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Quarterly Bulletin of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

August 2014, No. 90
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Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Dear Readers of Families International,

This issue incorporates the Proceedings of an International Forum organised by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family at the United Nations Vienna International Centre on May 26th 2014 entitled: 'Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families.' in observance of the United Nations International Day of Families (IDF) 2014, as well as the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family (IYF+20) in 2014.

A Summary of a Study Update, of the same title as the Forum, was originally presented at the United Nations in New York to observe IDF 2014, and IYF+20, on May 15th 2014. At the International Forum in Vienna on May 26th 2014 there was a detailed presentation by the author, as well as an extensive discussion of the study update.

Presentations were also made, by the following, on behalf of a number of organisations, which participated in the study update:

- Prof. Dr. Mona Sharaf Abdelgalil, Alexandria University, Egypt, Home Economics,
- Blanka Brabkova, Association of Centres for Family & National Centre for the Family, Czech Republic,
- Dr. Gertraud Pichler, Associated Country Women of the World, England & The International Federation for Home Economics, Germany
- Josef Gundacker, Family Forum Austria,
- Dr. Csaba Horvath, International Confederation of Christian Family Movements, Mexico
- Dr. Michael Schwarz, International Federation for Family Development, Spain, and
- Irina Pálffy-Daun-Seiler, Make Mothers Matter, France.

Included in this issue are texts subsequently submitted by presenters at the International Forum.

Further included is news from the United Nations and from member organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, as well as an outline of recent and upcoming events of interest.

As Editor of Families International, and on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, I would like to express our appreciation, gratitude and respect to Antje Katzschner, of the University of Cottbus, in Germany, who has professionally carried out the layout of Families International since 2005, starting with issue No. 55. Due to increasing time constraints, Antje will be concluding her participation in Families International with this issue No. 90, having contributed to the last 36 issues.

With kind regards,
Peter Crowley Ph.D.
Editor

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From the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family



VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY



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FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

UNITED NATIONS
VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Monday May 26th 2014

CONFERENCE ROOM C4 on the 7th Floor

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Study Update

**Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families
To observe the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014**

10:00 – 11:15 Presentation of the Study Update: Dr. Peter Crowley

11.15 – 11:45: Coffee Break

11.45 – 12.30: Discussion of the Study Update

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch Break

14.00 – 15:45: Presentations by Organisations which contributed to the Study Update

15.45 – 16:00: Coffee Break

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Secretary: Dr. Peter Crowley, ICP
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2014 - TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Study Update:

Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families

www.20yearsIYF.org

To observe the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014

Peter Crowley Ph.D.
Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

**In cooperation with the Focal Point on the Family, Division for Social Policy and Development, (DSPD),
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat**



Abstract & Introduction

This study update incorporates various approaches to Well-Being and Family Well-Being, by international organisations and their agencies, including the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other authors. It examines several restraining factors for well-being, such as a so-called 'educational divide' and a 'digital divide', as well as enabling factors for well-being, such as 'common-pool resources', various agencies of the United Nations, and Civil Society, including families-oriented civil society organisations (CSOs).

Qualitative and quantitative analyses are carried out on textual data from CSOs to observe the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2014, and on textual data from CSOs ten years previously, to observe the tenth anniversary of IYF in 2004, and the results are compared with criteria from the above mentioned international organisations and agencies, and

other authors, to discern as to what extent such CSOs may contribute to the well-being of families. It is the aim and task of this study update to endeavour to make explicit, what is implicit, by empirical evidence, in the activities and services of the CSO actors included in this empirical research, as well as to further establish civil society as a resource entity, as well as a discourse entity, by creating a 'cyber street' of knowledge resources.

Finally the analysed textual data of the CSOs is compared with the three focus themes, chosen by the United Nations to observe the twentieth anniversary of the international year of the family in 2014, of confronting family poverty and social exclusion, ensuring work-family balance and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity within families and communities.

[If you wish to read the study update in detail, the full 80 page text of the study update can be downloaded from the United Nations Website at:

<http://undesadspd.org/Family/InternationalObservances/InternationalDayofFamilies/2014.aspx>

(please copy this link into your web browser) This United Nations website also includes a video of the United Nations live webcast to observe the International Day of Families 2014 on May 15th at the United Nations in New York, as well as the observance of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014.]

Conclusion [cf. p. 62 Study Update]

In conclusion it can be stated that the CSOs included in this study update, have made, and are making, positive documented contributions to the well-being of families world-wide, when one compares the multitude of results of the data from this study update, with the various approaches to, and criteria for Well-Being and Family Well-Being, as laid out by international organisations and their agencies, including the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and various other authors.

Textual material collected over more than ten years was empirically analysed with the aid of the HAMLET software application, applying concepts of multidimensional scaling and cluster analyses.

The above empirical analyses explicitly draw out what is implicit (cf. Hofkirchner, 2006, p.1) in the activities and services of the CSOs included in this study update. This could perhaps reflect the 'pressing needs' of families, discerned by the CSOs in the eight different categories; children, economic-financial, education, gender, health issues, organisation, subsistence-services and parents, and their interaction, with the most prominent categories being organisation and education.

As was pointed out above, the organisational issues the CSOs in this research, are involved in, is most related to education. On the one hand we know that organisational skills require education, and on the other hand, that education requires organisational skills, as well as organisational structures. Hence it could be postulated that education and organisation are intricately interwoven and interdependent. It goes without saying, as pointed out above, that organisational, as well as educational skills are necessary to provide services in the further six above discerned and outlined categories.

Do the results of this empirical research indeed beg the question, as to whether the pressing needs, these families-oriented CSOs have perhaps discerned, and the services they as a result, offer to families, in effect reflect the needs and wishes families themselves have, for their own well-being, and their children's well-being, especially with regard to education?

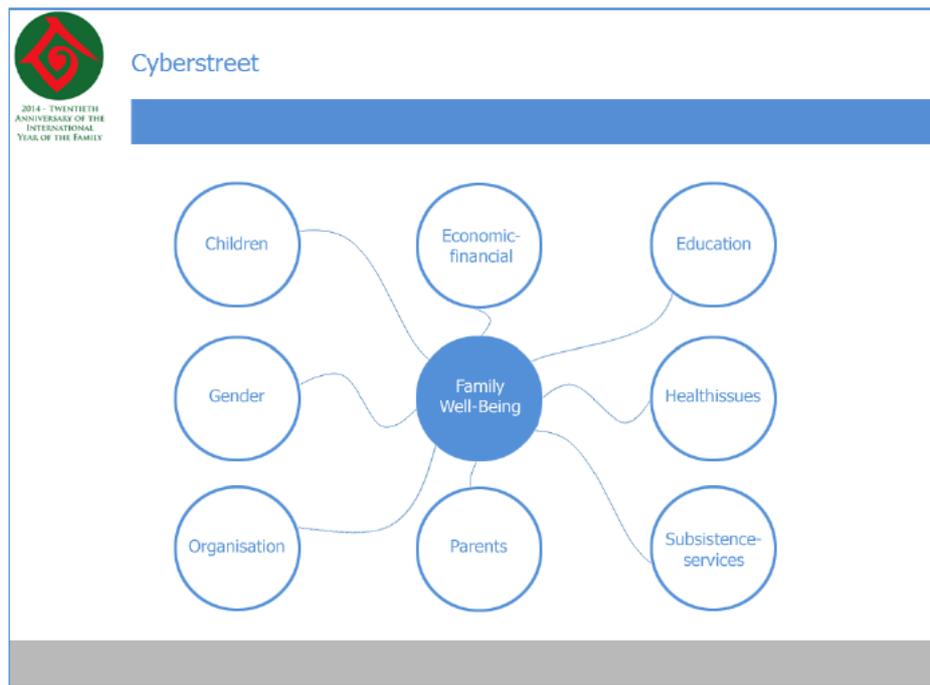
It can be further stated, based on the empirical results of this study update, that the CSOs in Networks I and II for 2014, [cf. Study Update, p. 35 – 36 for explanation of Networks I & II] are making documented contributions, within their means, to the achievement of at least two of the three goals being focused on by the United Nations to observe the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014, namely those, of confronting family poverty and social exclusion, and advancing social integration and intergenerational support within families and communities.

In conclusion it can be stated that this study update shows that Civil Society, as represented by the families-oriented CSOs included in this research, can be a reliable and sustainable partner of the United Nations, and governments of Member States, in our common endeavours to facilitate the achievement of well-being for families, their members, and for society in general.

Outlook to the Future: A Permanent Contribution of CSOs beyond IYF+20 in 2014

It is aimed to make the wealth of knowledge of the twenty eight families-oriented CSOs from Network I, which contributed data online to the study update for 2014, available to interested parties, by including them in a so-called 'cyber street' of knowledge resources, (cf. Crowley, 2010, p.139) where other CSOs and interested parties can contact the participating CSOs, by clicking a button, with one of the eight categories, to contact CSOs, which deal with that specific category. This could lead to making knowledge resources available as a permanent contribution to the well-being of families beyond IYF+20 in 2014. It could also perhaps further the discourse of Civil Society with regard to issues of families. The study update could perhaps further establish civil society as a resource, as well as a discourse entity.

A Permanent Contribution beyond IYF+20 with a 'Cyber Street' of Knowledge Resources



Cyber Street of Knowledge Resources

The CSOs in Network I can be contacted at www.20yearsIYF.org The CSOs in Network II can be contacted through: www.civilsocietynetworks.org as a further 'cyber street' of knowledge resources. The full text of the original study entitled: 'Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-

Being of Families - Interactive-Internet-Forum', can be downloaded from www.10yearsIYF.org . The full 80 page text of the study update and further details as well as access to the 'cyber street of knowledge resources' can also be found at www.20yearsIYF.org



HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION FOR FAMILY WELLBEING

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Introduction

Preparing home economics' teacher program, is a multidisciplinary program include humanities, "social and economic sciences" and applied sciences (e.g. physiology, microbiology, organic and analytical chemistry) whose Vision is to become a leading, educational and research institution in different approaches of Home Economics studies. It's mission is to Educate, Train, Research, Disseminates knowledge and Technology, and Promotes family in its different disciplines whom are Food and Nutrition, clothes and textiles, and Household management and family economics. Home Economics program focus on the family , as primary unit of change in human society. The concept of well-being has been explored in the literature for decades, including in the Home Economics literatures, which given that Home Economics is explicitly concerned with optimizing well-being. « The most accessible of all definitions is the simplest: well being is good or satisfactory condition of existence, as defined by the individual or family » . Through the engagement in Home Economics' curriculum, the individual is provided the learning opportunity to develop capabilities to enhance personal empowerment to act in daily context which include food and nutrition, textiles and clothing, household management (consumerism and consumer sciences, household design and technology, human development and family studies. Man's life and its development as well as food, clothes and health issues are studied. Teaching Home Economics in the Egyptian schools is addressed to students from 12 to 18 years of old at the middle and high school.

Household management program and its contribution to the family wellbeing

As coordinator of the "household management academic program for post graduate studies at the faculty of Specific Education- Alexandria University; the academic program objectives are:

Improve quality of the everyday lives of families;

Student must be familiar to the family basic skills in the areas associated with household management, and employing skills, cognitive, knowledge and sciences associated in household management, as well as, the use of modern strategies in the development of critical thinking and creative skills in domestic environment;

To raise the awareness' level of the value of responsibility and the consumption behavior;

To participate in the development of household small projects;

To contribute to the discussion on the sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals

This could be achieved through Lectures – seminars – workshop- projects and community services for individuals, families and communities.

The role of household management education in the sustainable development

Household management as curriculum field bring together theory and practice, academic knowledge and everyday life skills. It puts the knowledge into its everyday life environment and encourage students to think creatively. The content of household management education depend on the local culture and circumstances but in the background lies the idea of educating students to think globally. It is depends on the premise of "Learning by doing ".

household management focus on the arena for everyday living in households as well as families and institutional households as the core units of the economic unit and all their decisions and behavior have impact on the environment, the economic , social and ecological. Household management education enables and motivates them to optimize their resources management in the sense of sustainable production and consumption for a sustainable lifestyle.

Household management educates students about the need for basic sanitation and human rights to a good access to water. Courses such as "family

health” “family health and the environment” “family relations” are designed to include a focus on family sustainability to integrate the community issues. Improving the quality of life of individuals and families are the focus of household management. The eradication of poverty (which have many dimensions) is a priority of household management education, this includes for example resource management of household, income management, sustainable household production as well as food production, nutrition skills and health.

(Some examples of the students' activities and their engagement in the society through the practical applications are ;Artisanal work using leather, Students can design and make their garments through the graduation project course. They can establish small business projects in graduation project course based on a feasibility study and marketing.

By turning the knowledge into everyday life skills individuals and families can make the best use of the scarce resources available and also add value to them in a sustainable way, as shown through these few examples, household management skills can effectively contribute to the reduction of poverty and hunger.

In 2013 ; A new courses developed to improve the students' cognitive, about social sustainability

which is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human need, the courses will support the capacity of current generations to create healthy and livable communities and will reflect to the future generation.

Examples of enacting the transformative power of household management professional include:

- Confronting poverty is a priority of household management professionals household management with many projects and initiatives conducted in such area.
- The public service center and the Grant office at the faculty, as well as the Alexandria Home Economics Association as an NGO usually can contribute and cooperate to improve families. Specific areas of cooperation include women's empowerment, women's reproductive issues, intervention projects for families in distress and other human rights issues.
- The current four year theme on " sustainable development in Higher Education "after participating in an international Training program funded by sida organized by rambull natura, a workshop and a conference held on the occasion of this program.
-

DOCUMENTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO THE WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES

CZECH REPUBLIC

Association of Centres for Family - network of nine diocesan and other regional Centres for the Family

National Centre For the Family - member and main coordinator of the activities of ACER

We focus on work with family that we find the base social unit for society. The aim of our activities is to contribute to pro-family climate in society.

Centres for Family Main Activities

- Preparation for marriages
- Programs for parents
- Mothers´ clubs, maternity centers
- Programs for engaged couples
- Family Holidays and weekends
- Education and advisory service
- Programs for senior citizens
- Families with specific needs
- Incomplete Families
- Wide range of free time activities

Activities marking the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Exhibition of photographs in the Czech Senate

Main message of this exhibition was to show changes and challenges the family faces today. But in spite of the changes her mission is still the same- keep the values, provide place of safety, love, understanding, growth for its members.

Some pictures are contrary, some are not, all of them can set some questions, bring back memories of childhood, growing in the family....and all of them show importance of the family for people, for society....

The exhibition travels to various places in the country- for example Universities, regional authorities' buildings in different regions etc.

An interactive exhibition on Parenting

This exhibition focuses on what happens from conception through birth to adolescence in Mothers body and mind, Fathers body and mind and what does it mean for child and his development.

This exhibition will be in interactive form so that all family members can enjoy it and it also travels to various places in the country.

International Conference in the Czech Senate – Theme of the International Year of the Family in the European context

Topics and main speakers:

Anna Zaborská, MEP, Slovakia: Care in the family and its value

Kateřina Jirková, Ministry of Social Affairs, Czech Rep.: Reconciliation of Work and Family and Prevention of the Poverty

Günter Danhel, Austria: Family care and its importance

Theo Heeck, Germany: Family policy measures to support care in Germany

Activities of Centres under the slogan We support family

- **Concerts-** Families for Families
- **Day for the Family** - Trips, Sport day, Theatre day, Day with other families
- **Lectures on various topics**
 - Love and safety in the family
 - Loving communication
 - Family - Timeless design for man, woman and child(ren)
 - Know your roots and the life stories of your grandparents and their parents
- **Pilgrimages**

Projects focusing on family members or family life

- **M_ANIMA** - Flexible educating program for women returning to the labor market
- **S_ANIMA** - project in Women's jail: training of skills needed for successful rehabilitation, return to the family and on the labor market
- **Z_ANIMA** - Motivation labor market actors to harmonize the mutual needs: consultation for employers, HR managers

**ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO FAMILIES**

RESOLUTIONS

Childhood Education

[1974]

That in view of the breakdown of the extended family life that is changing the pattern of the development in many countries, all member societies of ACWW should be encouraged to promote early childhood education in their communities through the establishment of Kindergartens, Play Centres and/or Nursery Schools as best suited to the needs of their own people.

Population

[1974]

That ACWW through its Member Societies be recommended to take effective steps to promote information and education on the responsibilities of planning families and urge their governments to provide family planning education and facilities for all women and children.

International Year of the Family

[1995]

That ACWW urge the United Nations to continue to build on the awareness created in the International Year of the Family by proclaiming an International Decade of the Family to further implement and carry out the plans established in 1994. That ACWW and its Member Societies continue to promote the aims of the IYF beyond 1994 to their governments using the most appropriate approach in order to achieve equity and equality of opportunity for all.

Family

[1998]

In order to maintain a family focus and mainstream the family dimension in all policies and programmes, be it resolved that ACWW and its Member Societies aim at increasing the awareness of decision makers' responsibilities of implementation and integration of family specific recommendations of the global conferences of the 1990s.

Home Economics

[2001]

That ACWW Member Societies urge the governments of their countries, and especially the Ministries responsible for family affairs, to support home economics, education, extension and research.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Family Farming and Small Rural Enterprises

[1995]

Be it recommended that ACWW Member Societies urge their governments to give family farming and other small rural enterprises priority when allocating resources on signing international agreements.

Family Health Education and Services

[1977]

That increased provision be made in specific areas of health education and services for the entire family, particularly in nutrition, parent education, family planning, dangers of alcohol and other drugs, hazards of smoking and overall helps for being the best that one can be.

Family Viewing Time on Television

[1977]

Whereas, Families have no control over time of day for programmes of TV;

Whereas, Most families are together at mealtime and early evening; and

Whereas, some programmes are suitable for family viewing, therefore

RESOLVED that Societies support efforts to place programmes around mealtimes and early evening that contribute to cultural enrichment and education of family, particularly children.

Laws Affecting the Family

[1977]

That the communities be encouraged to improve and provide laws for the care and protection of families, making families aware of their rights and responsibilities under the laws now existing.

Family Disasters

[1980]

As the economic value of the work done by homemakers in the home is not recognised, ACWW urges its member organisations to secure families from economic disasters when a non-supporter, husband or wife, e.g. is killed or hit by illness.

Parenthood and Family Life

[2001]

That ACWW through its Member Societies and their individual members work for the preparation for partnership, parenthood and family life as an ongoing process, starting in the family and continuing at all levels of education throughout life.

FULL COMMITTEE MEETING VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY

Vienna International Centre of the United Nations

May 26th 2014

Family Forum Austria*

Presented by Josef Gundacker, President

The primary focus of the Family Forum is to address the answer to the question: "What is family?" not what has to be done by family members, by NGO's or the government.

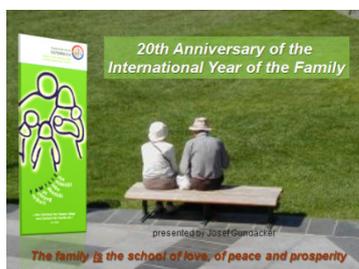
Goals of the Family Forum Austria are to strengthen the family and to enhance the role of parents. So the question arises: How to strengthen the family?

The many different family forms and lifestyles make it very difficult to strengthen the family. The European family report states: "The family is a dynamic form of human co-existence." However, many family forms and lifestyles are neither dynamic, nor supportive, nor responsible, but unstable, disorganized and irresponsible. We find healthy family relationships, broken families, single-parents where one partner is lacking, re-

married and patchwork families. So, the needs of each family are quite different.

According to research the causes of family problems are: the lack of material wellbeing, lack of education and health, lack of gender equality, misuse, violence in families, etc. Material wellbeing, education and medical care can resolve some issues, but it cannot give us emotional stability, nor resolve and cure our relationship-problems! The nature of fundamental relationships needs to be addressed.

What are the greatest needs of children and adults alike? – To have someone to trust, to rely on, to find emotional stability! Unless we address the spiritual and moral vacuums and the issue of selfish individualism, which destroys family relationships, we will not be able to strengthen the family!



Family is the nucleus of society, where love, life and lineage unfolds or is hampered!

In my opinion, work-life balance and gender equality are of minor concern. Gender equality is only an issue, when one or both partners do not feel respected and acknowledged. Work-life balance is an issue, when the relationship of the couple is out of balance. Then it doesn't help much, to legislate for time management or parental rights, but individuals need to invest in relationships.

The activities of the Family Forum serve the purpose to strengthen the family and to enhance the role of parents. Here are some examples of our national and international activities:

Meeting Point Family: Family politics under scrutiny

Discussion evening with politicians und representatives of family organizations

Podiums discussion: Authentic Parents – competent children

Do we need parental education and if so, what should this entail?

International Day of the Family 2013

Discussion evening: "Family politics under scrutiny"



True Family Award 2010

“Why parents today are more important than ever” Dipl.Biol. Dagmar Neubronner, Neufeld Institute, Vancouver, Canada

True Family Award 2011

Keynote speech: Prof. Gordon Neufeld, Neufeld Institute, Vancouver, Canada



European Leadership Conference

Eurasia & Europe: Cooperating for a Culture of Peace & Human Development

To conclude, on this 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, I wish your family and your organization, all the very best for the future! Thank you for your attention.

**Family Forum Austria, Family Forum, Familienforum Oesterreich used in this document refer to the registered association in Austria Familienforum Oesterreich*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE FAMILIES BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENTS (ICCFM)

ICCFM is a confederation of Christian family movements. We think, we have received something we want to pass on to others. For that, our motto could be what Gabriel Calvo, founder of the Marriage Encounter and the FIRES programmes has said: „The quest for happiness in marriage demands that you expand your vision and perspective beyond your marital relationship...”

The mission of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements is to promote, en-

courage, and help the Christian Family Movements so that the organizations and their members live their human and Christian vocations and bear witness to the essential values of the family, based upon the faith as announced by the Gospel and proposed by the teachings of the Catholic Church. The ICCFM shall support the expansion of the CFM in those countries where it is established and shall try to establish it where it does not exist.

ICCFM is present in many countries over the world. The approximate number of ICCFM member families over the continents is:

▪ North America	8.000
▪ Latin America	70.000
▪ Europe	4.500
▪ Africa	2.000
▪ Asia	1.200
▪ Australia	80
Total	85.780

ICCFM is based on two main, complementary branches: the local CFM groups and the encounter programmes.

The meetings of the CFM groups are structured according to the method of Cardinal Josef Cardijn:

- Observe: members look at and examine a chosen topic through personal experiences
- Judge: while sharing these experiences with each other, they evaluate arising questions or problems in the light of the Gospel
- Act: trying to learn from each other they make concrete commitments for the future.

The local parish based family groups receive continuous spiritual support, and often also renewed membership from the encounter programmes covering a broad circle of possible target groups. Below is a non-exclusive list of the possible programmes:

- Marriage preparation and/or engaged encounter
- Marriage encounter
- Marriage enrichment and/or marriage renewal
- Marriage and family counselling
- Support groups and counselling for solo parents
- Natural family planning and responsible parenthood
- Religious formation
- Sons and daughters encounter and/or other programs for the youth
- "Round the table" or other forms of family dialogue
- Apostolate for couples in irregular situations
- Retreats and seminars for members and non-members
- Programs for middle-aged families
- Advocacy for the disadvantaged and the unborn
- Discipleship of non-Christians
- Corporal and spiritual works of mercy

The list shows a strong focus on the natural families, as ICCFM thinks they are the “resources” (for the strength) of future generations. This focus is, however, not exclusive, ICCFM offers a helping hand also to those who come from various other circumstances.

In the following sections three examples are shown of how ICCFM works at different locations.

FIRES Hungary

In Hungary the Christian Family Movement is in growth, with relatively young membership. The roots of the movement lead back to the 1950's in Spain, where father Gabriel Calvo started the first groups for married Christian couples. The founders of the Hungarian CFM have personally met father Calvo in the mid '90s. So has CFM started in 1996 in Hungary, inspired besides Gabriel Calvo by Tony and Lily Gauci of Malta, who have been working also with the Vienna NGO Committee for a long period of time. The movement is supported by the Hungarian Bishops' Conference.

With its membership continuously growing, CFM Hungary is a local centre of the movement in Europe, and so in 2009 it hosted the European CFM Congress. Currently, in 2014 the movement is represented in more than 120 parish based groups, each involving of 5-8 couples.

The Hungarian CFM considers its main objective is to strengthen couples and families in love and spiritual maturity. The Hungarian leaders of CFM strongly believe that the local groups receive their strength to a large extent from the spirituality of the encounter programmes. These are offered in Hungary based on the methodology of the original FIRES (an acronym for Families, Intercommunication, Relationships, Experiences, Services.) encounters by Gabriel Calvo, practically in their full scale. Target groups include: married couples, young people, engaged couples, families with children, individuals (including the divorced), clergy and church personnel.

The outcomes of these activities include marriages improved or saved, new parish groups established, taking responsibilities in parishes. Besides quantifiable results qualitative achievements also “count” a lot: such are that couples are turning to God, they are praying more, praying together, and are reading the Bible.

Grandparenting Program, USA

In 2009, leaders of the Christian Family Movement in the USA wrote and piloted a study guide

for small discussion-action groups: “The Great Adventure.” The authors were invited to present their project at the Vatican in 2010.

The “Great Adventure” focuses on the special gifts of grandparenting and the ways that grandparents can be spiritual guides to their grandchildren. It helps grandparents to recognize their value as models and mentors to their grandchildren and teaches them skills and expertise to better share their faith and values.

The programs deal with the topics of grandparents as nurturers, mentors, carriers of faith and tradition, family historians, long distance grandparenting and other issues. The underlying theme was that grandparents teach faith, virtues and values both in the way that they live and in the stories and experiences that they share with their grandchildren.

The small group program gives people a meeting structure, and discussion material. It could be adapted to a workshop, a one day, or a weekend format. More than 300 people have already participated in these small groups, and more requests are coming. The program materials have been distributed throughout the USA and a Spanish translation is also being prepared.

Through the project, grandparents came to recognize their unique role in the faith lives of their grandchildren. Grandparents learned that they can make a huge impact on their grandchildren's lives by modeling and sharing their life experience and wisdom. Grandparents come to realize that they are valuable resources to their grandchildren, they become comfortable in sharing their wisdom, and take a greater interest in their grandchildren's well-being.

The project was published in the Vatican resources for World Family Day in 2011.

Evangelical solidarity MFC Latin America

The “Evangelical Solidarity” project, developed in 2003 by MFC Mexico, is committed to the principles and vision of the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, and is on the basis of the Holy Scripture, Magisterium of the Church and human sciences. It intends to integrate the apostolic services into a current dynamic marketplace, by applying quality insurance and other modern management methodologies as well as the methodology of Observe, Judge, Act in evangelisation and trainings to members.

Training materials include support to apostolic services for mothers being responsible for the family, single parent families, families headed by the mother, circles of friends, catechesis, marriage preparation and others.

Programmes are targeted at four levels: individual, marital, family and community. Processes in the apostolates and their interrelation as a whole system are regularly assessed in their implementation and continuously improved. The outcomes include: increased and motivated membership, growing interest in providing a service and participation in team meetings.

Since 2006 it is applied in 14 Latin American countries (local adaptations exist).

Recent developments in the ICCFM

The 12th ICCFM World Assembly and 16th General Assembly was held in Bucaramanga, Columbia between 28.6–1.7.2013, where the new president couple was elected. Jorge and Rosie Carillo have started to refresh the Confederation with large enthusiasm. They called together an Extraordinary General Assembly in Queretaro, Mexico between 31.1 –2.2.2014 to establish strategies and commitments, to give attention to the resolutions of the 12th ICCFM World Assembly in the spirituality of communion, and to update ICCFM's dynamic evangelisation in countries around the world. In the extraordinary General Assembly the world presidency, the continental presidents, and the UN representatives in New York and Vienna, as well as local and regional MFC leaders were present. Beside several practical outputs, the experience of unity and spirituality of communion was achieved.

Based on the teaching of the Holy Gospel

Although the challenges vary in time and the ways to respond to these challenges have to be adapted accordingly, the stable values that our Christian Family Movements are based on have been laid down in the Bible. For the families a cornerstone is what St. Paul has written in his letter to the Ephesians (5,15 to 6,4).

“Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise... So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is... (Husband and wife,) be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh... Children, obey your parents in the Lord... Honor your father and mother — this is the first commandment with a promise: so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth... And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

For more information contact Csaba and Gréta HORVÁTH (Hungary), ICCFM delegates to the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family (e-mail: iccfm.famcom@iccfm.org web: www.iccfm.org. See also Bulletin Link/Lazo at the above web page. Further publications are available at: <http://www.fires.hu/download.php>.

IFFD

IFFD stands for International Federation for Family Development. IFFD is a non-governmental, independent and non-profit federation, established to promote a broad variety of initiatives for families and married couples.

Family Development provides support to parents who wish to reach their families' greatest potential for happiness, unity and fruitfulness. Family Enrichment courses are the fundamental tool used to achieve these objectives. The participative methodology of the courses functions to enhance parents' educational and decision-making skills regarding their children, increase knowledge of and improve marital relations, and revitalize the concepts of the family and marriage to help parents raise their children to be responsible and thoughtful adults.

The IFFD courses are designed for couples who wish to educate their children, promote personal and marital improvement and obtain the tools that will help them achieve these goals.

The objective of the IFFD courses is to make the role of parents "professional." Men and women are trained to be better in their professions, and IFFD believes parents should be similarly trained in parenting, with a focus on responsibility, freedom and love. The Family Development programs provide parents with the knowledge and tools to help them achieve stronger and healthier families.

The majority of the IFFD courses are designed according to the stages of child development. The courses communicate the main academic frameworks and the basic habits that children learn at each stage. The Marital Love course concentrates on the most important aspects of a marriage, and the Grandparents course deals with issues relevant to that role in the family. All courses are structured on a two-step case study method. Couples first analyze and discuss the facts, problems and solutions of real cases in small groups. Then they convene for general sessions, where they discuss the same cases with a larger group, moderated by an expert in Family Development.

The courses are conducted in several sessions on a weekly or biweekly basis, or, on special occa-

sions, several sessions over the course of a few weekends. The number of sessions depends on each course, but a required minimum must be met to cover the basic content. The pace of each session is monitored by the course coordinator and adapted to the needs of the participating couples.

It is essential that the husband and wife assume responsibility for the education of their family. Because progress can only be made when a common goal is sought, both must agree to undertake a real commitment to their personal, marital and familial happiness. Both spouses' attendance is also required to participate in our courses.

The coordinators of the courses are professionals from various sectors trained in moderation and communication techniques. Each professional moderator has a broad knowledge of the contents of all IFFD's programs. The courses are developed with a commitment to cooperation: we are parents educating parents, families educating families.

The main activities of the FDCs are educational courses and programs. However, most FDCs also develop other activities such as forums, congresses and conferences, focusing on topics relevant to families. These and other leisure and cultural activities are intended to initiate collaboration with the media and other institutions. All the efforts of the FDCs inevitably support families and promote inter-generational solidarity.

In developing these courses, certain expenses are incurred. Therefore, fees are charged for the Family Enrichment courses. Each Family Development Center is responsible for pricing and takes into account a large number of factors, including providing space for general sessions, compensating moderators for their time and travel, and administrative costs.

IFFD is active in 59 countries on all five continents. IFFD has permanent representatives on all UN sites and in Brussels.

FOR MORE INFORMATION please visit our homepage at www.iffd.org.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HOME ECONOMICS (IFHE) POSITION STATEMENT

Position Paper on the 20th Anniversary (Version July 2012) of the International Year of the Family (1994 – 2014)

Preamble

2014 will be the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (1994-2014). The objectives of the International Year of the Family (IYF) were to:

- Increase awareness of family issues among governments and the private sector.
- Encourage national institutions to formulate, implement, and monitor family policies.
- Stimulate response to problems affecting and affected by the situations of families.
- Enhance the effectiveness of local, regional and national programs for families and strengthen existing support.
- Improve the collaboration among national and international non-governmental organisations in support of multisectoral activities.
- Build upon the results of international activities, concerning women, children, youth, the aged and the disabled, and of other major events of concern to the family and its individual members.

The main aspects of the preparations for and observance of the 20th Anniversary of the IYF are mentioned in the **Report of the Secretary-General A/67/61-E/2012/3**, 11. November 2011. It was submitted in response to the Economic and Social Council resolution 2011 and recommends that preparations for the observance in 2014 of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family focus on developing and implementing policies in the following areas:

- Confronting family poverty and social exclusion.
- Ensuring work-family balance.
- Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity.
- At the international level, the report recommends the sharing of good practices and data on family policy development.

Families in the Focus of Home Economics

The United Nations recognises the family in the definition from 1948 as the basic unit of society.

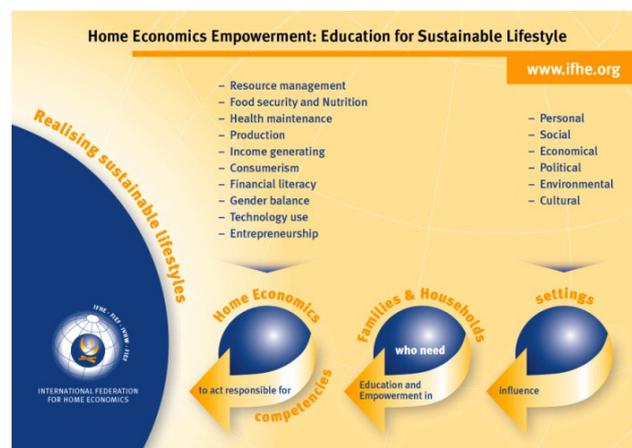
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 16(3):

“The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State”.

This definition of the Family focuses on the family and its function in societies and communities. As there is no generally accepted definition of family, it is important to explain family in the Home Economics perspective. The family is seen as the social group of the household having a strong social solidarity and multifaceted functions. It is the core of the household, the community and the society in large.

The functions of the family are well outlined in the following exert: “family remains the dominant unit of production, consumption, reproduction, and accumulation that can be seen in three basic dimensions: as a psycho-biological unit where members are linked together by kinship relations, personal inclinations and emotional bonds; as a social unit where members live together in the same household and share tasks, values and social functions; and as the basic unit of economic production.” (Zitha Mokomane S. 34, 2011)

The family is recognised as a dynamic unit engaged in an intertwined process of individual and group development underscores. Families and their obligations to fulfil their multifaceted functions are influenced by lots of developments in their own structure and their economic, social, ecologic and politic surrounding. These settings influence families and households who need education and empowerment for example in resource management, financial literacy, food security and nutrition to act responsible for realising sustainable and satisfying lifestyles.





MMM NEWS – SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

Anne-Claire de Liedekerke new MMM President

During the April 2014 General Assembly, Anne-Claire de Liedekerke from Belgium was elected as the new MMM President. She headed the MMM European Delegation since 2008. Read the full [press release](#) on our website.

Make Mothers Matter contributes to UN publication “Family Futures”

MMM is proud to be a contributor to “[Family Futures](#)”, a new book published by the United Nations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. The book brings together the experiences, best practices, observations and analyses of UN agencies, government entities, academics and selected civil society organisations, and promotes family friendliness around the world.

It is divided in three parts:

- Advancing Social Integration and Intergenerational Solidarity
- Confronting Family Poverty
- Ensuring Work-Family Balance

“[Making mothers matter](#)” by former MMM President Florence von Erb appears in “Ensuring Work-Family Balance” on page 159.

20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family: MMM Press Release

In the MMM press release “[Families need time!](#)” marking the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family, President Anne-Claire de Liedekerke makes a plea for time so dearly needed and lacked by families today. Highlighting the need for *discontinuous work trajectories* to allow parents to dedicate more time to their family at certain periods, she also outlines what must be changed to make this possible as part of an improved work-family life balance and emphasises the need to change our perspective on families and the role of parents in our societies.

MMM takes part in DOHA International Conference on “Empowering Families: A Pathway to Development”

At the International Conference “[Empowering Families: A Pathway to Development](#)” organised by the Doha International Family Institute, DIFI, on 16-17 April 2014, policy makers, UN representatives, researchers, NGO and associations from all continents gathered to exchange points of view, best practices, initiatives and the implementation of policies. Underlining the fundamental role families have to fulfil in

societies, there was a common sense of urgency to strengthen and protect families all over the world in the respect of laws as well as customs and traditions, and to ensure that families are an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda. MMM President Anne-Claire de Liedekerke gave a presentation in the panel discussion entitled “[Family and Work Balance](#)”. At the conference, [The Doha Call to Action](#) was issued to be widely distributed to decision makers, media and the general public. Please visit the MMM website for the full version of these documents.

MMM co-sponsors two panels at 58th CSW in March

At the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women that took place 10-21 March in New York, the main theme was: “Implementing the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”.

In addition to its written statement submitted on Maternal Mortality,* MMM co-sponsored two panels at this session, one on the feminisation of poverty, and the other on maternal mortality in the post-2015 agenda.

*The full statement is registered as [UN document ref. E/CN.6/2014/NGO/88](#).

MMM continues its advocacy work on unpaid care work at the UN in Geneva & beyond

MMM continues to seize the opportunities for statements on all topics related to unpaid care work, and submitted a joint written statement on “Gender equality, unpaid care work and the development agenda” for the upcoming 2014 ECOSOC High-level Segment (HLS) of the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) in relation to its main theme, i.e., “Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining gains in the future”. Among others, the statement calls for the inclusion of an indicator on the commitment of countries to work-family balance policies (e.g. availability of child and elderly care, flexible work, part-time work, etc.) in the post-2015 agenda.

Make Mothers Matter elected Vice-President of NGO CSW Geneva

MMM representative at the UN in Geneva, Valerie Bichelmeier, became Vice-President of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Geneva at the Bureau elections on 10 February 2014.

MMM involved in the Beijing+20 review process

MMM is actively involved in the preparation of an NGO Forum for the UNECE 20 years regional review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action – Beijing+20, to take place on 3-5 November 2014 in Geneva. For more information see <http://beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch>. MMM is in charge of substantive work on the BPFA critical area of concern on “Women and the Economy” that will raise issues such as unpaid care work and the reconciliation of work and family life in particular.

MMM focus in Europe

In Europe, the reconciliation of work and family life is one of MMM’s key concerns. Make Mothers Matter is part of an alliance of family organizations – the [2014 Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life in Europe](#) – created by COFACE (the Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU). By identifying concrete measures for better reconciliation, the objective is to prepare a European reconciliation package, including suggestions on how to make this happen, and present it to the European Commission at the end of 2014.

MMM focuses on the:

Promotion at EU level of the regulation of part-time work for women and men as a good solution for reconciling work and family life

Inclusion of unpaid care work in pension calculation to prevent female poverty

Recognition of competences acquired and developed by performing family work, leading to easier re-entry into the labour market

Inclusion of family care work in GDP calculations to allow for the above

For more information, please visit <http://www.ey2014.eu>

Latest advocacy activities from MMM France

MMM France has been active defending family solidarity in tax matters as the French Government an-

nounced in December 2013 a project to reform the tax system aimed at eliminating some advantages for families. This could have had a very negative impact on middle class families but MMM France actively contributed to convince the government to abandon this tax reform.

In addition, MMM France has been very active regarding the reform of parental leave. The French Government presented a project leading to the reduction of parental leave to 2.5 years instead of 3 in families where not both parents are able to take each at least 6 months off. MMM France has declared its opposition to this reform, as it limits the organisational freedom of families and risks leaving low-income families “without solution”. The vote is scheduled to take place in June 2014.

Finally, there is an ongoing reform of part-time legislation in France to ban labour contracts of less than 24 hours per week. The Government wants to push part-time workers, who are mainly women, to work more hours. As part-time work is commonly used to combine work and family responsibilities, MMM has mobilized against this reform. The reform is planned to be effective as of 1 July 2014.

About MMM

Make Mothers Matter is an international NGO founded in 1947 to raise awareness of political decision-makers and public opinion on the essential role of mothers in promoting peace and ensuring social, economic and cultural development. MMM maintains its independence by having no political or religious affiliations in order to truly represent transparently the concerns of mothers worldwide to international authorities through the MMM permanent representatives. MMM has benefitted from UN Consultative Status since 1949 and from General Consultative Status since 2004.

MMMI affiliates associations in more than 30 countries and represents more than 6 million women.

Make Mothers Matter Newsletter

Visit our website to download the latest newsletter at: <http://www.makemothersmatter.org/en/>.

Compiled by Irina Pálffy-Daun-Seiler, MMM Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, on behalf of MMM

Epilogue

The panel section of the International Forum was chaired by the author of the study update, Dr. Peter Crowley. The Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, Dr. Michael Schwarz, who was the final presenter on the panel, on behalf of the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD), prefaced his presentation, with the remark, that all presentations, as well as his own, dealt with education, which underlined results which emerged from the study update.

From the United Nations

United Nations

Nation Unies



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Twenty-sixth session

Agenda item 3

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Angola,* Bahrain,* Bangladesh,* Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina,* Botswana, Burkina Faso, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt,* El Salvador,* Ethiopia (on behalf of the Group of African States), Indonesia, Jordan,* Lebanon,* Mauritania,* Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria,* Philippines, Qatar,* Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka,* Sudan,* Tunisia,* Uganda,* Zimbabwe:* draft resolution

* Non-member State of the Human Rights Council

26/... Protection of the family

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011,

67/142 of 20 December 2012 and 68/136 of 18 December 2013, concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provide a useful opportunity to draw further attention to the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011, 67/142 of 20 December 2012 and 68/136 of 18 December 2013, concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provide a useful opportunity to draw further attention to the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to human rights and development,

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all human beings, including women, children and older persons,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of

children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

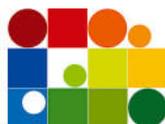
Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

Reaffirming that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State,

1. *Decides* to convene, at its twenty-seventh session, a panel discussion on the protection of the family and its members to address the implementation of States' obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law and to discuss challenges and best practices in this regard;
2. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to liaise with States and all stakeholders, including the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, and programmes, the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, national human rights institutions and civil society, with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion;
3. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the panel discussion in the form of a summary, and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session;
4. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

From Member Organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

**IFFD PAPERS no. 32
PRODUCED BY**



THE FAMILY WATCH
www.thefamilywatch.org

**What is Family Reunification?
A Human Rights Perspective
1st June 2014**

For the past 20 years, family reunification and job seeking have been two of the main reasons for immigration to the EU. Without family reunification, family life is impossible for some immigrants. Reunification also helps to create socio-cultural stability, facilitating the integration of non-EU nationals within EU states, thus promoting economic and social cohesion – a fundamental EU objective.¹

Before the family and family life can be protected, the conditions for exercising the right to family reunification must be determined. That is why, in many different countries, family reunification is a recognized reason or right for immigration, provided that there is a balance between that right and the national immigration law.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the extent to which this right and national laws provide a fair alternative to those who want to migrate to another country, but especially for those who are forced to leave their country and migrate due to wars, poverty, ethnic cleansing, religious conflict, etc. To be more specific, we want to identify the most important immigration movements around the world and analyze relevant laws inside the European Union and Spain.

Migration: definition and the current situation

The definition of a refugee may change depending on the country. But, a person is, at least, considered to be a refugee as soon as he or she fulfils the criteria contained in the definition of 1951 Convention which states that “Any person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear is unwilling, to avail himself/ herself of the protection of that country.”² This concept was also extended to include persons who had fled war or violence in their home country. However, family reunification is not just a problem for refugees, but also for normal people who emigrate to other countries for economic reasons (contemporary migration), such as disparities in the income that can be earned for the same job in different places. When we talk about immigration or family reunification problems, we are referring to international migrations (where people cross state boundaries and stay in the host state for a minimum length of time), no other type of migrations, such as rural-to-urban or urban-to-rural and/or internal migrations (inside the same country). Therefore, an appropriate definition of family reunification is essential, but what do we consider to be family reunification? Does it just include those situations where people forced by tragic life circumstances have to flee their countries and then try to reestablish their lives in

¹ Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/immigration/family-reunification/index_en.htm

² Article 1.A.2 of the 1951 Convention.

another one, bringing their relatives there to join them? Or should every re-connection between family members be considered to be reunification?

This also raises another important question: When is family reunification considered to be successful for immigrants and for the host state, respectively? Is it when an immigrant brings a spouse and children to join him/her? Or, when he/she also helps his/her siblings and parents? Alternatively, it might not be considered successful until the family is assimilated in professional and educational areas. What are the responsibilities and rights of both parties (the family and the host state)? What are the socioeconomic consequences for the country of origin and for the host country? Is development closely related to migration? This issue raises a lot of questions and the most important thing is to identify the positive and negative consequences of migration, focusing mainly on the positive consequences and trying to find a solution to the negative ones.

Contemporary migration is mainly due to economic reasons as many people are struggling for a better future. For instance, in Spain, the economic crisis has been the main reason for residents to emigrate between 2008 and 2014.³ As destinations chosen by migrants vary, it is very difficult to analyze how the immigration laws of each country affect them. Therefore, we will try to give a general picture of what kind of regulations could provide a fair alternative to those who want to emigrate to another country. The International Organization for Migration's (IOM)⁴, in its World Migration Report of 2010, estimated that the number of international migrants would be 220 million in 2013. This estimate proved to be correct, as in 2013 the actual number of international migrants was 231.5 million⁵. The world has witnessed a remarkable growth in international migration since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. There is a growing consensus that migration is an integral feature of global development if it is properly managed (ensuring that it occurs in safe and legal conditions, with full respect and safeguards for human rights.) It can reduce poverty and increase human well-being in

both sending and receiving countries. Depending on how immigration laws are articulated, migration can contribute to development through different issues such as: remittances, investment, alleviation of labor market pressures and/or labor shortages, knowledge and skills transfers, growth, immigrant behaviours, exchange of social and cultural value, etc. Therefore, if the correct set of policies is applied, family reunification is always successful. We want to emphasize that when migration is successful for both sending and receiving countries, then family reunification also turns out to be successful.

The four migration pathways analyzed in 2013 were: North-North migration (about 23%), North-South migration (about 6%), South-South migration (36%) and South-North migration (35%)⁶. It is very important to differentiate the types of immigrants: migrant workers (usually skilled workers) and their dependants, migrants in irregular situations, and refugees and asylum seekers. As we can see, the vast majority of world migrants (around 75%, 164 million) came from the South into two ways: South-South (36%) and South-North (35%). By region and destination, Europe (33%), Asia (32%) and North America (24%).⁷ In the case of Europe, the majority came from Europe itself (37.8%). In the case of Asia, the majority came from Asia itself (53.8%), and in North-America the majority came from Latin American and Caribbean countries (25.9%) and from Asia (15.7%). By origin, migrants come from Asia (92.5%), Europe (58.4%), Latin America and the Caribbean countries (36.7%) and Africa (31.3%). There is also an interesting migration trend inside Africa (Africa-Africa), which represents 15.3% of total migrants. By country, the top five countries for emigration are India (14 million), Mexico (13 million), The Russian Federation (11 million), China (9 million) and Bangladesh (8 million). International migration remains highly concentrated; in 2013, more than half of the 232 million migrants were living in just ten countries: the United States of America (46 million), the Russian Federation (11 million), Germany (10 million), Saudi Arabia (9 million), the United Arab Emirates (8 million), the United Kingdom (8 million), France (7million), Canada (7million), Australia (6million) and Spain (6million).⁸

³ Available at: http://www.elconfidencial.com/espana/2014-03-21/asia-la-nueva-tierra-prometida-para-los-emigrantes-nacidos-en-espana_105039/

⁴ Available at: <http://www.iom.int/cms/home>

⁵ Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/policy/international-migration-policies-report-2013.shtml>

⁶ Ibidem.

⁷ Ibidem.

⁸ Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/public>

Due to the enormous diversity between cultures all around the world, it is very difficult to establish a direct and impartial legal or even social, definition of family. The multiplicity of groups which could be considered to be families is problematic. However, we must emphasize that, regardless of religion, culture and environment, the family is always the most important unit of society. This view is universally accepted and protected by international organizations⁹ and national governments. Of course, on different continents, diversity exists in marriage rights between men and women. In general, the dominant model is the patriarchal family system. However, an attempt to generalize and narrow the definition can lead to more confusion and problems. This situation can affect not only the family, but also new social phenomena in host countries. Generally, problems begin when families don't want to be separated at all and want to rebuild their bonds, as described in the UNHCR Response: "separation of family members during forced displacement and flight can have devastating consequences on peoples' well-being and ability to rebuild their lives. At the moment of flight, persons are forced to leave often without ensuring or knowing if their families are safe. Once in safety, refugees are in many cases unaware of the whereabouts of their family. Others have to make difficult decisions about leaving their family behind to find safety in another country".¹⁰

Relationship between family reunification and host state values

International contracts, conventions, and other obligations may provide some limits, but a state's independence is demonstrated by its accession to certain international agreements. In this respect, migrants of all types need to understand that the legislation in individual host countries may be very different from their expectations. Family reunification may even be considered to be a privilege ra-

ther than a right. If new citizens want to consider the host country as their new home, they should be aware of their limits and duties.

Each country should have a responsible emigration policy. Responsibility has to be understood here in a positive way, as an appropriate balance between the rights of a family to live together and the country's right to control immigration. To this effect, the UNHCRs' request released in Executive Committee Conclusion No. 24 which states, "It is hoped that countries of asylum will apply liberal criteria in identifying those family members who can be admitted, with a view to promoting a comprehensive reunification of the family,"¹¹ should be recognized and interpreted responsibly. The same applies to other points where it is not clear what the definition of family or marriage is and therefore the common good must prevail.

Family reunification as a part of state immigration policy

Developed western countries have recognized that immigration offers a possible remedy against unwanted demographic changes. According to the report by the American Population Reference Bureau (2010),¹² Europe is the only region in the world where, for the next 40 years, population is going to remain roughly at current levels. The positive growth rate in most Western European countries will be offset by a decrease in population in the new member states (i.e. Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia and Lithuania). These trends are most pronounced in the UK and Poland. British population will increase from the current 62.2 to 77 million inhabitants by 2050, mainly due to immigration, meaning there will be more people living in the UK than in Germany, where population will decrease slightly. The opposite situation is the case in Poland, where there is a noticeable decline in the population. If current trends continue, over four decades the number of people living in Poland will decrease from 38 million to 31.8 million. The current situation in Europe is that there are four active workers for each pensioner. In 2050, there will be half as many. To prevent the collapse of the

ations/policy/international-migration-policies-report-2013.shtml

⁹ UN General Assembly, 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights', 10 December 1948, 217A (III), Article 16(3). Available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b3712c.html>; and UN General Assembly, 'International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights', 16 December 1966, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 999, p. 171, Article 23(1). Available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b3aa0.html>.

¹⁰ UNHCR Bearue for Europe, Refugee Family Reunification UNHCR's Response to the 'European Commission Green Paper on the Right to Family Reunification of Third Country Nationals Living in the European Union' (Directive 2003/86/EC), February 2012, p. 3.

¹¹ UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion No. 24, para. 5.

¹² Available at:

<http://www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/2010/2010wpds>.

Regarding this topic, in 'Shrinking Regions: a Paradigm Shift in Demography and Territorial Development STUDY' Policy Department B: Structural and Cohesion Policy, is written that shrinking regions will appear also in big parts of Russia and Japan. Available at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/dv/pe408928_ex_/pe408928_ex_en.pdf

pension system, it will be necessary to impose additional tax burdens on active workers and employers. This, of course, may slow down economic growth.

Despite the concern voiced by some people about the increase in immigration¹³, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's 2013 International Migration Outlook¹⁴ clearly shows that the negative impact of immigration in most countries tends to be very small in terms of GDP, and is around zero on average across the OECD countries (rarely exceeding 0.5% of GDP in any given year). However, the possible lack of economic problems should not to be a reason to forget about issues of assimilation and common acceptance between different social groups, as well as the possibility of social tensions due to cultural differences. Given the increasing volume of immigration, appropriate integration strategies in the new environment must be developed.

Family reunification in EU regulations

Country independence gives states the right to stipulate their own regulations regarding immigration policy. However, as mentioned previously, international bodies provide a certain level of structure, which is necessary to provide a sense of security, stability and clarity in global meaning.

Given the brevity of this article, it is not appropriate to include here all the different national and regional regulations, and to try to do so would result in a blurred point of view. As mentioned above, the UN documents are appropriate as a form of introduction. In this final part, we will outline the main EU regulations.

The European Union, among other privileges, offers its citizens freedom in movement¹⁵ between

all member countries. This freedom of movement is mainly regulated by Directive 2004/38/EC of the Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of EU citizens and their family members to move and reside freely in Member States. This directive repealed old documents (such as Directive 64/221 / EEC, 68/360/EEC, 72/194/EEC, 73/148/EEC, 75/34/EEC and 75/35/EEC) and added new measures contained in a complex set of laws. Citizens may exercise their right to free movement and residence in Member States. Present regulations have reduced paperwork to a minimum and give a better definition of the status of a family member. According to Directive 2004/38/EC, family members include the spouse; the registered partner, if the legislation of the host Member State treats registered partnerships as equivalent to marriage; the direct descendants who are under the age of 21 or are dependants and those of the spouse or partner as defined above; and the dependent direct relatives in the ascending line and those of the spouse or partner.

Of course, some immigrants are not EU citizens. The main document related to non-citizens/refugees is Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification.¹⁶ This document determines the conditions under which third-country nationals residing lawfully in the territory of the Member States may exercise the right to family reunification (those who hold a residence permit valid for at least one year, or have a genuine option of long-term residence). The main objective is to protect the family unit and to facilitate the integration of nationals of non-member countries.

The following are eligible for family reunification: the sponsor's spouse and the minor children of the couple (i.e. unmarried children below the legal age of majority in the Member State concerned), or of one member of the couple, where he or she has custody and the children are dependent on him or her, including adopted children.

The Member States remain free to authorize, in certain situations, family reunification of: first-degree ascendants in the direct line (father and mother of the foreign national), unmarried children above the age of majority, and unmarried

¹³ Baroness Flather, an independent member of the UK House of Lords, who was born in Lahore (*part of Pakistan*) alarmed that randomly administered social welfare system is used by a large number of men from Pakistan and other Muslim countries who indulge in multiple marriages, and the costs of this practice are borne by the taxpayers. As, Baroness Flather said: "Wives are treated by social as single mothers, and they are on that account entitled to full help for single parents."

Available at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2037998/UK-immigration-Polygamy-welfare-benefits-insidious-silence.html>

¹⁴ Publication provides an analysis of recent developments in migration movements and policies in OECD countries and two analytical chapters, covering the fiscal impact of immigration in OECD countries and the discrimination against immigrants. Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/els/mig/imo2013.htm>

¹⁵ Art 45 TFEU - "Freedom of movement for workers shall be secured within the Union. (...)" Available at: [http://eur-](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:083:0047:0200:en:PDF)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:083:0047:0200:en:PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:083:0047:0200:en:PDF)

¹⁶ 19 Directive 2003/86 on the right to family reunification.

Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:251:0012:0018:EN:PDF>

partners. Member States shall determine whether, in order to exercise the right to family reunification, an application for entry and residence shall be submitted by the foreigner or by a member or members of his family. The application must be accompanied by evidence of family ties and meet the required conditions (i.e. stable resources sufficient to maintain him- or herself and the members of her family). The request must be dealt with within six months from the date of its filing.

It should be noted that "(...) EU Family Reunification Directive states that "Member States may reject an application for entry and residence of family members on grounds of public policy, public security or public health" (Art 6 (1)). These three grounds could cover a range of eventualities and are open to interpretation by states (ECRE 2003: 4)".¹⁷

The overriding goal is to provide immigrants with a space to live. Assimilation to the new environment and the adoption of new values appear to be necessary points in the unification of families. That is why the family members of foreign nationals have the right to reside for the same period as the family members they are joining, and they are also entitled to access to education, employment and vocational training.

Five years ago, an analysis of the subject – Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification – was presented and in general was well received.¹⁸ However, attention was drawn to the possibly too narrow approach and the need to expand the rights of (forced) immigrants in relation to the limits set by the Member States. It is clear that the Commission will continue to work on this subject and the Green Book, which is currently under development (consultations with governments, NGOs, other stakeholders¹⁹ in EU procedure), is

the first step to changing the regulations. It is still too soon to say for sure, but it is very likely that some changes will be made to the Directive. Immigrants' rights may be extended to areas which are currently at the discretion of the countries. The effects of this mechanism should be considered very carefully as the consequences of such actions can be long-term and hard to predict at the present point in time. It should also be remembered that foreign nationals who gain citizenship of one EU Member State also get complementary EU citizenship with all of its privileges, some of which were mentioned above (including freedom of movement around all the Member States).

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¹⁷ Anne Staver, *Family Reunification: Right for Forced Migrants?* Refugee Studies Centre WORKING PAPER SERIES NO. 51, p.25

¹⁸ Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52008DC0610:EN:NOT>

¹⁹ "The provisions in this field are specified in an EU directive, and according to the Stockholm Program (which sets the framework for a large part of our work), this directive is to be reviewed. Now, the Commission has published a green paper with questions, open for debate. Integration problems exist, as do cases of abuse of the system – such as arranged marriages – but the question is if those problems are solved with a new directive. A majority of countries seemed to think that such a solution would not be the best one. The consultation is ongoing, and everyone can have their say." (January 26th

2012, <http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/malmstrom/tag/denmark/>) written by: Cecilia Malmström the European Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs including EU work on police cooperation, border control, asylum and migration. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/malmstrom/about-me/bio-cv/index_en.htm

IFFD PAPERS no. 33

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From poverty to well-being

What policies are available to reduce child poverty? *

1st July 2014

To begin with, it is worth asking – particularly in light of recent efforts to move the measurement of social progress from growth (GDP) and income (poverty) in to area of well-being – if poverty reduction should remain the priority for families in developed economies in the 21st century. What makes for a happy and productive family life? How important is measuring poverty today when we can measure outcomes like well-being, happiness, and stability? And perhaps more acutely, given the inability of many governments to reduce poverty over recent decades, have we reached a point where income poverty, as we see it today, is an acceptable level of income poverty in developed countries?

Partly a continued focus on poverty is acceptable because it is a prominent and agreed international measure of family living standards. It can be used to monitor how families fare now, and due to its comparability across countries over time, it is a powerful outcome measure for detailed policy evaluations of the success of government efforts to support families, which facilitates lesson-drawing between countries in terms of what works.

There is also a good deal of evidence on the links between a range of negative family outcomes and experiences of poverty. Evidence across developed countries generally agrees that children from poor households are more likely to grow up poor, experience unemployment, to have lower levels of education, and to experience a range of poor health outcomes and engage more often in many risk factors. Poverty has been linked to family breakdown, parental (particularly maternal) depression, social exclusion, and the take up of publicly provided family services.

Nevertheless, it is important to be aware of the limits of the income poverty measure. First, the relative poverty line used to measure income pov-

erty in developed countries²⁰ can split families between ‘non-poor’ and ‘poor’ categories on the basis of a single dollar’s difference. Second, poverty only increases the risks outlined above, it does not guarantee these experiences – there are more factors that need to be accounted for. Third, it is not fully known how non-poor families share/spend their money, intra-household spending will moderate any success associated with living in a non-poor household. Fourth, if we aspire to lives of equality of opportunity (or outcomes in and from childhood), and healthy functioning families, interventions should focus on building capacities and resilience, rather than making up differences in income.

Moreover, there are many families that live in extreme poverty that are not included in many of the cross national statistics. Indigenous families or Roma families, homeless families, or families where the parents or children are institutionalized often do not make it into the household surveys. Often these families are at the most acute risk of poverty. For instance, evidence would suggest that risk of poverty and deprivation in Roma families in Europe can be 4 to 6 times higher than that of the general population (Frazier and Marlier, 2011).

Have we reached a point where present levels of income poverty in developed countries are acceptable levels of income poverty? What might be an effective level of child poverty eradication; a rate below 5% measured at 50% or 60% of the median household income?²¹ Five percent still

*Extract of the paper presented to the European Expert Group Meeting (Brussels, 6-8 June 2012) by Dominic Richardson (OECD). Cfr. <http://www.family2014.org/egmb.php>

²⁰ 50 or 60 percent of the median equivalised household income.

²¹ The UK government, in the late 1990’s, stated a goal to eradicate child poverty by 2020. A European Commission report states that by ‘eradicate’ the UK government said this

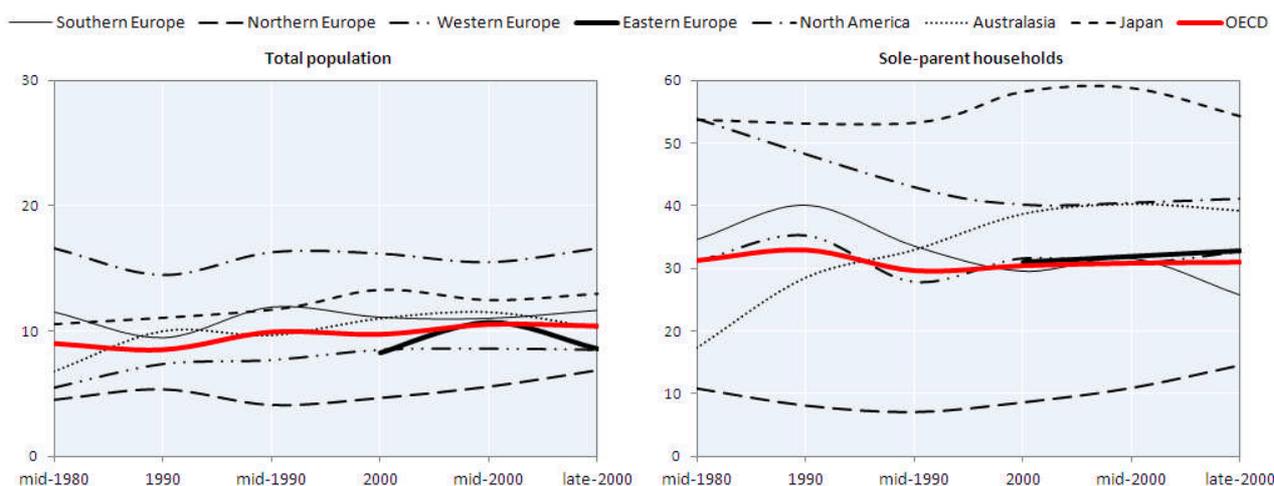
means one in 20 children living in poverty; the most recent figures show that at the moment child poverty on this measure stands at nearer 1-in-5 in Europe (60% threshold), and on the basis of the OECD measure (50%) the number is nearer 1-in-8 children in poverty.

Although it is inappropriate to suggest any number of families or children should live in poverty, in light of the limitations of the measure, truly eradicating poverty will not mean much if all it achieves is to leave families living in the same conditions, but just above an arbitrary line of acceptable income standards (for thoughts on the limitations of child income poverty measures see Richardson & Bradshaw, 2012). On the other hand, many would acknowledge that because we know that income poverty measured in this way links to so many other poor outcomes in developed economies,

a rate of 1-in-5 to 1-in-8 children living in poverty is unacceptably high.

The figure outlines the trends in income poverty rates in all families with children (left-hand chart) and in sole parent families. With the exception of Eastern Europe, and in the OECD as a whole, poverty rates among all families have been creeping up. The picture is mixed for sole parent families, with rates in Australasia and Northern Europe rising from low levels over the period, and above average rates in North America and southern Europe showing falls. Note however, the scales on both graphs, around 1 in 3 sole parents in the OECD live in poverty (rates are around 30%), in all families the average is less than one in ten.

Trends in poverty rates in OECD regions, mid-1980 to late-2000



Data refers to the unweighted average of all countries in the region for which data are available. The regions are defined as follows: Southern Europe includes Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain; Northern Europe includes Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; Western Europe includes Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom; Eastern Europe includes the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary and Poland; Australasia includes Australia and New Zealand. Source: OECD Income distribution and poverty database (www.oecd.org/els/social/inequality).

could be interpreted as being at a level amongst the lowest in Europe (see EC, 2008: 120). In 2010 the country with the lowest income poverty rate for households with dependent children, as reported by EUROSTAT, was Norway at 9.2%.

Income poverty remains a focus in 21st century developed economies because it remains a problem despite many efforts to reduce it, and will continue to be a focus even if a change in direction (in terms of policy goals) takes place. For one, income poverty in families reduces the efficiency of efforts put into services – such as education or health – to improve the living standards of families in developed economies. Moreover, building capacities and resilience takes time, and for many families the window of optimal opportunity may already have passed. For future families, there is time to reconsider the priorities; in the meantime reducing income poverty remains an important social goal, and a priority for many of today's families.

At the national level, comparisons of spending on family specific policies in developed countries categorize policies into:

- Cash benefits including: family allowances, designed to support families with the costs of raising children, which can vary on the age of their children, family size and the income of the family (universal or mean-tested). In some countries both universal family benefits and working family tax credits (or another work or income conditional benefit) are available. Parental leave benefits to support families to care for the youngest children, such as maternity, paternity and extended home care leave benefits (e.g. child raising allowances) are paid either on the basis of social contributions, or universally for a limited number of weeks or months most often at a percentage of earned income (sometimes to a cap). Parental leave benefits are sometimes conditional on health checks or meeting residency conditions. Birth grants in one-off or multiple payments (such as in France), can also be paid conditionally on the basis of health checks at or around the time of birth. And finally, other cash benefits can be paid – separately from those above – to help meet specific needs of groups such as sole parent families or families with disabled children (child support/maintenance, travel, food, accommodation costs, and household items). These benefits can be paid either periodically or in grant form.
- Family specific tax breaks or allowances: are relatively new forms of family intervention for reducing poverty, gaining in popularity since the early 2000's across OECD countries as welfare to work schemes became more popu-

lar. They are received by working families in the form of reductions in their income tax bill. Sometimes 'non-wastable' – that is the difference in cash is paid to working families whose tax bill is lower than amount of the tax break – and on rare occasions (as in Japan) paid at different levels depending on the age of the child dependent.

- Services delivered in kind including: childcare and afterschool care services delivered free at the point of consumption or subsidized, with families becoming eligible on the basis of children's ages, family income or parental employment status. Other benefits in-kind can include home help or accommodation services, and services for transport, holidays or child protection purposes. These contribute to subsidizing family costs, combating forms of deprivation and exclusion, and in extreme cases housing or re-housing families or children at risk. Services, unlike most family cash benefits, have capacity considerations and time considerations (opening hours), and are often delivered at the local authority/municipality level.

Other benefits that form part of the anti-poverty package, but are not paid solely to families with children, include: pensions, housing benefits, social assistance benefits, unemployment allowances, and general earned income tax breaks or allowances. In a number of cases these will include supplements for children, which can vary in amount by age or family size, and in some cases be subject to means-tests which can include or exclude income earned by children in the household. Active labour market policies, for parents and young people (sometimes targeted), could also be included here.

The inclusion of services such as education and health in the family package is also necessary to appropriately review the impact of anti-policies in the broadest public welfare context. In Japan for instance, the birth grant is sometimes needed to pay the hospital costs around birth because they are not provided for free. In the United Kingdom the compulsory school day ends at least an hour before it does in France, meaning out-of-school care is in greater demand (although in France Wednesday is not a school day, in the UK it is). Moreover when adding education and health concerns, spending on families with children increases dramatically, and mainly through the costs of providing for public education (on average across

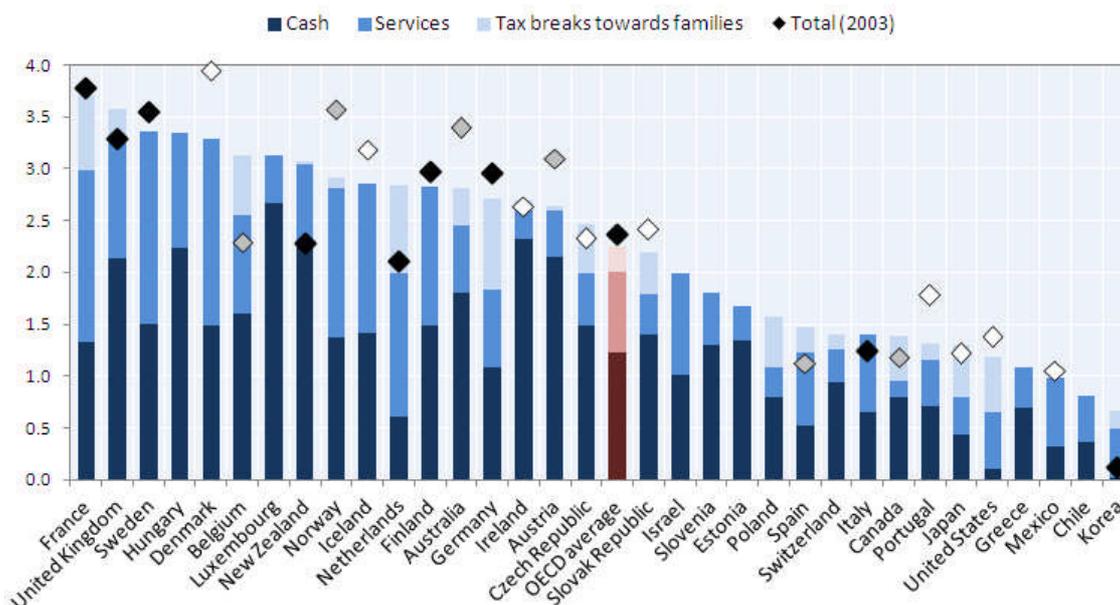
the OECD, 3 in every 5 dollars spent on the average child goes through the education system).

On occasion, due to limited budgets or places, full coverage of the eligible population of any benefit may not be possible. Under-optimal levels of coverage can restrict the anti-poverty effects of these benefits, and should be considered when assessing the overall value of the policy. Childcare services can be oversubscribed, for instance, or cash benefits may be paid out of block grants meaning that later applicants, though eligible, may not receive the benefit (although the latter is rarely seen in mainstream family benefits and not in those paid on the basis of social contributions). Moreover, due to error, stigma or lack of information, take-up rates of these benefits may be less than optimal also. Though not discussed in

detail here, these issues reflect on the more complex considerations of what makes for a good anti-poverty policy beyond discussions of ‘how much’, ‘how often’, ‘how’ and ‘for who’.

How these policies interact to reduce family poverty should also be considered. Families in receipt of certain benefits may be ‘passported’ directly to another benefit (in the UK receipt of housing Benefit makes a family eligible for Council Tax Benefit). In some cases income from one benefit can be treated as applicable income in the means-test for another benefit. The results of these types of interactions can be compared using poverty estimates before and after tax, or by comparing the net incomes for different model family at different earnings levels.

Public spending on family benefits in cash, services and tax measures, as a percentage of GDP, 2003* and 2007



Note: *White diamonds = largest increase/smallest decrease in spending in Cash transfers from 2003 to 2007; Black diamonds = largest increase/smallest decrease in spending in Services from 2003 to 2007; Grey diamonds = largest increase/smallest decrease in spending in Tax breaks for families from 2003 to 2007. Cash benefits include family allowance, maternity and paternity leave and other cash benefits. Services include day-care / home-care help service and other benefits in kind. Public support accounted here only concerns public support that is exclusively for families (e.g. child payments and allowances, parental leave benefits and childcare support).

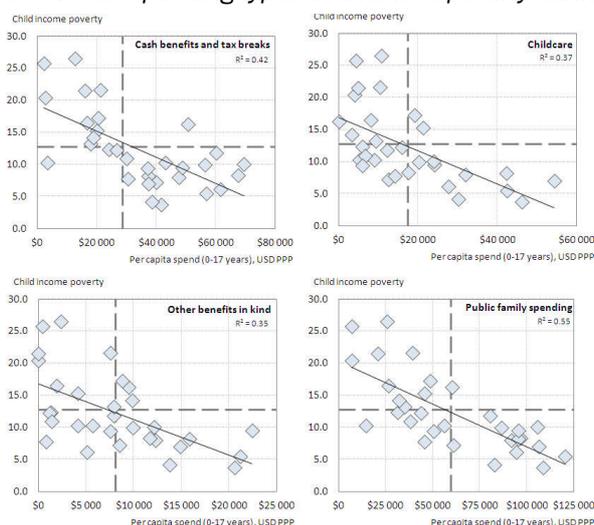
Spending in other social policy areas such as health and housing support also assists families, but not exclusively, and is not included here. Data on tax breaks towards families is not available for Chile, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Israel and Slovenia. Coverage of spending on family services (including childcare) may be limited as such services are often provided, and/or co-financed, by local governments. This can make it difficult to get an accurate view of public support for families across, especially but not exclusively, in federal countries.

Source: OECD Social Expenditure Database (www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure).

The figure above shows the spending on policies for families with children in OECD countries in 2003 and 2007 (the latter broken down by spending type). OECD countries spend around 2.3% of GDP on family policies on average, around two thirds of which is delivered in cash benefits and tax breaks. There is not much consensus in terms of spending patterns in either the high or low spending range; for instance Sweden spends over 3% GDP on family benefits, a similar amount to the UK and France, but concentrates more effort on in-kind benefits, as oppose to cash or tax break interventions. Low spenders, such as the US, Greece and Mexico spend around 1% of GDP on families, but do so in different ways. There is more

of a consensus in terms of how spending has changed in recent years. The diamonds on the charts show spending rates in 2003, and are colour coded to show which policies have seen the biggest shifts in spending. Low spending countries on the right-hand side of the chart are experimenting with cash policies, the high spenders are experimenting with changes to services policies. Australia, Austria and Norway, have all substantially lowered family spending, with cuts to tax break policies leading the way. New Zealand, the Netherlands and Belgium, are now above average spenders, for the formers two countries this expansion favoured service expansion, for the latter, tax breaks made the gains.

Associations between spending types and risks of poverty during childhood



Source: OECD 2011.

The figure below shows how the raw level of investment on families matters for reducing poverty rates. Increasing levels of cash payments, childcare and benefits in-kind in dollar terms per child, all associate with lower child income poverty rates. The differences in the association strengths can be explained, in part, by the nature of these transfers, and importantly how income poverty is calculated. For instance, cash benefits directly affect measureable income in all families, whereas families with low incomes before benefits cannot free-up disposable income by accessing services that they would otherwise not take-up because of lack of money (childcare, accommodation etc.). Because of this, the poverty reduction impact of these measures is not directly (but rather, broadly) comparable, and so cautious interpretation of the result is required²².

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²² Add to this that these associations say nothing about causality, nor about the long-term impact of the service provision on poverty rates, moreover they do not indicate the extent to which these types of interventions can impact on other measures of living standards such as deprivation or subjective perceptions of poverty.

Recent and Forthcoming events

5TH TO 6TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Glasgow, United Kingdom

Contemporary Childhood Conference

Scotland's Children: Possible Futures? On the 18th September 2014 the people of Scotland will vote to determine whether it will become an independent nation. Whatever the outcome, there will be implications for Scotland's children.

WEBSITE: www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofeducation/ccf/

CONTACT PERSON: Caroline Marley

14TH TO 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Nagoya, Japan

XXth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect

The theme for the XXth ISPCAN International Congress will be "Towards child-centered societies: Learn from the past, act for the future."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, you can also visit: www.ispcancongress2014.org/

23RD TO 23RD SEPTEMBER 2014

London, United Kingdom

Child Protection in the Digital Environment

Our well-established Child Protection in the Digital Environment Conference showcases leading figures in e-safety who will guide you through essential topics to help you deliver a multi-agency approach to safeguarding children.

WEBSITE: www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/education/full-conferences/article/child-protection-in-the-digital-environment-conference-3.html?code=SMCA

CONTACT PERSON: Rahel Gerezgiher

30TH SEPTEMBER TO 1ST OCTOBER 2014

Cambridge, United Kingdom

Faculty for Children, Young People and their Families Annual Conference 2014

"Child Clinical Psychology: the application of science and creativity to improve the lives of children, young people and their families"

Organized by: The British Psychological Society

WEBSITE: www.bps.org.uk/cyp2014

CONTACT: Kerry Wood

16TH TO 17TH OCTOBER 2014

Lodz, Poland

III International Conference "Reading culture of the young generation"

III International Conference „Reading culture of the young generation” is a forum for exchanging ideas and presenting recent research on the status of certain aspects of the reading culture of children and young people.

WEBSITE: www.konfkbin.uni.lodz.pl/index.php/en/

CONTACT: Agata Walczak-Niewiadomska

24TH TO 25TH OCTOBER 2014

Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria

6th International Conference on Youth and Interfaith Dialogue

The Conference will utilize an Interreligious and Intercultural Model for Dialogue and Peaceful coexistence in Nigeria, and a strategy to overcome misunderstandings and stereotypes that affect relations between groups and within societies.

Organized by: New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 15th August 2014

WEBSITE: www.interfaithdialogueconference.org

CONTACT: Dr. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba

29TH NOVEMBER TO 4TH DECEMBER 2014

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

International Youth Leadership Conference

The IYLC- UAE is a week-long experience aimed at achieving mutual understanding between participants from The United Arab Emirates, the GCC region and all corners of the globe.**Time: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm**Price:\$1155 -1650

Organized by: Youth Leadership Europe

WEBSITE: <http://atnd.it/10618-0>

CONTACT PERSON: William Webster

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