Index to measure and rank countries on their family friendliness. The aim of the index is to bring clarity to what family friendliness' means, to show the Government where most effective action can be taken and enable voters to hold them to account.

Objective of the initiative:

Relationships Foundation launched its “Family Pressure Gauge” to measure progress towards the goal of making Britain the “most family friendly” country in Europe. Relationships Foundation published the report to stimulate debate.

Dialogue with specialists, campaigning groups, politicians and the public will establish a robust and clear framework to inform, and measure government action.

Actors involved in the initiative:

Relationships Foundation

Financing of the initiative:

Relationships Foundation

Concrete measures:

The index was developed in 2011. It provides a framework for press and policy comment and promotes greater awareness of ways in which families can be undermined, and may be supported. Relationships Foundation published the report to encourage dialogue with specialists, campaigning groups, politicians and the public.

Additionally, Relationships Foundation have done a UK version of the Family Pressure Gauge in

2012: http://www.relationshipsfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/UK_Family_Pressure_Gauge_2012.pdf

Impact of the initiative:

The index, built entirely on official data from Eurostat, Eurofound, and the OECD, shows that the UK is almost the least family friendly country in Europe.

Families in the UK are the third most pressured of 27 European countries. Only families in Bulgaria and Romania have a worse time of it. Financial and work pressures combine with poor maternity and paternity provision, and poor living environments put British families among the most pressured in Europe. The overall Pressure Gauge ranks countries on a normalized range of scores from 0.00 to 1.00 across the four domains of Finance, Work, Care Responsibilities and Living Environment. It shows families in the UK to be the third most pressured in Europe. Results show that debt, housing costs and childcare are much greater pressures for UK families than elsewhere in Europe.

Organization implementing the practice and contact:

Relationships Foundation. UK: <http://www.relationshipsfoundation.org/>

Kaisa Juosila, Dev. and Comms. Manager: k.juosila@relationshipsfoundation.org

Supporting FamiliesAndSocieties Working Papers

- **Working paper 4(2013)** *State-of-the-art report Effects of family forms and dynamics on children's well-being and life chances: literature review* by Fabrizio Bernardi, Juho Härkönen, and Diederik Boertien, with Linus Andersson Rydell, Kim Bastaits, and Dimitri Mortelmans
- **Working paper 5(2013)** *State-of-the-art report A family-related foresight approach* by Paola di Giulio, Thomas Fent, Dimitri Philipov, Jana Vobecká and Maria Winkler-Dworak
- **Working paper 7(2014)** *Family policies and diversity in Europe: The state-of-the-art regarding fertility, work, care, leave, laws and self-sufficiency* Edited by Olivier Thévenon and Gerda Neyer

SUMMARY

Policy interventions that affect or are mediated through the family typically assume a behavioural response. Policy analyses proceeding from different disciplinary bases may come to quite different conclusions about the effects of policies on families, depending how individuals within families behave.

This compendium of best practice identifies the implications of five theories of family and individual behaviour for the likely success of policy intervention.

1. Anthropology documents not only the universality of the family, but also its many forms.
2. Economic theory illustrates the capacity for well-intentioned policy to be thwarted by individual rationality.
3. Evolutionary biology suggests that several fundamental drivers of behaviour are genetic predispositions and can be difficult to influence through policy.
4. Sociology emphasises the role of social norms but recognises that individualism limits the influence of society generally on individual behaviour.
5. Psychology primarily in its focus on the individual. Much of an individual's behaviour, however, is the result of interactions with others, particularly the influence of primary caregivers during infancy.

Understanding the theories of the family emanating from different disciplines can enrich policy analysis by identifying how and why behaviour can be influenced. It also can serve to remind researchers of the resilience of the family and the limits of government intervention.

The impact of government policies on families is clear but it is also dynamic and there is an ongoing need to examine the current state of the family, family trends, and the implications for family policy. The varied effects that policies and programmes can have on different types of families and different aspects of family functioning need continuing exploration. The process of policy formation, implementation, evaluation and advocacy are all part of the review process too. Finally, emphasis needs to be placed on policy formers, decision makers and practitioners, of the vitality of family policy and practice, on the understanding family perspectives in policy-making and conducting family impact studies. A partnership relation between all stakeholders will enable the co-designing of family policy and practice, which will ensure:

1. an understanding of the ways in which families and government interact;
2. the application of a family perspective to policy-making;
3. identifying all the criteria needed to implement a family perspective into policy-making;
4. cohesive comprehension of the definitions, approaches and issues involved in family impact analysis;

5. fully identifying the content needed for family impact analysis including family and evaluation research, public provisions and practices
6. analysing the process of doing a family impact analysis and apply family impact analysis to public policy; and
7. examining policies in terms of their sensitivity to and supportiveness of families.

REFERENCES

Books

- International Federation for Family Development and Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (2013), “Confronting family poverty and social exclusion, ensuring work-family balance, Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity in Europe”, *The Family Watch*, 138p.
- OECD (2011), “Doing Better for Families” available at: <http://www.oecd.org/social/soc/doingbetterforfamilies.htm>

Papers

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), “Examples of Good Practices in the Implementation of the International Framework for the Protection of the Rights of the Child in the Context of Migration”, available at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MHR/Consultation2010/2.Good_practices_Migration_children_UNICEF.pdf
- Stephanie Devisscher (IDEA Consult), “The Career Break (Time Credit) Scheme in Belgium and the Incentive Premiums by the Flemish Government”, available at: <http://pdf.mutual-learning-employment.net/pdf/belgium%2004/Discussion%20paperBEL04.pdf>
- Karen Bogenschneider, Olivia Little, Theodora Ooms, Sara Benning, and Karen Cardigan, “The Family Impact Rationale” – An Evidence Base for the Family Impact Lens”, Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars, 2012. Available at: https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/hdfs/fii/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/fi_rationale_0712.pdf
- Peter Crowley, “Contributions of Civil Society Organizations to the well-being of families”: <http://www.20yearsifyf.org>