



# Needs and demands of European families

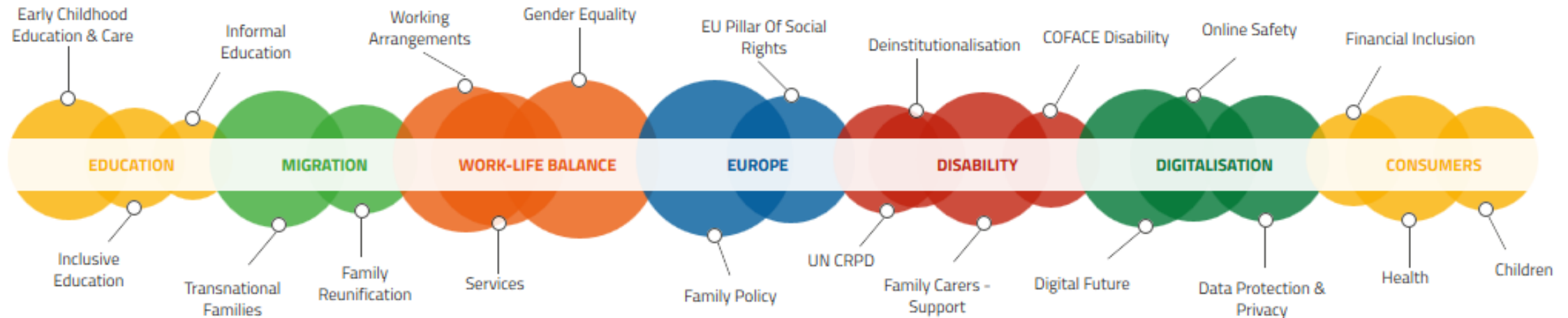
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# COFACE Families Europe

- 65 years advocating for families, shaping Europe
- Pluralistic NGO (50+ organisations in 23 EU Member States)
- Represent, advocate for the rights and interest of **all types of families**
- Secretariat in Brussels monitors EU initiatives and build the capacity of COFACE network



# Families

COFACE views the family as a multi-faceted, dynamic and intergenerational entity coming in different shapes and sizes.

We advocate for a systemic two-generation approach in policy-making to support families and children in different life transitions from birth to old age.

The place of families as one of the three key players in the economy and welfare (families, state and market) is fully recognised, even more so in a context of major transitions (health, demographic, digital, green).

# Context

- Europe is living a number of deep transformations.
- Green economy >> reconciliation economy.
- Social protection systems which support work-life reconciliation and well-being of families
- Links between work-life balance and poverty

# Needs of families of today

## **RESOURCES** ensuring decent living standards

- Labour related income: access to decent wages and tackling the gender pay gap
- Fairer and more equitable tax systems
- Removing implicit bias also from indirect taxation (e.g. VAT)
- Income Support: benefits and allowances

## **SERVICES** adequate provision of care services

- Affordable, accessible and quality childcare services for children below 3 years, and between 3 and mandatory school age
- Affordable, accessible and quality community-based long-term care services based on person-centered support packages

## **TIME** support for organising working time

- Adequate family leave schemes (maternity, paternity, parental and carers' leaves)
- Flexible work arrangements (job sharing, telework, smart work)

# Access to financial resources

- Decent living standards to prevent risk of poverty
- Access to decent wages and decent employment
- Tax and benefit systems which are gender neutral
- Income support systems with child and family benefits
- Favourable VAT rates for family-related products

**COFACE expects the European Child Guarantee to significantly reduce child poverty and help reduce financial stress for families**

# Access to quality services

- Early childhood education and care
- Community-based long-term care
- Family support : disability, parenting, digital skills, mental health..

**COFACE expects the European Care Strategy to deliver tangible and real results.**

# Access to time arrangements

- Family leave schemes: periods of time away from work for employed parents or carers
- Flexible working arrangements for parents and carers: job sharing, tele-work, smart work, compressed working hours, possibility to swap shifts among employees...

**The EU work-life balance directive is triggering change  
in the right direction.**



# Action 1

Support the full implementation of relevant EU policy and legal frameworks driven by the European Pillar of Social Rights action plan.

Through various policy, campaign and education tools including our European Family Lab.

## Action 2

Advocate for gender-responsive national family policies based on helping families access a mix of financial resources, care services and time arrangements, targeting both women and men equally and not based on stereotypical roles.

## Action 3

Where these three different elements are not all under one ministry (social, family, education, employment), we are researching the points of fragmentation and how to improve greater complementarity between these different measures.

We are doing this through the European Observatory on family policy and through participation in Horizon Europe projects like rEUsilience and Paths2Include.

## Action 4

Facilitate transnational exchanges through expert meetings for civil society organisations and policy-makers.

Building social systems which are accessible to all types of families, designed with family diversity in mind, and based on proportionate universalism.



# Thank you

**COFACE Families Europe**

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