



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

"Families on the Move" was selected as COFACE Families Europe's 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.

The **digital challenges** posed by the increasing digitalisation of our lives, and the need to empower families to "take back the internet".

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.

The **social challenges** linked to demographic changes, as well as changing lifestyles and family structures raising new issues of work-life balance and care responsibilities.

With the support of:



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. Workshop on 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 workshop 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. Workshop on Digital move

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

The workshop “families moving online” will be broken down into a morning and an afternoon session. The morning session will 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. Workshop on Geographic move

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

This 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 EU, including challenges families face at national and local level. In the 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. Workshop on Social move

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

This workshop will focus on the societal move or shift of families towards more dual earners with dual, or multiple carer needs (for children, older family members, relatives with disability, or other support needs) highlighting some research on the state of play and namely work-life 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 work-life balance of families, with the views of trade unions and 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

08.30 Welcome coffee

09.00-10.00 **Welcome speeches** – *Room Fresia*
 - Annemie Drieskens, President of COFACE Families Europe
 - Céline Fremault, Minister for Families, Brussels-Region Government, Belgium
 - Ruth Paserman, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Marianne Thyssen, responsible for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills, Labour Mobility

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”**

<i>Room Krokus</i>	<i>Room Lelie</i>	<i>Room Iris</i>	<i>Room Fresia</i>
ECONOMIC Portability of benefits and services for families moving within the EU: breaking down key legal and practical barriers	DIGITAL Empowering families to move freely online: harnessing the full potential of the internet through genuine data portability	GEOGRAPHIC Separated families moving across borders: how to make the right to family reunification a reality for third country nationals of the EU?	SOCIAL The societal shift in parenting and working roles: legislation as a driver to achieve work-life 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
- FamCompass 2.0 Assessing and Validating Family Competences
- Migrants in Europe: Restoring Family Links by Int. Committee of the Red Cross

14.00-16.00 **Parallel Workshops - Session 2: “Actions & next steps”**

ECONOMIC (continuation)	DIGITAL (continuation)	GEOGRAPHIC (continuation)	SOCIAL (continuation)

16.00-16.30 **Closing plenary** – *Room Fresia*

Brief summary of key messages from the four workshops
 By COFACE Families Europe Brussels-based team

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

1. Workshop on Economic move

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

Chair: Dr. Magdi Birtha, COFACE Policy and Advocacy Officer

10.00-12.00	<p>Session 1: “Reality check & State of play”</p> <p>Comparing social security portability in the EU: transnational comparison Dr. Emma Carmel, Associate Professor – University of Bath, UK</p> <p>Diverse Families on the Move: barriers and challenges from a citizenship rights perspective Dr. Mara Yerkes, Assistant Professor – Utrecht University, The Netherlands</p> <p>My European Voluntary Service (EVS) without barriers. A worthy challenge Kamil Goungor – European Network on Independent Living, Greece</p>
12.00-14.00	Lunch buffet & Networking hotspots
14.00-16.00	<p>Session 2: “Actions & next steps”</p> <p>Update of social security coordination rules Carla Osman, Legal Officer – DG EMPL, European Commission</p> <p>Experiences of the Nordic cooperation to support citizens moving with their services and benefits Håkan Stoor, Senior legal adviser – Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland</p> <p>Awareness-raising campaigns on the kind of community-based support needed for families moving between cities Marie Nyssens – President, La Ligue des familles, Belgium</p>

2. Workshop on Digital move

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

Chair: Martin Schmalzried, COFACE Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer

10.00-12.00	<p>Session 1: “Reality check & State of play”</p> <p>Online freedom without censorship and harassment - is it really possible? Dimitar Dimitrov – Wikimedia Foundation</p> <p>Divide and conquer - the security of small? Joe McNamee – EDRI, European Digital Rights</p> <p>Empowering individuals through open and decentralized solutions Nicolas Collignon & Ricardo Mendes – Homebrew Website Club Brussels, crafting an alternative web, Belgium</p>
12.00-14.00	Lunch buffet & Networking hotspots
14.00-16.00	<p>Session 2: “Actions & next steps”</p> <p>Internet and Democracy: priorities for research and innovation Fabrizio Sestini – Next Generation Internet, DG CNECT, European Commission</p> <p>Portability under the GDPR: Key requirements and open questions Gloria Gonzalez Fuster – VUB Research Group on Law, Science, Technology & Society (LSTS)</p>

3. Workshop on Geographic move

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

Chairs: Paola Panzeri, COFACE Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer & Anais Faure Atger, Head of Unit, Red Cross EU Office

10.00-12.00	<p>Session 1: “Reality check & State of play”</p> <p>The right to family reunification: figures and trends in the EU Thomas Huddleston, Programme Director – Migration Policy Group</p> <p>Exercising a right: challenges and experiences from the ground. The German example Swenja Gerhard – Association of Binational Families and Partnerships, Germany</p> <p>Family Reunification of Third Country Nationals in the EU: review of National Practices Samantha Arnold, Researcher – European Migration Network (EMN), Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland</p>
12.00-14.00	Lunch buffet & Networking hotspots
14.00-16.00	<p>Session 2: “Actions & next steps”</p> <p>EU law and policy: the role of the EU Commission and upcoming work on family reunification Katri Niskanen, Policy officer – DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission</p> <p>EU law and policy: the perspective and role of NGOs Doris Peschke, Secretary General, CCME and Chair EPAM – European Platform on Asylum and Migration</p> <p>Family reunion for refugees: recommendations to the EU Pauline Chaigne, Senior Policy Associate – UNHCR EU Office</p>

4. Workshop on Social move

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

Chair: Liz Gosme, Director of COFACE Families Europe

10.00-12.00	<p>Session 1: “Reality check & State of play”</p> <p>Walking the tightrope: tensions between work and family commitments in OECD countries Olivier Thévenon, Economist, Social Policy Division – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)</p> <p>Families under increasing pressure in Flanders: lack of time around childbirth Dr Elke Valgaeren, Head of research – Gezinsbond, Belgium</p> <p>Workplace measures on reconciliation in The Netherlands: progress to date and the challenges ahead Jessica van Ruitenburg, Policy Advisor for FNV – The Netherlands Trade Union Movement</p>
12.00-14.00	Lunch buffet & Networking hotspots
14.00-16.00	<p>Session 2: “Actions & next steps”</p> <p>The response of the EU to the work-life balance needs of families: a mix of legislative and non-legislative measures Manuela Geleng, Head of Unit – DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission</p> <p>The reconciliation policy mix in Germany: State of play and future priorities Mark Kamperhoff, Head of Unit EU – Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany</p> <p>Reactions from the Social Partners Maxime Cerrutti, Director of social affairs – Business Europe Cinzia Sechi, Advisor – European Trade Union Confederation</p>

NOTES

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Thursday 11 May

Networking cocktail and dinner venue

Brasserie Horta, Rue des Sables 20, 1000 Brussels (Metro De Brouckere/Rogier)

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.

Friday 12 May

Conference venue

Knowledge Center Higher Institute for Family Studies, Av. 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 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

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