ANNUAL REPORT 2012
Building on the foundation of the work of our previous President, Yves Roland-Gosselin, and our previous Director William Lay, the 2012 Annual Report reflects the continued commitment to high quality policy and advocacy work of COFACE.

Together with the renewed Administrative Council and Executive Bureau, as well as with the support of our Member organisations we have made great efforts in 2012 to realise our dreams:

To Do activities and projects with and for families and their organisations. To Be the voice of families and children in important issues at the European or national agenda's and to mainstream the family dimension in European politics. To Have 2014 designated as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life.

Looking at this overview of activities, conferences, working groups, actions you can see that 2012 was a very active and creative year for COFACE.

I hope that our approach, our activities and our motivation inspire you. Together with our new Director and her staff, our renewed Administrative Council I hope we can count on your support for the next years.

Because “we must turn our can’t’s into cans and our dreams into plans”.

ANNEMIE DRIEKSSENS, PRESIDENT

It is a great honour for me to be writing these introductory words for my first Annual Report at COFACE. Taking over the role of Director has been a very challenging, and yet very rewarding task.

The first half of the year was very much taken up by the transition and the handover between the outgoing and incoming directors, and I wouldn't underestimate the impact this also had on the staff, having to adjust to a new leadership. Perhaps this is as good as any moment here to pause briefly, and officially thank the team at COFACE for their dedication, motivation and dynamism, and for their patience during the changeover.

As the team we spent a lot of time plotting over different strategies and actions, as to how to secure our most ambitious objectives, the designation of 2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life. You will see many of the milestones for this campaign in the following pages.

2012 was also a year of developing the organisation further, improving on its processes and modernising some of our tools, especially in the area of communication.

I hope you will enjoy reading about our year as much as we enjoyed preparing this summary for you.

Sincerely yours,

AGNES UHERECZKY, DIRECTOR
ABOUT COFACE

COFACE as the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union, brings together a large number of civil society organisations with the aim of giving a voice to all families and representing the issues most important to them at the European level.

With 52 member organisations in 21 Member States of the European Union, COFACE monitors closely the implementation of family and social policies in the Member States, and formulates together joint policy objectives at European level.

COFACE advocates policies of non-discrimination and equal opportunities between persons and between family forms, and specifically supports policies aimed at increasing equality between women and men, with a special focus on reconciliation policies between work, care and family life.

The issues we are working on range from family and social policies, migration, the family dimension of disability, to safer internet, protection of families as vulnerable consumers, improving childcare and health services, to the impact of the economic crisis on families, and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable families.

We bring together organisations and policy makers to discuss issues and decisions that have an impact on the lives of families, and we aim at developing policy recommendations that are viable, are affecting a large number of families in all their diversity, and can enable families to flourish all over Europe. We do this always in partnership with other civil society organisations at EU and national levels, the European Parliament and the European Commission, as well as other EU institutions and stakeholders.

We organise regular working group meetings, as well as thematic and ad-hoc meetings, conferences, seminars. Through our participation in both research and other projects, we aim at developing tools and contributing to a better understanding of the situation and the environment of families in our changing societies, as well as raise awareness about certain key topics.

We also contribute our expertise to a number of legislative proposals through stakeholder consultations, and through our advocacy work to the shaping of a more family friendly policy and legislative environment in Europe.
In 2012, CoFACE was 54 years old.

The CoFACE website pages have been viewed 78,192 times.

Written declaration nr 32 was signed by 240 MEPs.

Our blog on the 2014 campaign was visited 6107 times.

The CoFACE team spent 36 hours traveling to Strasbourg.

We attended 162 external meetings.

We drank more than 3080 cups of coffee to keep us going.

The total number of hours of our meetings conferences working groups amounts to 2525.

We developed different new communication tools.
Always eager to break new frontiers, we organised the seminar "E-Health: Challenges and Opportunities for Families" on the 19th April at the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels.

To mark the International Day of Families in 2012, held each year on the 15th May, COFACE organised a conference in the European Parliament. The event was hosted by MEP Ádám Kósa, and was the occasion to launch the COFACE-Disability Publication: "The Family Dimension of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities".

COFACE participated at the annual gathering for the International Day of Families 2012 “Ensuring work-family balance” organized by the UN DESA Focal Point on the Family, in New York.

On the 25th June we organised the expert group meeting on Early Childhood Education and Care and Early School Leavers, which gathered 18 experts both from the COFACE members as well as representatives of other Parents’ organisations and the European Commission.

MEP Marian Harkin hosted our event on Reconciling Work and Care Responsibilities: A Challenge for Family Carers in Europe on the 26th June in the European Parliament, which was attended by over 120 participants.
A very tangible outcome of the year is the publications of the Guidelines and Toolkit on De-Institutionalisation, which has been developed by the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG) of which COFACE is a member.

COFACE organized a Workshop on “Family friendly regions - towards smart and sustainable growth” as a Side event to the Open Days of the Committee of the Regions. The aim was to draw attention to the role local and regional authorities can have in shaping the living and working environment to respond better to the needs of families.

We have been very eager to give input to the Green Paper on the right to family reunification of third country nationals living in the European Union (Directive 2003/86/EC), highlighting the family dimension of migration. This has led on to us becoming full members in the European Integration Forum, as well as further developing our policies, and the publication of “Trans-national families and the Impact of economic migration on families”.

With the economic and financial situation not showing significant improvement in 2012, our work on financial inclusion and the impact of financial services on families being as relevant as ever, we also released a position Paper “Credit insurance: time to end discrimination”.

In December the up-coming Trio-Presidency of the European Union, Ireland, Lithuania and Greece have endorsed 2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life in their Work Programme.
COFACE started actively lobbying for a European Year in 2011, and this advocacy campaign was streamlined early 2012 to what it is today, a growing alliance of organisations, policy makers and individuals, who engage in the common objective, to have 2014 designated as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life.

Today, all families living in Europe have to cope with the increasing conflict between their family and work life. The year would offer an opportunity to focus on how the labour market is organised, what practices and policies exist and which work in enabling a good work-life balance, productivity, job security and a decent quality of life. We would be looking at the trends and the demographic challenge for Europe, looking for viable solutions with a broad, multidisciplinary stakeholder base.

COFACE led the campaign on many fronts. We gathered a significant group of civil society organisations and institutions in forming the 2014 European Year Alliance. We worked very hard in trying to convince the European Commission about the idea, and have also in the course of the year won the support of the national governments in some Member States. In the second half of the year we started on the written declaration campaign in the European Parliament, which spills over to 2013.

We have also started the reflection about the actual activities of the year, which will also be carried over and gain importance in the following months in 2013. Here are some of the issues we would like to focus on:

- Triggering discussion and debate about existing legislation and other tools in both in the sphere of social policies and labour market policies.
- Map and disseminate good practices on family and work-life reconciliation in the different EU Member States.
- Assess and promote comprehensive family friendly policies and their subsequent implementation.
- To address also the issues of family carers, mental health, intergenerational solidarity, time for volunteer activities.

We have created a blog for the campaign, as well as having adopted the emperor penguin as the mascot and symbol for the campaign, which received very positive feedback. Are you curious why? We have a detailed explanation on our Blog.
2019 Campaign + Written Declaration

Let's make 2014 the European Year for Work-Life Balance!

Coface

But we can't achieve this alone. We need partners.

We are building the 2014 Alliance...

Luckily, MEP Marian Harkin proposes a written declaration.

But that's not enough. And start lobbying at the European Commission.

So we launch a blog.

...and we now have many partners.

So then, the race begins to collect signatures.

By the end of 2012, we have 240 signatures. A great result, but we keep on collecting.

4 MEPs co-sign.

Now we have collect 378 MEP signatures.

Finger puppet

We use penguins in all shape and form.

This can only happen in Strasbourg.

Big stuffed penguins
COFACE actively collaborated with important stakeholders at EU level:

**EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS**

- European High Level Group on Disability
- ICT principles coalition and CEO coalition to make internet a better place for children
- Early School Leaving thematic Working Group
- Early Childhood Education and Care Working Group
- European Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health
- Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Environmental Claims
- European Consumer Consultative Group
- ECCG expert sub-group on Energy
- Agricultural Advisory Groups: Quality of Agricultural Production, Women in Rural Areas, Rural Development
- European Integration Forum
- Civil Society Liaison Group

**EU NETWORKS**

- EU networks
- The Social Platform of European NGOs
- The European Disability Forum
- European Expert Group on Transition from Institutional to community based care
- NGO Platform on Migration and Asylum
- The Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation
- European Year 2012 Coalition
- The European Year of Citizens Alliance

**EUROPEAN PROJECTS**

- European projects
- Board member of the SIP-Bench II project (parental control tools review project)
- Partner of the Grundtvig project “Self-assessment of their needs by family carers: The pathway to support”
FINANCES

**Expenditure**
- Salaries and Charges: 64%
- Travel: 16%
- Translation, Interpretation, Publications: 11%
- Administration: 4%
- Rent Office: 5%

**Income**
- EU Progress Programme: 86%
- Members' Contribution: 14%
The new website and the new logo of COFACE have also been launched in 2012. We are continuously improving our communication, through the development of new tools, such as our Blog dedicated to “Reconciling Work and Family life”, our Factsheets, we have up-dated the tools we use for our HTML newsletter and other communication.

**Website**: www.coface-eu.org

**Blog**: http://eyf2014.wordpress.com

In 2012 we sent out:
- 11 Newsletters
- 14 Press Releases
- 4 Factsheets
- 2 Policy Positions
- Several Publications

In 2012 we worked on:
- The EY2014 Alliance’s Manifesto
- The EY2014 Alliance’s Roadmap
- A Press Briefing
- A lot of communication materials
The Executive Bureau:
Annemie Drieskens, President
Eric de Wasch, Treasurer
Helena Hiila O’Brien, Vice-President
Marién Delgado, Vice-President

and the Administrative Council for their time, energy and valuable input.

The former President Yves Roland-Gosselin and the former Director, William Lay.

In 2012 we welcomed in the Administrative Council: Roland Anen, Eleonora Teixeira-Rossoll, Ghislaine Julemont, Sylva Feglerova, Manuel Martin Arias, Patrick Chretien, Viktoria Szanto, Rebecca Ryan, Andreja Grabner.
And as new Working Group Chairs: Mériadec Rivière, Jean-Bernard Audureau and Liz Wall.

A special thanks to:
Jean Dupé, Anna Maria Denninson, Jean Giwer, Maria da Costa Macedo, Nicolas Revenu, Anne Alitolppa-Niitamo and Chantal Bruno.

We are grateful for the continued support of the European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, DG Justice, DG Health and Consumers, DG Home Affairs, DG Communications, Networks, Content and Technology.

The European Parliament, specifically MEPs Marian Harkin, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Jutta Steinruck, Roberta Angelilli and Ádám Kósa.

The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions.

We couldn’t have done it without our Member organisations and our staff: Florian Charron, Ana Pérez Méndez, Zoltán Vadkerti, Martin Schmalzried and Paola Panzeri.

Also thanks to Gauthier Burny and Zsofi Lang.

COFACE is supported by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS (2007-2013). For more information see: http://ec.europa.eu/progress The information contained in this report does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.
Austria
Katholischer Familienverband Österreichs

Belgium
Association Aidants Proches
Association de parents et professionnels autour de la personne polyhandicapée
Centre d'action laïque
Femmes Présvoyantes Socialistes
Fonds du Logement Wallon
Gezinsbond
Ligue des Familles

Bulgaria
Center of Women’s Studies and Policies
Women and Mothers Against Violence

Cyprus
Pancyprian Organisation Polyteknon

Czech Republic
Sdruzeni Ochrana Nenarozeneho Zivota

Finland
Väestöliitto

France
Aide à domicile en milieu rural
Association des paralysés de France
Association nationale pour le Spina Bifida et handicaps associés
Associations de parents d’élèves de l’enseignement libre
Confédération nationale d’associations familiales catholiques
Confédération syndicale des familles
Familles de France
Familles rurales
Union nationale des associations de familles de traumatisés crâniens
Union nationale des associations de parents, de personnes handicapées mentales et de leurs amis
Union nationale des acteurs de Parrainage de Proximité
Union nationale des associations familiales

Germany
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Der Deutschen Familienorganisationen

Greece
Confederation of large families’ associations of Greece
Kendro Merimnas Oikoyenias Kai Pediuon
Panhellenic housewives union and family

Hungary
Pro Familia

Ireland
Irish Countrywomen’s Association

Italy
Associazione italiana genitori
Associazione italiana per l’assistenza agli spastici
Il coordinamento dei familiari assistenti “Clélia”
Movimento italiano genitori

Latvia
Latvijas daudzbernu gimenu biedrību apvienība

Lithuania
SOS Children’s villages

Luxembourg
Association des parents d’enfants mentalement handicapés

Poland
Foundation Houses of Lonely Mothers with Children

Portugal
Associação nacional de famílias para a integração da pessoa deficiente
Confederação nacional das associações de familia
Liga portuguesa dos deficientes motores

Romania
Family and Child Care Foundation

Slovakia
Club of Large Families

Slovenia
Family Initiative

Spain
Asociación general de consumidores de España
Asociación Salud y Familia
Confederación española de familiares de enfermos de Alzheimer y otras demencias
Confederación española de organizaciones de amas de casa, consumidores y usuarios
Fundación de Familias Monoparentales Isadora Duncan
Unión nacional de consumidores y amas de hogar
Unión de Asociaciones Familiares
Unión de centros de Acción Rural
 PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH!

Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union
Rue de Londres 17 B-1050 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 511 41 79
Skype: coface-aisbl
Fax: +32 2 514 47 73
Email: secretariat@coface-eu.org

Website: www.coface-eu.org

Find us also on:

Find us also on: