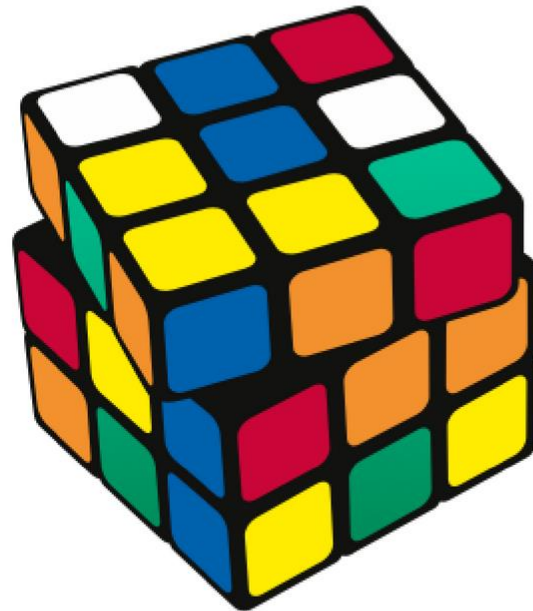


BUILDING SUSTAINABLE AND FUTURE-PROOF EDUCATION SYSTEMS

How can families contribute to a
paradigm shift?

Graz, Austria
4-5 October 2018



Concept

The starting point for the conference is to explore education in a holistic way and bring the family perspective to debates on education, including the core values of COFACE Families Europe: social inclusion, equal opportunities, solidarity, empowerment, human rights and non-discrimination. COFACE Families Europe considers these essential for building inclusive, diverse and sustainable communities in Europe.

Context

- The **Right to Education** has been recognized as a human right in a number of international conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 26), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Articles 13 and 14), and the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 28) which recognises a right to free, compulsory primary education for all, and includes an obligation to develop secondary education and higher education accessible to all. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) defines and guarantees the right to inclusive education.
- The **UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030**. SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning. Education is the key that will allow many other SDGs to be achieved. Inclusive and quality education must therefore be placed as a priority in both policy and practice.
- **Child rights and well-being is a priority for COFACE Families Europe**, and this includes in the field of education. Member organisations of COFACE Families Europe provide different types of **services to families** to help them support the well-being of their children, including support in addressing challenges linked to the education of their children.
- Education is a hot topic at EU level, with principle 1 of the recently proclaimed **European Pillar of Social Rights** focusing on Education, training and life-long learning: “Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market.”

Conference objectives

The combination of international human rights obligations, the momentum around the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the newly proclaimed European Pillar of Social Rights, and the importance of education for COFACE Families Europe, means the time is right for us to contribute to promoting education where children without discrimination can take part in quality and inclusive education, so they can have a good start in life and access better opportunities across their lifecycle.

This conference will look at education holistically, and namely:

- Mainstream the core values of COFACE in discussions on education;
- Examine the role of families as first educators and their support needs;
- Explore the role of families in building sustainable and future-proof education systems;
- Ensure that inclusive and quality education is placed as priority in both policy and practice;
- Contribute to shaping the future education landscape in Europe.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

4th October 2018

19.00-22.00	Welcome reception
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5th October 2018

08.30-9.00	Registrations & coffee
09.00-9.30	Welcome
09.30-10.30	Keynote speakers: what should the paradigm shift look like?
10.30-12.30	Workshop 1 Inclusive education from right to reality: is legislation enough to empower families? or Workshop 2 The transformative power of digitalization in schools: where to draw the line?
12.30-13.30	Lunch buffet & networking
13.30-15.30	Workshop 3 Childcare in the 21st century: at a crossroads between education, family and social policy? or Workshop 4 Parental support services to address discrimination against their children: how can education can contribute to building inclusive societies?
15.30-16.00	Closing plenary exchange

FULL PROGRAMME

4th October 2018

19.00-22.00	Welcome reception supported by the Governor of Styria, Hermann Schützenhöfer - under the Austrian Presidency, with the participation of Barbara Eibinger-Miedl , Provincial Minister for Europe and Economics, Province of Styria, Austria.
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5th October 2018

08.30-9.00	Registrations & coffee
09.00-9.30	Welcome Moderator: Elisabeth Potzinger , President of Styrian Catholic Family Association, COFACE-Administrator Speakers: - Siegfried Nagl , Mayor of the City of Graz, Austria - Juliane Bogner-Strauss , Federal Minister for Families, Women and Youth, Austria - Alfred Trendl , President of the Austrian Catholic Family Association, KFÖ - Annemie Drieskens , COFACE Families Europe President - Video message from Marianne Thyssen , European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility
09.30-10.30	Keynote speakers: what should the paradigm shift look like? Speakers: <i>The contribution of parents to a sustainable and futureproof education</i> By Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger . Psychotherapist, Doctor of Medicine (General Practitioner, Gynaecologist), Head of Education Advice Institute „Fitforkids“ <i>Placing the child at the centre of our education systems</i> By Irmeli Halinen , Director for Educational Innovations, Metodix Oy. Former Head of National Curriculum Development, Finland.

10.30-12.30
Parallel
workshops
Session 1

Workshop 1

Inclusive education from right to reality: is legislation enough to empower families?

With the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as the key reference, this workshop will look at three countries as a starting point for discussions: Luxembourg, Italy and Portugal. These countries have laws on inclusive education. The speakers (from civil society organisations) will share their experience of the pros and cons of legislation, and examine what other elements are essential to achieve real implementation (e.g. funding, trainings in schools, services to families, shift in societal attitudes).

Moderator: **Liz Gosme**, COFACE Families Europe Director

Speakers:

- **Sylvie Hirtz**, Director of APEMH, Luxembourg.
- **Gaetano Santonocito**, Managing Director of A.I.A.S. Città di Monza Onlus, Italy.
- **Isabel Amaro** (Psychologist) and **Maria José Lorena** (Occupational Therapist), Fundação Liga, Portugal.

Workshop 2

The transformative power of digitalization in schools: where to draw the line?

The experience of the European eTwinning programme will set the scene of the workshop, giving an overview of overall trends in the teaching world. The role of technology to drive innovation in teaching and learning will be examined, from both the perspective of teachers and parents, as well as the potential of partnerships between teachers and families to address emerging challenges together so the full benefits of technology can be harnessed.

Moderator: **Martin Schmalzried**, Policy and Advocacy Manager, COFACE

Speakers:

- **Claire Morvan**, Communication Manager, eTwinning, Europe.
- **Julien Léonard**, Expert, Union Nationale des Associations Familiales, UNAF, France.

12.30-13.30

Lunch buffet & networking, supported by the Mayor of Graz, **Siegfried Nagl**.

13.30-15.30
**Parallel
workshops
session 2**

Workshop 3

Childcare in the 21st century: at a crossroads between education, family and social policy?

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), in other words care provision and education of very young children (below primary school age) outside of their family and home setting, is still lacking in many countries. This is especially the case for children below the age of 3. This workshop will bring local, national and EU realities together to explore synergies and pave the way for building holistic childcare services accessible to all children.

Moderator: **Paola Panzeri**, Policy and Advocacy Manager, COFACE

Speakers:

- **Kurt Hohensinner**, City Councillor for Families, Youth, Education, childcare and social affairs, Member of the City Government, Graz, Austria.
- **Sven Iversen**, Director of the Association of German Family Organisations (AGF), Germany.

Workshop 4

Parental support services to address discrimination against their children: how can education contribute to building inclusive societies?

This discussion will put the focus on parents and education. By exploring education as a family project, we will examine some of the challenges which parents face when their children are discriminated (e.g. bullying) and the consequences. That same holistic approach will be used to consider the potential of multi-level partnerships to support children, parents and teachers to jointly tackle diversity in schools.

Moderator: **Astrid Ebenberger**, KFÖ-Vice-President

Speakers:

- **Livia Járóka**, Member of European Parliament, Hungary.
- **Antonia Torrens**, Director of KMOP (Family and Childcare Centre), Greece.

15.30-16.00

Closing plenary exchange: Where do we go from here? A final discussion with members of COFACE Families Europe

Concluding remarks by **Elisabeth Meixner**, Head of Educational Directory of Styria, Austria.