

What can we learn from families in Europe?

Declaration of the Civil Society on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Ignacio Socías · Warsaw, April 2013





[Home](#)

[DSPD](#)

[About DSPD](#)

[International Days](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Our Work](#)

[Publications](#)

[Technical Cooperation](#)

[Our Projects](#)

[Social Development Issues](#)

[Ageing](#)

[Civil Society](#)

[Cooperatives](#)

[Disability](#)

[Employment](#)

[Family](#)

[Indigenous Peoples](#)

[Poverty](#)

[Social Integration](#)

[Social Protection](#)

[Youth](#)

[Secretariat For](#)

[Commission for Social
Development](#)

[Convention on Rights of](#)

Twentieth Anniversary of IYF 2014



Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014

The **twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF)** offers an opportunity to refocus on the role of families in development; take stock of recent trends in family policy development; share good practices in family policy making; review challenges faced by families worldwide and recommend solutions.

Owing to rapid socio-economic and demographic transformations, families find it more and more difficult to fulfil their numerous responsibilities. Many struggle to overcome poverty and adequately provide for the younger and older family members. It is also more and more difficult for them to reconcile work and family responsibilities and maintain the intergenerational bonds that sustained them in the past.

In response to these trends, the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the IYF will focus on exploring family-oriented policies and strategies aiming mainly at confronting family poverty; ensuring work-family balance and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity. The preparatory process is to accelerate progress in family policy development; demonstrate its relevance for overall development efforts and draw attention to the role of different stakeholders in achieving these goals.

The preparations for the twentieth anniversary will include:

[Resources](#)

[Background Papers](#)

[Regional Meetings](#)



Member of Qatar Foundation

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee
of the Regions



Since 1978
IFFD
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



2014 - TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE FAMILY

The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIIFSD),
The International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)
and The Committee of the Regions of the European Union
in cooperation with the
Focal Point on the Family, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
are pleased to invite you to the

Raise Awareness Meeting

Poverty, work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity

convened as part of preparations for the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



2014 - TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE FAMILY

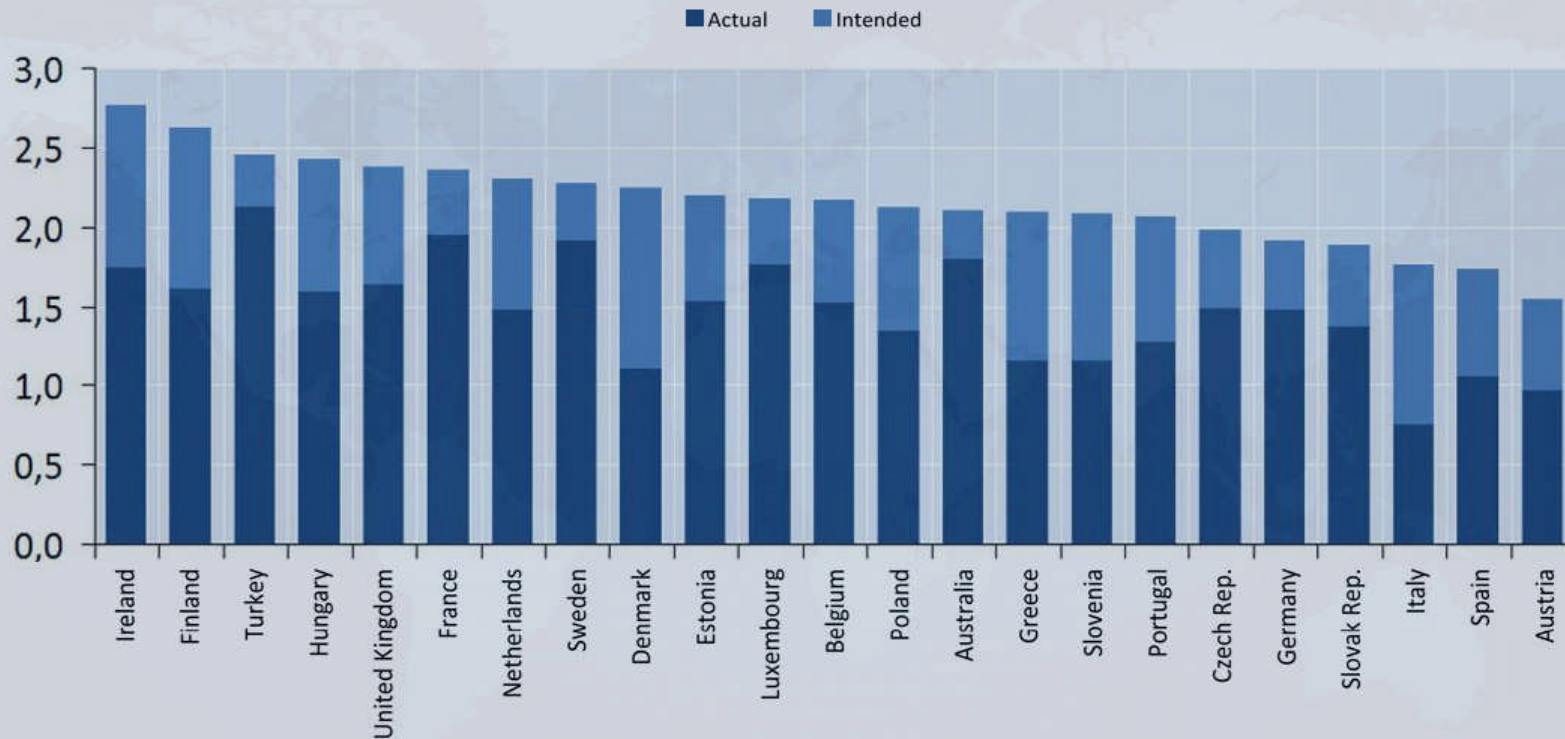
The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIIFSD),
The International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)
and the Committee of the Regions of the European Union
in cooperation with the
Focal Point on the Family (UNDESA)

**European Expert Group Meeting
“Confronting family poverty and social exclusion;
ensuring work-family balance;
advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity
in Europe”**

Convened as part of preparations for the
Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014
(Cfr. Report of the Secretary-General,
Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the
International Year of the Family in 2014,
A/67/61-E/2012/3)

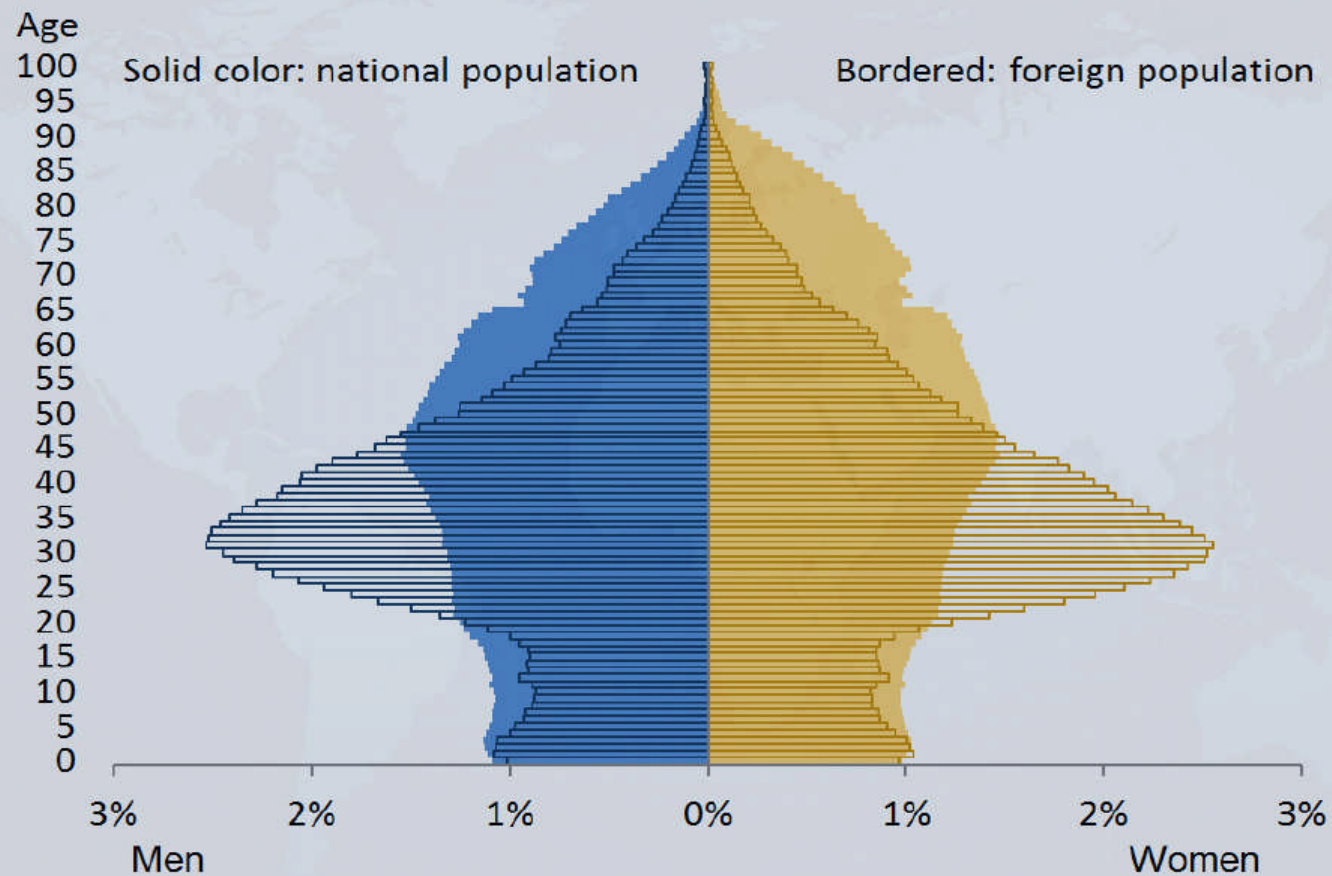


Actual and ultimately intended number of children of women age 25-39, 2006



SOURCE: DOING BETTER FOR FAMILIES · © OECD 2011

Age structure of the national and foreign population, EU-27, 1 January 2012 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop2ctz)

When couples part: Understanding the consequences for adults and children

Lester Coleman and Fiona Glenn
One Plus One



Executive summary

with foreword by Professor Sir Michael Rutter

ONE
PLUS
ONE

Building relationships
strengthening families

equalSOC
ECONOMIC CHANGE, QUALITY OF LIFE & SOCIAL COHESION

State of the art report

*“The Effects of Marital Instability on Children’s
Well-being and Intergenerational Relations”*

Anna Garriga
Pompeu Fabra University
anna.garriga@upf.edu

Juho Härkönen
Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)
Stockholm University
juho.harkonen@sociology.su.se

IFFFD
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



2014 - TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE FAMILY

**Confronting family poverty
and social exclusion
Ensuring work-family balance
Advancing social integration
and intergenerational solidarity
In Europe**

European Expert Group Meeting
Convened as part of preparations for the
Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014)
In cooperation with the Focal Point on the Family (United Nations DESA)

Brussels

6-8 June 2012

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



- ▶ Home
- About EPIC
- Events
- News
- Country Profiles
- Statistics
- Practices that Work
- Studies and Reports
- EU-funded research projects
- Glossary

In the spotlight



(c)

[The Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union \(COFACE\) 2014 Campaign: European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life](#)

COFACE not only studies how families live and the challenges they face, but also aims to address how policy might be shaped to try and make the lives of men, women and children happier, and the decisions they make easier. In 2010 COFACE initially proposed that 2014 should be a year to focus on family well-being. Having advocated strongly since this initial proposal, COFACE and its members have now received positive reactions from the European Parliament and the European Commission to **2014 European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life**. Whilst one focus of the year aims to match people's skills to jobs, it also aims to improve the well-being and lives of European citizens. COFACE hopes that 2014 will mark a year of positive change for families in Europe.



Events

- 24/04/2013
[Round table debate on Grandparents as carers - Trends and support services in Europe](#)
- 06-07/05/2013
[The 4th European Demography Forum will take place in Brussels on 6-7 May](#)

[See all events](#)

- [Contact us](#)
- [Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU](#)
- [COFACE](#)
Confederation of family

United Nations

E/CN.5/2013/NGO/26



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 November 2012

Original: English

Commission for Social Development

Fifty-first session

6-15 February 2013

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all

Statement submitted by International Federation for Family Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



Since 1978
IFFD
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

United Nations

A/68/61-E/2013/3



**General Assembly
Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
28 November 2012

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
**Social development: social development,
including questions relating to the world
social situation and to youth, ageing,
disabled persons and the family**

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2013
**Social and human rights questions:
social development**

**Preparations for and observance of the twentieth
anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014**

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 66/126 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/10. It focuses on good practices in family policymaking in the areas of confronting family poverty and social exclusion, ensuring work-family balance and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity. It reviews the state of preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 at all levels.



An initiative of
 International Federation for Family Development
 co-sponsored by
 Make Mothers Matter International
 World Family Organization
 Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development
 World Youth Alliance
 Home Renaissance Foundation
 World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations
 Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe
 European Federation of Parents and Carers at Home
 European Large Families Confederation
 European Christian Political Foundation
 New Women for Europe
 Forum Européen des Femmes
 European local inclusion and social action network (ELISAN)
 CARE for Europe
 Veneto Region

The following national organizations have also joined the above Declaration (as of 1st March 2013):

- | | |
|---|--|
| Asociación Familias Formando Familias (Argentina) | Fundación Masfamilia (Spain) |
| Asociación Mundial para la Familia y la Educación (Uruguay) | Fundación para la Familia (Honduras) |
| Aspof - Asociación para la orientación familiar (Costa Rica) | Gesellschaft Für Familienorientierung (Austria) |
| ASPOF (Costa Rica) | Haro (Sweden) |
| Association Camerounaise pour le Developpement de la Famille (Cameroon) | Hazte Oír (Spain) |
| Association pour la Famille (Congo) | IDF - Instituut Van De Familie / Institut de la Famille Asbl (Belgium) |
| BeFamily (Portugal) | IEB - Institut Für Elternbildung (Germany) |
| Caribbean Institute for Family Development (Trinidad Tobago) | Instituto Brasileiro da Família (Brazil) |
| Cenofa - Centro de Orientação Familiar (Portugal) | Instituto de Matrimonio y Familia (Ecuador) |
| Corporación de Desarrollo Educativo y Familiar (Puerto Rico) | Instituto de Política Familiar (Spain) |
| Családképző Fórum Egyesület (Hungary) | Instytut Edukacji I Rodziny (Poland) |
| Educhild (Philippines) | IPEF - Institut pour l'éducation dans la famille (France) |
| Familias Formando Familias (Argentina) | Jafda - Japan Family Development Association (Japan) |
| Familias Formando Familias (Bolivia) | Klub mnohodetných rodin (Slovakia) |
| Famille & Education Suisse Romande (Switzerland) | LAR (Mexico) |
| Famille et Education (Ivory Coast) | Leader 100 (Poland) |
| Family Development Foundation (United Kingdom) | Nigerian Association for Family Development |
| Family Enrichment Canada | Obiteljsko Obogaćivanje (Croatia) |
| Family Enrichment Uganda (Uganda) | Observadores Ciudadanos de la Familia A. C. (Mexico) |
| Family Enrichment USA (United States) | Pan-Hellenic Union of Association Families with 3C (Greece) |
| Family First Foundation (China - Hong-Kong) | Profamilia (Czech Republic) |
| Famof - Familias que ayudan a otras Familias (Colombia) | Profesionales por la ética (Spain) |
| Farmilia - Instituto de Ciencias del Matrimonio (Peru) | Program for Family Development (Kenya) |
| FEA - Family Education Australia (Australia) | Raíces - Centro de Orientación Familiar (Peru) |
| FEN - Family Enrichment Netherlands (Netherlands) | Rural Reconstruction Foundation (Bangla Desh) |
| FERT (Spain) | Saif (South Africa) |
| FIFA - Family Enrichment Society (Singapur) | Seimu Universitetas (Lithuania) |
| Familia de la Familia (Spain) | Service and Research Institute on Family and Children (India) |
| Familieninstitute (Slovakia) | Sistema Famiglia: C. P. dei Centri di Orientamento Familiare (Italy) |
| Familienbildung (Slovakia) | Voice of the Family in Africa (Kenya) |
| Familienbildung (Slovakia) | Women's Board (Nigeria) |

DECLARATION OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

The representatives of the civil society organizations, academics and policy makers named below,

Acknowledging the right to found a family, as described by the art. 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recognizing that, as basic and essential building blocks of societies, families have a crucial role in social development, bear the primary responsibility for the nurturing, protection, education and socialization of children, as well as instilling values of citizenship and belonging in the society, and provide material and non-material care and support to its members, from children to older persons or those suffering from illness, sheltering them from hardship to the maximum possible extent, [1]

Recalling that this social protection function performed by families is especially important in times of increased uncertainty and vulnerability, when families find it more and more difficult to fulfil these multiple roles and tackle all responsibilities entrusted to them, [2]

Emphasizing that family-focused policies have proven both valuable and efficient in many areas of social development, and that the very achievement of Millennium Development Goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to it, [3]

Expressing the will to work closely with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in a coordinated manner on family-related issues, including the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family. [4]

1. *Welcome* the call made by United Nations to celebrate the forthcoming twentieth anniversary, in 2014, of the International Year of the Family, noting the opportunity it provides to revisit family-oriented development efforts, [5] support efforts to aim at

Ignacio Socias

More information

dircom@iffd.org

www.iffd.org



Since 1978

IFFD

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR FAMILY DEVELOPMENT