

FAMILIES

ON THE

MOVE

Moving across Europe economically, geographically, socially and digitally



#FamiliesMoveEU

Concept and objectives

COFACE Families Europe would like to host its Annual Conference and General Assembly in Brussels. The theme of the conference will be “**Families on the Move**” to continue driving innovation in family policy and practice in COFACE and beyond, and will take place on Friday 12th May 2017 in Brussels.

Background: Why Families on the Move?

"Families on the Move" was selected as our theme in 2017 to address pressing challenges for families in Europe and beyond. As a European organisation representing the interests of families and striving to build inclusive European societies, we decided to focus on four challenges which require immediate action in the form of policy, legislation and support services to empower families:

-The **economic challenges** of families moving internally in the EU for work reasons, and the need for services and benefits to support them in those moves. Especially households with special support needs which tend to face even more legal, practical, institutional barriers.

-The **digital challenges** posed by the increasing digitalisation of our lives, and the need to empower families to “take back the internet”, namely to shape and influence their digital environment so that families can move freely online in respect of their data privacy and safety.

-The **migration challenges** faced by the EU continent, trying to shape the current debates by highlighting the difficulties of families moving geographically from outside Europe to the EU looking for a safe haven.

-The **social challenges** linked to changing family patterns towards more dual earner households with dual care needs (for children and older parents), and the urgent need to put in place worklife balance policies and legislation which enable families to reconcile these two fundamental aspects of their lives.

We will address these challenges by organizing a series of workshops on four “moves”: **economic, digital, geographic, and social**. For each move, we're bringing together key stakeholders and a variety of perspectives, to firstly discuss the state of play and then pave the way for actions and solutions.

The objectives of our event are multiple:

- Build bridges between policy and practice;
- Promote transnational exchanges and knowledge transfer across EU countries;
- Explore new topics and challenges;
- Better understand the impact of moving families;
- Make the links between emerging family realities and the EU's current policy-making priorities and competences.

Families are on the move in Europe. They are moving economically, digitally, geographically, socially.

For each “move”, we will have a workshop, divided into a morning session on the state of play and challenges, and an afternoon session on the next steps and actions for the future.

1. Economic move.

Portability of benefits and services for families moving within the EU: breaking down key legal and practical barriers.

This workshop will focus on the portability of social security benefits and services for families moving within the EU. While the EU provides common rules to protect EU citizens' social security rights when moving within Europe, there are a number of legal and structural barriers that families face when relocating to another EU Member State. The workshop will explore these barriers and provide some practical recommendations on how to improve the situation and ensure that the rights of EU citizens are respected. The seminar places particular focus on families in vulnerable situations and with higher support needs and will assess their experiences in accessing good quality social services.

2. Digital move.

Empowering families to move freely online: harnessing the full potential of the internet through genuine data portability.

The workshop on “families moving online” will be broken down into a morning and an afternoon session. The morning session would be dedicated to “practical” examples of how families can “freely” move online, be it via “data portability” or open participation to services they use, such as open source services and platforms (encyclopedias, social networks...). The afternoon session will be focused on the regulatory environment and policy initiatives, looking specifically at the implications of the current regulatory framework and how it impacts freedom of movement online, especially with the entry into force of the GDPR, and reflecting on possible future policies necessary to bring about a more open Internet for all.

3. Geographic move.

Separated families moving across borders: how to make the right to family reunification a reality for third country nationals of the EU? The workshop will aim to discuss the right to family reunification in the EU. We will start with an overview and the state of play of family reunification in the UE, including challenges families face at national and local level. In a second part, the workshop will aim to look at the future and discuss about possible actions and next steps that needs to be taken in order to ensure that the right to family reunification can be enjoyed across the EU.

4. Social move.

The societal shift in parenting and working roles: legislation as a driver to achieve worklife balance for all

The workshop focus on the societal move or shift of families towards more dual earners with dual carer needs (for children and older family members), highlighting some research on the state of play and namely worklife balance challenges of 21st century families (juggling family and work, parental burnout, the need for more leaves and flexible work arrangements). After a reality check of emerging challenges, we will focus on some solutions, namely the role of legislation. To this end, we will have the perspective of national and European policy-makers on legislative proposals needed or already under way to support changes in work and welfare to bolster the worklife balance of families, with the views of employers on the matter.

Programme overview

11th May 2017

19.00-22.00

Cocktail and networking dinner: Brasserie Horta – For Belgo-belge experience

12th May 2017

09.00-10.00

Welcome speeches

- Annemie Drieskens, President of COFACE Families Europe
- Ruth Paserman, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Marianne Thyssen, responsible for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills, Labour Mobility
- Céline Frémaut, Minister of Families, Brussels region (tbc)

Description of the four key “moves”: economic, digital, geographic, social.
By COFACE Families Europe Brussels-based team

10.00-12.00

Parallel Workshops - Session 1: “Reality check & State of play”

- 1 - Portability of benefits and services for families moving within the EU: breaking down key legal and practical barriers.
- 2 - Empowering families to move freely online: harnessing the full potential of the internet through genuine data portability
- 3 - Separated families moving across borders: how to make the right to family reunification a reality for third country nationals of the EU?
- 4 - The societal shift in parenting and working roles: legislation as a driver to achieve worklife balance for all

12.00-14.00

Lunch buffet
&

Networking hotspots around the following EU projects:

- Developing the Support Services of Tomorrow for Persons With Disabilities
- Work Autonomy, Flexibility and Work-Life Balance
- Super diversity at the heart of Europe
- eTwinning: turning inclusion into action through teachers European community

14.00-16.00

Parallel Workshops - Session 2: “Actions & next steps”

- 1 - Portability of benefits and services for families moving within the EU: breaking down key legal and practical barriers.
- 2 - Empowering families to move freely online: harnessing the full potential of the internet through genuine data portability
- 3 - Separated families moving across borders: how to make the right to family reunification a reality for third country nationals of the EU?
- 4 - The societal shift in parenting and working roles: legislation as a driver to achieve worklife balance for all

16.00-16.30

Closing plenary

Concluding remarks and panel

Workshop 1 “Economic move”

Portability of benefits and services for families moving within the EU: breaking down key legal and practical barriers.

This workshop will focus on the portability of social security benefits and services for families moving within the EU. While the EU provides common rules to protect EU citizens’ social security rights when moving within Europe, there are a number of legal and structural barriers that families face when relocating to another EU Member State. The workshop will explore these barriers and provide some practical recommendations on how to improve the situation and ensure that the rights of EU citizens are respected. The seminar places particular focus on families in vulnerable situations and with higher support needs and will assess their experiences in accessing good quality social services.

Chair: Dr. Magdi Birtha, COFACE Policy Officer

10.00-12.00	Session 1: “Reality check & State of play” Speakers: Dr. Mara Yerkes Department of Interdisciplinary Social Science, Utrecht University, The Netherlands Dr. Emma Carmel Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, UK Kamil Goungor European Network on Independent Living, Greece Group discussions
12.00-14.00	Lunch buffet & Networking hotspots
14.00-16.00	Session 2: “Actions & next steps” Speakers: Marie Nyssens La Ligue des familles, Belgium Carla Osman DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission Håkan Stoor Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland Group discussions

Workshop 2. Digital move.

Empowering families to move freely online: harnessing the full potential of the internet through genuine data portability.

The workshop on “families moving online” will be broken down into a morning and an afternoon session. The morning session would be dedicated to “practical” examples of how families can “freely” move online, be it via “data portability” or open participation to services they use, such as open source services and platforms (encyclopedias, social networks...). The afternoon session will be focused on the regulatory environment and policy initiatives, looking specifically at the implications of the current regulatory framework and how it impacts freedom of movement online, especially with the entry into force of the GDPR, and reflecting on possible future policies necessary to bring about a more open Internet for all.

Chair: Martin Schmalzried, COFACE Senior Policy Officer

10.00-12.00	Session 1: “Reality check & State of play” Speakers: Dimitar Dimitrov Wikimedia Foundation Joe McNamee EDRi, European Digital Rights Nicolas Collignon&Ricardo Mendes Homebrew Website Club Brussels, crafting an alternative web, Belgium Group discussions
12.00-14.00	Lunch buffet & Networking hotspots
14.00-16.00	Session 2: “Actions & next steps” Speakers: Fabrizio Sestini Next Generation Internet, DG CNECT, European Commission Gloria Gonzalez Fuster VUB Research Group on Law, Science, Technology & Society (LSTS) Philippe De Backer (tbc) State Secretary of Belgium for Protection of Privacy Group discussions

Workshop 3. Geographic move.

Separated families moving across borders: how to make the right to family reunification a reality for third country nationals of the EU?

The workshop will aim to discuss the right to family reunification in the EU. We will start with an overview and the state of play of family reunification in the UE, including challenges families face at national and local level. In a second part, the workshop will aim to look at the future and discuss about possible actions and next steps that needs to be taken in order to ensure that the right to family reunification can be enjoyed across the EU.

Chair: Paola Panzeri, COFACE Senior Policy Officer

10.00-12.00	Session 1: “Reality check & State of play” Speakers: Thomas Huddleston Migration Policy Group Swenja Gerhard Bi-National Families Association, Germany <i>Speaker to be confirmed</i> EMN – European Migration Network Group discussions
12.00-14.00	Lunch buffet & Networking hotspots
14.00-16.00	Session 2: “Actions & next steps” Speakers: Katri Niskanen DG Home Affairs, European Commission Doris Peschke EPAM – European Platform on Asylum and Migration Pauline Chaigne (tbc) UNHCR EU Office Group discussions

4. Social move.

The societal shift in parenting and working roles: legislation as a driver to achieve worklife balance for all

The workshop focus on the societal move or shift of families towards more dual earners with dual carer needs (for children and older family members), highlighting some research on the state of play and namely worklife balance challenges of 21st century families (juggling family and work, parental burnout, the need for more leaves and flexible work arrangements). After a reality check of emerging challenges, we will focus on some solutions, namely the role of legislation. To this end, we will have the perspective of national and European policy-makers on legislative proposals needed or already under way to support changes in work and welfare to bolster the worklife balance of families, with the views of employers on the matter.

Chair: Elena Centemero, Member of Italian Parliament, and Chairperson, Equality and non-discrimination committee, Parliamentary Assembly - Council of Europe

10.00-12.00	Session 1: “Reality check & State of play” Speakers: Olivier Thévenon Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Jessica van Ruitenbergh The Netherlands Trade Union Movement Dr Elke Valgaeren Gezinsbond, Belgium Group discussions
12.00-14.00	Lunch buffet & Networking hotspots
14.00-16.00	Session 2: “Actions & next steps” Speakers: Manuela Geleng DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission Mark Kamperhoff Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany Maxime Cerrutti & Cinzia Sechi Reactions from Business Europe & European Trade Union Confederation Group discussions

Practical information

Event Schedule

Thursday 11th May

19.00-22.00	Networking cocktail and dinner
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Friday 12th May

08.30-09.00	Registration
09.00-10.00	Welcome speeches and description of the four key “moves”: digital, economic, geographical and social.
10.00-12.00	Parallel Workshops - Session 1: “Reality check & State of play”
12.00-14.00	Lunch buffet and networking hotspots
14.00-16.00	Parallel Workshops - Session 2: “Actions & next steps”
16.00-16.30	Closing plenary panel discussion

Registration and fees

Accommodation fee: 1 night (11th of May) for 125 euros

Networking cocktail and dinner fee on Thursday 11th May: 20 euros

Conference participation fee on Friday 12th May:

- COFACE Families Europe members: 25 euros
- Non members: 50 euros
- Students : 15 euros

Please note that different kind of packages are available at the registration page through Eventbrite [here](#).

Networking cocktail and dinner venue

Brasserie Horta, Rue des Sables 20, 1000 Brussels (next to the hotel / Metro De Brouckere / Rogier / Botanique)

A cocktail and a dinner will be organised on the 11th of May, from 19.00 to 22.00, at [La Brasserie Horta](#), the restaurant attached to the famous [Belgian Comic Book Center](#). Fans of Art Nouveau and comic strip enthusiasts will be able to really enjoy its visual pleasures as well as their culinary delights in a very 'Belgitude' way. *For those who would be interested in a visit of this amazing center, we can also organize the booking of tickets for you before the cocktail.*

Hotel delegation

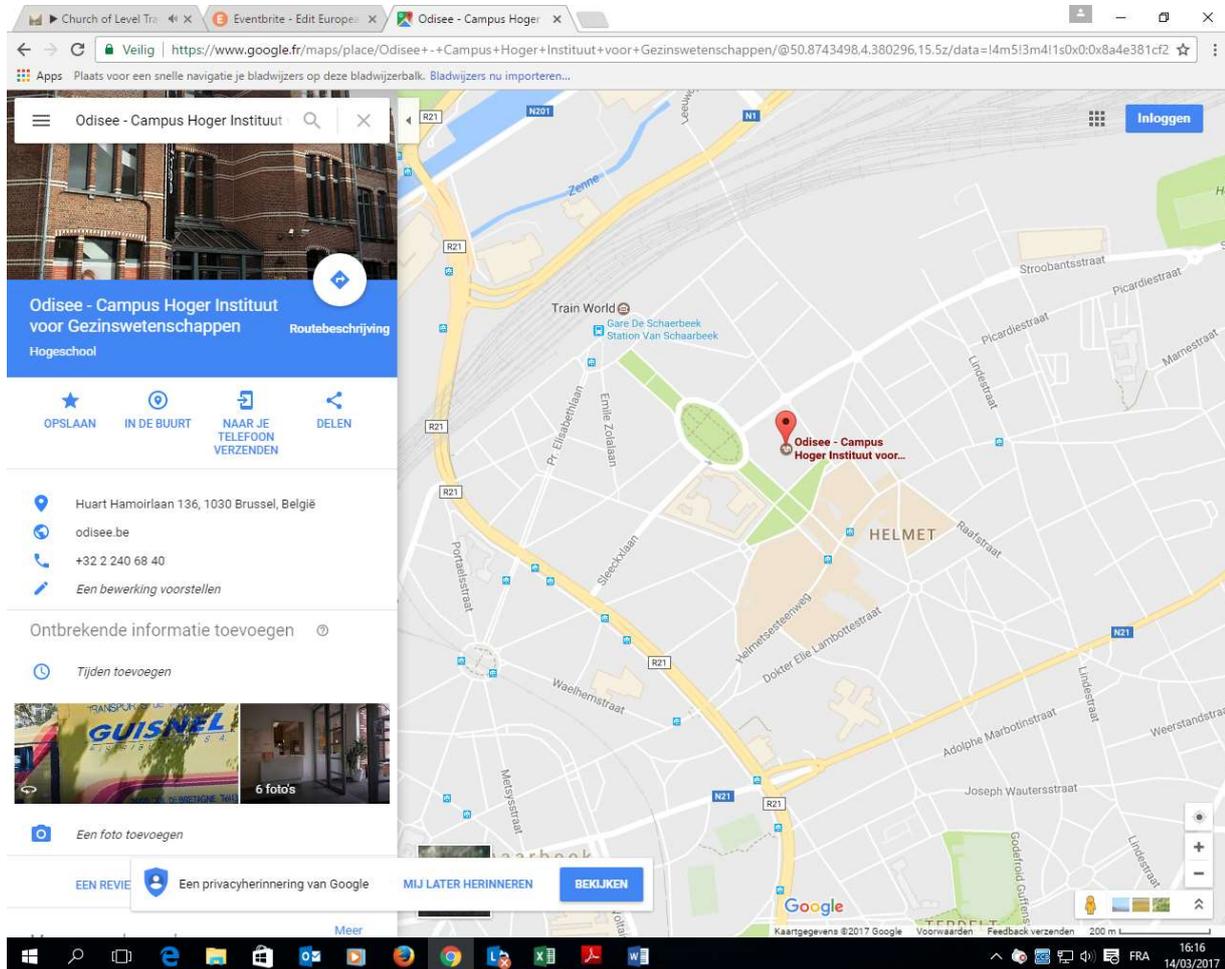
Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Avenue du Boulevard 17, 1210 Brussels

COFACE has pre-booked some rooms at the [Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre](#) (Metro Rogier) that can be booked by you through the on-line registration process. If you need more nights than the one planned on the 11th of May, please contact Florian Charron at this telephone number: + 32 2 511 41 79 or at this e-mail address: secretariat@coface-eu.org

Conference venue

Higher Institute for Family Studies, Avenue Huart Hamoir 136, 1030 Brussels (accessible from Rogier by tram 55, or from the European corner, Maalbeek, by bus 59)

The [Knowledge Center Higher Institute for Family Studies](#) is part of the research group Social Work of Odisee, and conducts research on the living conditions of, and support for, families.



Working language

The working language will be in **English** (no interpretation will be provided).

Social Media

All participants will have the possibility to share comments, questions and personal insights on the conference by using the conference hashtag: **#FamiliesMoveEU**

Twitter: **@COFACE_EU** Facebook (Familles Europe): **/COFACE.EU**

Data protection

Please be aware that all of the conference's sessions may be photographed and recorded. Participants who do not wish to be photographed or being recorded should notify our Secretariat in advance. All pictures and/or videos will be published on [COFACE's website](#) and other social media profiles. A link will be sent to all participants. Each participant may, at any time, request the removal of a picture or video segment containing his or her image.

Refund for members and speakers

For the participants for whom COFACE-Families Europe has already planned to cover partially or integrally their travel expenses, please send us by regular postal service the expenses form you will receive dated and signed, as well as the original documentary proofs (boarding cards of your flight, transport tickets...) within 30 days after the meeting. Unjustified amounts will not be refunded (minibar, telephone expenses...). Thank you for your understanding.

Please send your expenses form and original proofs to Florian Charron, Project and Finance Manager: COFACE-Families Europe, Rue de Londres 17, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Contact

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The information contained in this programme does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.