



According to their coalition agreement, for the government of the Austrian State of Carinthia, the goal is “to make it the most child- and family-friendly region in Europe.”

For that, they aim to keep “a healthy, efficient health care system at the highest level, guaranteed by ensuring an extensive family doctor care, constructing health centers, accelerating ambulatory care and safeguarding the location of Carinthian hospitals.” Finally, they “are committed to providing care that allows every human being to age in dignity and within a familiar environment.”

Other policies focus on education, like elementary education in kindergarten, different kinds of secondary schools, tertiary education, cooperation with universities and counselling services for families in difficult life situations. Especially in these challenging times in relation to the Coronavirus Pandemic, which has been determining people’s everyday life for months, it became more important to provide families with support and advice. The psychological and financial burden that families in difficult life situations are already exposed to anyway, has partly increased due to the massive restrictions in daily life.

Also the uncertain future prospects, often the loss of a family member’s job, the lack of opportunities to adequately care for and educate children, represent an enormous challenge for the counselling institutions. Everyday life for families has changed massively. To support and accompany this as well as possible, but also to create new perspectives, support services and funding opportunities will be the biggest challenge in the coming year, but certainly also in the years to come.

Therefore, the International Board of IFFD has decided to grant one of the 2021 IFFD Awards to the Government of the Austrian State of Carinthia, for their commitment in making their region “the most child- and family-friendly region in Europe” through the follow up of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Venice Declaration, and the support and advice provided to families during these challenging times of the coronavirus pandemic.

New York, 10th February 2021.