

## ***COFACE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING***

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Venue: Online meeting through Survey Hero due to the Covid-19 crisis

### **Draft minutes**

**Participants :**

**Chantal BRUNO**, COFACE-Disability Platform, APF (FR)  
**Eric DE WASCH**, Gezinsbond (BE)  
**Annemie DRIESKENS**, President, Gezinsbond (BE)  
**Virginie DURIN**, Treasurer, Familles de France (FR)  
**Amaia ECHEVARRIA**, UNAF (ES)  
**Peter GRABNER**, Family Initiative (SI)  
**Sven IVERSEN**, AGF (DE)  
**Kinga JOO**, NOE (HU)  
**Eija KOIVURANTA**, Vaestoliitto (FI)  
**Michaela MARKSOVA**, Women For Women (CZ)  
**Anne PAYNE**, ICA (IE)  
**Elisabeth POTZINGER**, KFÖ (AT)  
**Mériadec RIVIÈRE**, UNAF (FR)  
**Gonçalo SOLLA**, Fundação LIGA (PT)  
**Silvija STANIC**, Step By Step (HR)

**Secretariat:**

**Elizabeth GOSME**, Director  
**Florian CHARRON**, Senior Project and Finance Manager  
*Irene BERTANA, Policy and Advocacy Officer*  
*Nienke BROEKSTRA, Project and Advocacy Officer - DigiGen*  
*Pascual MARTINEZ, Policy and Advocacy Officer*  
*Martin SCHMALZRIED, Senior Policy and Advocacy Manager*  
*Isabell WUTZ, Communication Officer*

***Note: With 14 AC members being represented, the quorum is reached for all the following decisions taken. The meeting documents are in the Members' area of the COFACE website.***

### 1.AC1 2020 Draft minutes **for adoption**

There is no comment and both the agenda and the minutes are adopted (14 votes, 13 in favour, 1 abstention).

### 2. COFACE workplan and budget 2021 - for adoption. **For adoption.**

#### Comments/Discussion

Sven Iversen:

- What exactly are "teleworking bursaries"? This is only a minor question for personnel interest: Do the employees get additional money when they work at home? How is this calculated?
- How come, that there are so much lower costs for catering than the years before? Has there been a structural change that lead to a drop of 30%?
- Heading 3 "overhead DigiGen": Where do we find this in the budget as income or (if not income) where are the actual expenses? Are there higher rent costs for the office than being put into Heading 4 of the EASI budget?

Elizabeth Gosme & Florian Charron:

-We successfully applied for bursaries for April-May-June this year which are, following a recent Belgian regulation, slightly higher than the usual teleworking bursary (around 125 euros/month/staff member - a fixed rate) linked to the corona situation. For the details of the policy, namely how it is implemented and calculated, see here: <https://www.rsz.fgov.be/fr/employeurs-et-onss/mesures-coronavirus/indemnite-pour-travail-la-maison>

-For the difference about the catering budget line between 2019 and the one for 2020-2021, we had to take into account what real costs were in 2019. It appears that we put a bit too much in 2019 on catering and not enough on travel / accommodation costs, that is why we are proposing something which we think is better balanced according to our most recent experience: less budget on catering, and more on travel / accommodation (hoping that the Covid-19 situation will be better of course). We will add this clarification in the explanatory budget note for the General Assembly.

-EaSI / DigiGen: we have decided to organise the budget accordingly to the existent funding streams (and thinking also that other funding streams like Erasmus+ could also happen later in the year or in 2021). Sometimes the costs can coincide and be shared (like for admin costs such as rent of the office you have mentioned), and sometimes not. For next year we could think about organising the budget differently, especially if COFACE gets funding from other EU programmes. Most of the DigiGen budget goes to staff costs for the COFACE DigiGen project officer.

Kinga Joo: She sees no continuation of the theme "families in vulnerable situation" - the topic of the expert meeting in Budapest. This is worrying as most probably in an after crisis situation many families will face difficulties, so we cannot continue with "business as usual". We need to adapt our



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programs and field of activities to meet the needs of families, besides of course fulfilling the duties of the ongoing EU funded projects.

Elizabeth Gosme clarified that families in vulnerable situations would be covered in 2021.

-In terms of 2021 events, this will be addressed through the economic event in May 2021 which will inevitably focus on poverty, and the Ljubljana event with Family Initiative in September 2021 which will focus on investing in children (including children in large families).

-In terms of general advocacy: we are fighting daily on financial inclusion, pushing for the Child Guarantee (including with the seminar in Berlin on 29<sup>th</sup> September – with the German ministry already confirmed, supporting anti-poverty and child-poverty actions throughout the Brussels arena and beyond, pushing also for adequately paid family leaves. To mention just a few of actions to defend families in vulnerable situations.

-The Digital Family Lab is focused on family support programmes, and we intend to have one webinar/month focusing on the work of different COFACE members to help them connect and consolidate. It would be great if NOE could present in one of these webinars how it supports large families? You could focus on a specific programme or project you run, or run by the government.

**Adoption: The 2021 workplan and budget are adopted (14 votes, 13 in favour, 1 abstention).**