An annual report is always a good opportunity for a reflection about the previous year and as a preparation for the next. Was there reason to celebrate in 2013? We believe so, and if you read our Annual Report, we hope that you will agree.

2013 was not an easy year for the families. The crisis and austerity measures were a harsh reality for many families and civil society organisations across Europe. COFACE shone the spotlight on the families that are most vulnerable and suffer most from the economic downturn, and during our successful conference with our Irish member and the Irish Presidency we delivered an inspiring contribution to the social agenda of the EU.

In March we celebrated the adoption of our Written Declaration to have 2014 designated as the European Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life by the majority of the MEPs. We received the political commitment from the European Parliament as well from the Trio Presidency, and the European Commission is contributing through our core funding to the implementation of the activities.

We are happy to welcome six new members to contribute to the diversity of members, and enlarge the network with new countries as well. COFACE is well equipped and motivated to continue its work and to translate it into effective actions that bring about change for families in Europe!

Thank you for picking up our Annual Report. When you read through it, you will discover the great variety of activities we were involved in in 2013, and some of our main achievements.

What is the most important to us is to represent the variety of families across Europe, and the great variety of their needs and their expectations towards policy makers. We chose to focus on three main aspects of this last year, and they were:
- raising awareness about cyberbullying, and focus on prevention and early intervention,
- vulnerable families and their needs,
- the challenge to reconcile work and family life.

They were the topics which we found most of the families could identify with, as these are practically every day dinner table conversations. We are then translating these everyday experiences of families into policy messages and advocacy actions. Our communication also received a boost in 2013: we used a great variety of social media to reach out to families in Europe!

Many of the actions in 2013 were a preparation for the up-coming years’ activities, and we are looking forward to continuing the conversation with you on how to best serve the interests of families.

Enjoy the Annual Report!

Annemie Drieksens, President

Agnes Uhereczky, Director
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 58 member organisations in 22 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, work-life balance, migrant families, family carers, disability issues, to safer internet, parenting, consumers’ protection, 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 can enable them 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 European institutions and stakeholders.

We 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.

We organise 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.

COFACE also provides information and exchanges of ideas and experiences about relevant developments at National and EU level.
OUTREACH

OUR WEBSITE
www.coface-eu.org
was visited
62,276 times in 2013.

Our monthly newsletter grew from 3,011 to 7,085 readers.

Our European Year campaign has been mentioned 50 times by the press.

The number of visits to the 2014 campaign’s blog www.ey2014.eu with 89 blog posts went from 6,107 in 2012 to 31,735 in 2013.

Our Flickr account flickr.com/photos/coface-aisbl/sets got 38,356 views.

Our Facebook audience is made of 64% women & 36% men.

The most engaged group is 25-34 years.

Our video Cyberbullying: there is a way out has been viewed 32,062 times in two months!

The number of likes on the COFACE Facebook page facebook.com/COFACE.EU grew by 450% by the end of 2013.

The @coface_eu Twitter account had 783 followers in December 2013 and the @dcyberbullying got 340 followers.
High Level Conference Vulnerable Families - What can Europe do?
The year was kicked off by a very successful conference in February in Dublin, in association with the Irish Presidency. It was co-organised with our Irish member, the Irish Countrywomen’s Association. More than 200 international participants representing the majority of EU Member States engaged in a wide variety of plenary and breakout sessions with a very ambitious agenda.

Another important event was the adoption of the Written Declaration 32/2012 in the European Parliament. The Written Declaration campaign ran between October 2012 and February 2013, and the objective was to have the majority of the MEPs endorse the idea of the 2014 European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life. This happened with 388 signatures. The Written Declaration was adopted on the 11th March 2013.

International Day of Families
On the 15th of May, COFACE organised an event coupled with a book launch to mark this Day. The book, entitled “Fertility rates and population decline: No time for children?”, published by the Oxford University includes the latest research from leading international demographers. The book concludes that in future, families may need far more assistance to reconcile work and family life.
**European Conference on Cyberbullying**
We organized the first ever European High Level Conference on Cyberbullying, which took place in Madrid on the 28th of **May**. The conference gathered key actors and stakeholders involved in the prevention of cyberbullying, early detection and intervention, including NGOs, helplines and hotlines, public bodies and law enforcement. The outcome of the conference provided input to the development of material targeting children, parents and teachers with the aim to empower them in this issue.

**COFACE’s stand on indoor air quality at the Green Week**
We presented many good practices from its member organisations and other partner organisations on the topic of air quality and more specifically, indoor air quality at the Greek Week on 4-7 **June** in Brussels. We presented initiatives from ASGECO (Spain), Gezinsbond (Belgium), UNAF (France) and UNAF (Spain).

**Moving forward for the legal recognition of family carers**
COFACE and COFACE-Disability organised a capacity building seminar on 18 **October** to share experiences and provide with practical tools on lobbying for the recognition of family carers. 80% of care for people with disabilities or dependency in Europe is provided by informal and family carers. While their contribution to the society is self-evident, the legal recognition of their existence and of their role is still far from being achieved.

**Cooperation between parents and schools in preventing early school leaving**
Promoting cooperation between parents and schools serves not only to compensate for early school leavers but also to prevent it. COFACE organised a seminar on the cooperation between parents and schools in preventing early school leaving on 9 **December**. A number of experienced speakers shared their best practices and recommendations about why cooperation between parents and schools is important.
First meeting of the European Year 2014 Alliance.

Launch of the campaign blog: www.ey2014.eu

Publication of the Alliance Manifesto.

We organised the conference "Reconciling Work and Care responsibilities: a challenge for family carers" in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Launch of the campaign logo and promotional material: The Emperor penguin.

Official launch of the campaign at COFACE’s office warming party.

Strasbourg, session 1: Launch of the Written Declaration 32/2012 asking for the designation of 2014 to be the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life. (66 signatures collected)

Strasbourg, session 2: (116 signatures collected)

We made pictures at the European Parliament in Brussels with our supportive MEPs.

Strasbourg, session 3: (240 signatures collected)

The Written Declaration 32/2012 on the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life, signed by 388 MEPs, was officially adopted by the European Parliament.

Strasbourg, session 4: (334 signatures collected)

Official launch of the campaign at COFACE’s office warming party.

Strasbourg, session 5: (388 signatures collected)

COFACE directly asked a question to the President of the European Commission Barroso during an online debate.

Final decision of the European Commission – it’s a NO.

We decided to move and focus on delivering events and activities to the highest standard. We adapted the name of the campaign and our logo towards 2014 Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life in Europe with the aim of making a real change!
Several objectives of the #DeleteCyberbullying project:

- **A general acknowledgement** that cyberbullying is a real and substantial danger and causes immediate and significant harm.

- **An exchange of best practice** about recognition, monitoring and prevention of harmful on-line communication and cyber bullying, especially in schools and families.

- **Specific recommendations** to policy and decision makers at EU and Member States levels – examples of prevention campaigns with positive impact.

- Development of an **online campaign material** and encourage the involvement of children and young people, who want to be part of the social and behavioural change we would like to create.

Three main activities were planned:

The first one was the organisation of a **European conference on cyberbullying** in May 2013 in Madrid, which brought together key stakeholders across Europe working on the topic.

The second activity planned is The **Big March**, which is a virtual march taking place in 2014. It will enable civil society as a whole to demonstrate and bring the issue of cyberbullying to the attention of policy makers.

The third activity is the development of **tools for parents, teenagers and teachers**: a video and an app.

The **awareness raising video** “Cyberbullying: There is a way out” which was viewed more than 40,000 times on YouTube. We are in the process of developing an **app for android mobile phones** taking users through a quiz which will either redirect them to appropriate resources or test their knowledge about cyberbullying.

Blog of the #DeleteCyberbullying project: [http://deletecyberbullying.eu/](http://deletecyberbullying.eu/)

Twitter: @dcyberbullying

YouTube channel: youtube.com/user/DeleteCyberbullying1
Coface identifies cyberbullying as a major problem and something that concerns families.

We wanted to do something about it, so with the cooperation of 8 partners, this new project was born.

#DeleteCyberbullying

**1. MAPPING OF EXISTING TOOLS**

We started a mapping of existing campaigns.
- tools and materials for parents
- tools and materials for teachers
- tools and materials for schools

shared and exchanged in May 2013 in Madrid at the European Conference on Cyberbullying.

**2. ONLINE AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN IN EUROPE**

THE BIG MARCH

11 June 2014

We also want to use The Big March to lobby at the European level and push for better legislation.

**3. DEVELOPING TOOLS**

We are developing new tools for parents, teachers and schools: an Android app and a video - Cyberbullying: there is a way out!

**4. FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:**

Blog: http://deletecyberbullying.eu
Twitter: @dcyberbullying
#deletecyberbullying
One of the important roles for COFACE is being a bridge between civil society organisations, research bodies and institutions. We build on the experience of our member organisations and we listen to the needs of families at grassroots level and channel these to policy and decision makers at EU level. Many of the issues we are working on are also priorities for other organisations, and we believe in positive cooperation to have an even greater impact on policies and programmes.

Besides our member organisations, we regularly link up to other networks to exchange best practice, learn about other ways of solving societal problems, and also grow our network, on which we rely for our events, projects and advocacy work.

We are actively engaged in a number of working – and expert groups, to which we bring the knowledge and needs of the families across Europe. These are either projects or networks run by other NGOs, or consultative and expert groups of the European Institutions:

**European Commission**
- Early School Leaving Working Group
- Expert Group on Early Childhood Care and Education
- European High Level Group on Disability
- EU platform for diet, physical activity and health
- Financial Services users group
- Better Internet for Kids: CEO Coalition
- Integration Forum

**European Parliament**
- Interest Group of Carers

**Civil Society networks**
- ERHIN - European Responsible Housing Initiative
- Social Platform - The platform of European Social NGOs
- SIP-Bench II project
- European Year of Citizens 2013 Alliance
- EDF – European Disability Forum

**Corporate networks**
- ICT Coalition for the Safer Use of Connected Devices and Online Services by Children and Young People in the EU
- WEP - Women Entrepreneurship Platform

**Research projects**
- FP7 research project “Families and Societies”
**FINANCES & STAKEHOLDERS**

**EXPENDITURE**

- Salaries and charges: 45%
- Travel: 35%
- Translation, Interpretation, Publications: 13%
- Rent Office and Charges: 4%
- Administration: 3%

**INCOME**

- EU Progress Program: 54%
- EU Daphne Project: 30%
- Membership Fee: 8%
- Members' Contribution: 5%
- Other EU Projects: 3%
In terms of the internal cooperation, we organised the regular statutory meetings and Working Groups:

Jan 11: Working Group ‘Family and Social policies’ on Societal changes impacting the lives of families, Brussels  
Feb 5-6: Administrative Council meeting, Dublin  
Mar 26: Working Group ‘Inclusive policies for disabled, other dependent persons and their families’ (COFACE-Disability), Bologna  
Jun 3: Executive Bureau and Administrative Council, Brussels  
Jun 4: General Assembly, Brussels  
Jun 5: Working Group ‘Family and Social policies’, Brussels  
Oct 18: Working Group 'Inclusive policies for disabled, other dependent persons and their families' (COFACE-Disability), Brussels  
Dec 10: Administrative Council meeting, Brussels  

**Executive Bureau Members**  
Annemie Drieskens, President  
Eric de Wasch, Treasurer  
Helena Hiila-O’Brien, Vice-President  
Marién Delgado, Vice-President  

**Administrative Council Full Members**  
Elisabeth Potzinger (AT), Annemie Drieskens (BE), Liliane Leroy (BE), Eric De Wasch (BE), Roumjana Modeva (BG), Waltraut Lecocq (CH), Paraskevas Samaras (CY), Sven Iversen (DE), Antonia Torrens (EL), Marién Delgado (ES), Jean-Bernard Audureau (ES), Helena Hiila-O’Brien (FI), Mériaidec Rivière (FR), Noël Gilibert (FR), Maria Klinger (HU), Liz Wall (IE), Gaetano Santonocito (IT), Roland Anen (LU), Peter Grabner (SL), Stanislav Trnovec (SK), Sophia Lövgren (SW)  

**Administrative Council Alternate Members**  
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**COFACE MEMBERS**

**AUSTRIA**
Katholischer Familienverband Österreichs

**BELGIUM**
Association Aidants Proches
Association de parents et professionnels autour de la personne polyhandicapée
Centre d’action laïque
Femmes Prévoyantes 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 Polytékon

**FINLAND**
Vaestolitto

**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
Maman travaille
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
European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants

**GREECE**
Confederation of large families' associations of Greece
Kendro Merimnas Oikoyenias Kai Pediou
Panhellenic housewives union and family

**HUNGARY**
Pro Familia

**IRELAND**
Irish Countrywomen’s Association

**ITALY**
Anziani e non solo
Associazione italiana genitori
Associazione italiana per l’assistenza agli spastici
Il coordinamento dei familiari assistenti "Clelia"
Movimento italiano genitori

**LATVIA**
Latvijas daudzbernu gimenu biedrību apvienība

**LUXEMBOURG**
Association des parents d’enfants mentalement handicapés

**POLAND**
Foundation Houses of Lonely Mothers with Children

**PORTUGAL**
Associação nacional de famílias para a integração pa pessoa deficiente
Confederação nacional das associações de família
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 familares de enfermos de Alzheimer y otras demencias
Confederação espanhola 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

**SWEDEN**
Remarkable Single Parents

**SWITZERLAND**
Pro-XY

**UNITED KINGDOM**
Family and Childcare Trust

**THESE MEMBERS JOINED IN 2013.**