



The European Family Support Network

A European perspective on family support

EurofamNet COST
Action final brochure

1. The network

1.1 Description of the Network

The Action aims to inform family support policies and practices with the ultimate goal of ensuring children's rights and families' well-being by building collaborations between researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, children and families, public and private agencies, and general society.

Structure

The European Family Support Network (EurofamNet) is a bottom-up, evidence-based, multidisciplinary network funded as an Action (CA18123) under the COST program.

Principles

EurofamNet is a pan-European family support network focused on family support policies and practices that works under the following principles:

RIGHTS ORIENTED

ETHICAL PRACTICE

MULTI & CROSS-SECTORAL
MULTI & INTER-DISCIPLINARY

POLICY & PRACTICE AWARE

EVIDENCE- INFORMED

PLURALIST APPROACH TO RESEARCH
& EVALUATION DESIGN

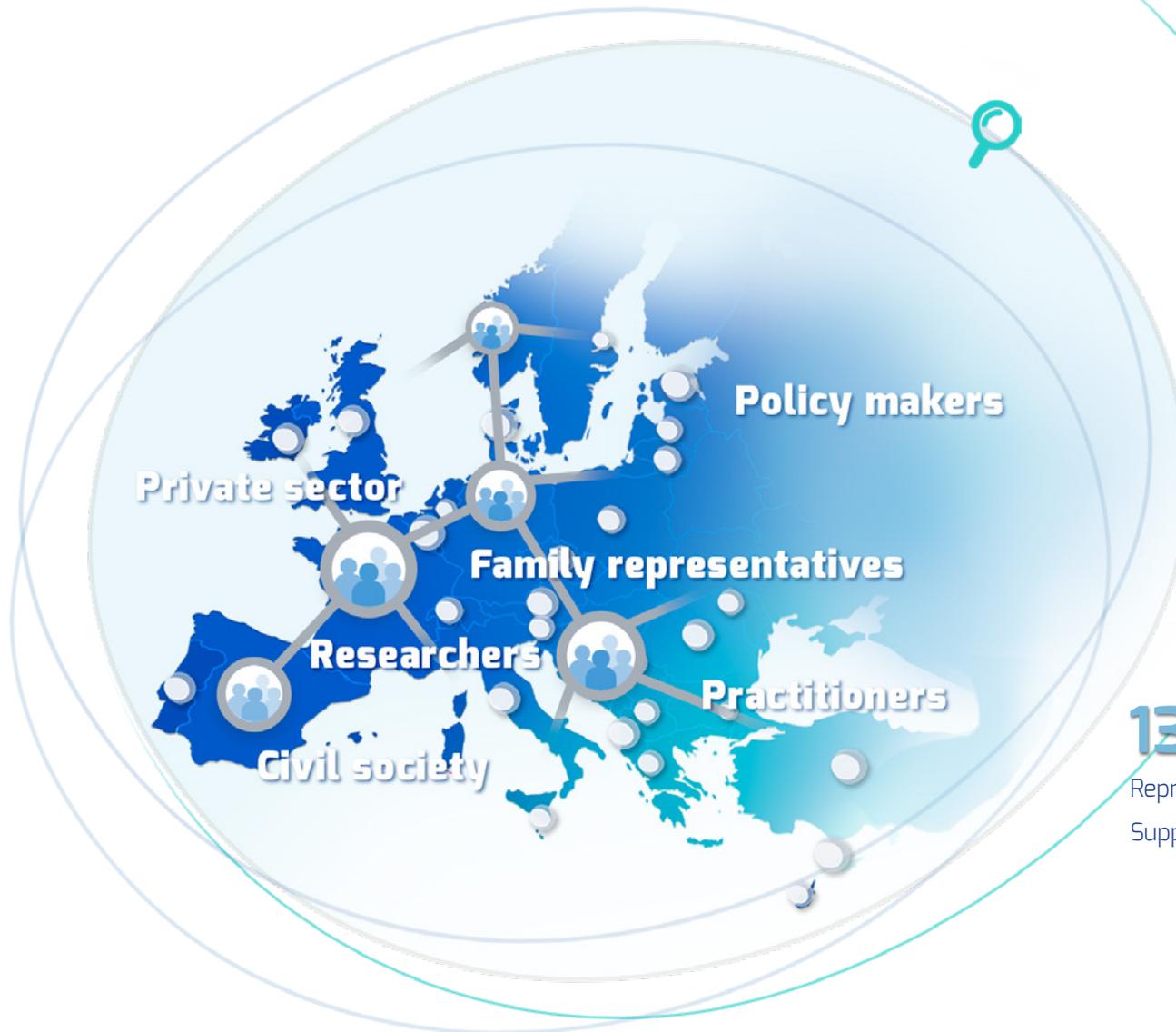
INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE



1.2 Network objectives

- **To produce an innovative conceptual framework** for family support research.
- **To enable frontier-knowledge** responses to parenting across the life-course and in particular to challenges faced by families affected by migration (including intra-European one), psychosocial risk, mental health issues, or that are multicultural or diverse in structure.
- **To support the professionals and the policy making institutions** in family support with high quality knowledge adapted to their needs from a trans-national collaboration framework.
- **To mobilise a critical mass of researchers** across Europe for family support research, working through coordinated activities that are multidisciplinary and inclusive.
- **To contribute with high quality training** of the future generations of European researchers in the field of family support from an evidence-based and pluralistic approach.
- **To fully incorporate ICT** (information and communications technologies) approaches in family support, in the whole Action as well as through the involvement of ICT engineers in the Network. To make the use of new technologies visible in family online support research.
- **To raise awareness** among key European and international stakeholders in family support by involving them into the Action and disseminating internationally with interactive tools.

1.3 Map of Action participants



171 participants

140 full members + 31 associate members

From academia, front-line practice and policy sphere involved in EurofamNet activity

35 countries

Building bridges within Europe and beyond

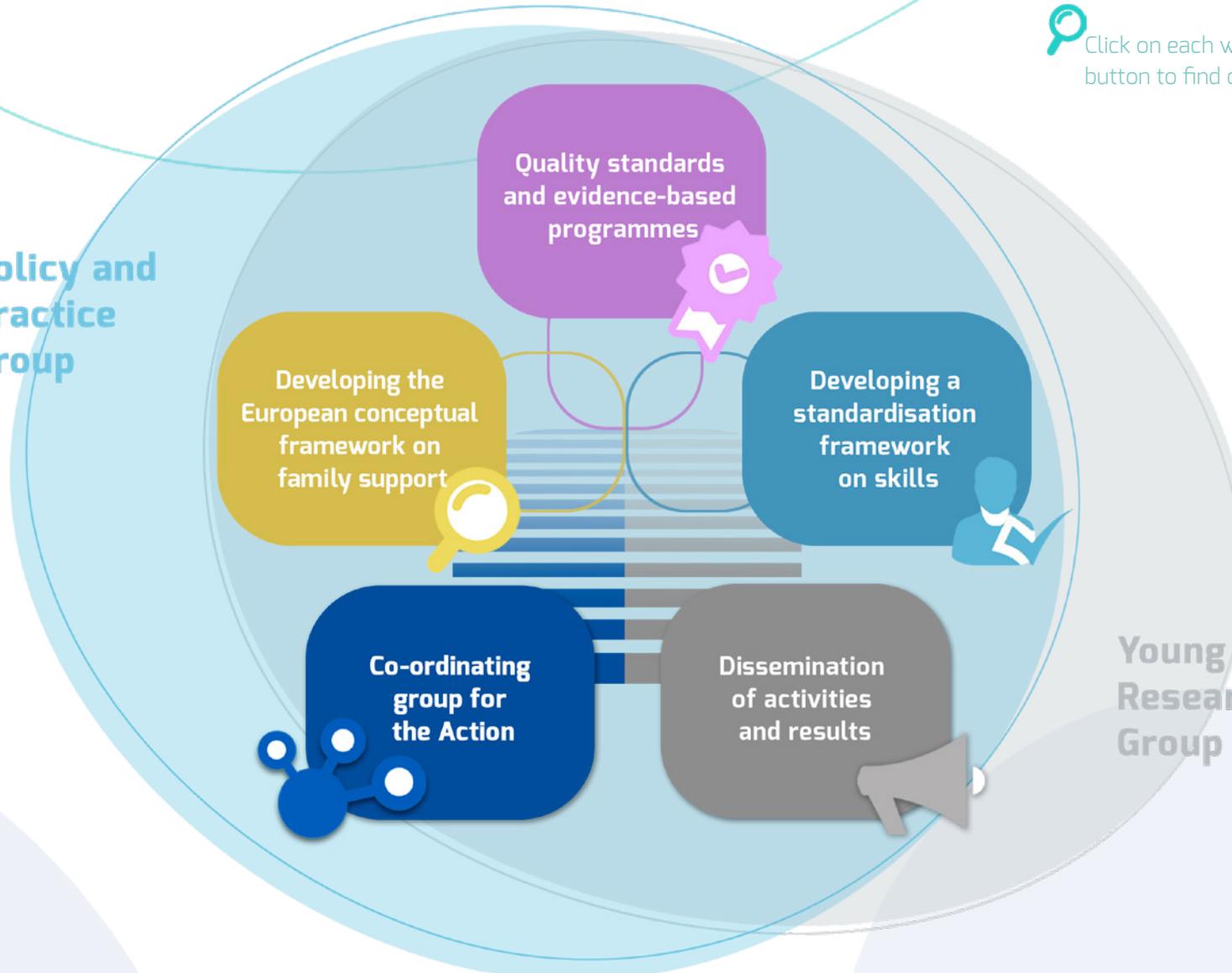
13 European organizations

Representing relevant European institutions in Family Support arena

1.4 Graphic description of Working Groups

 Click on each working group button to find out more

 **Policy and Practice Group**



Young Researchers Group 

1.5 Deliverables of the Working Groups

WP1	Co-ordinating group for the Action	May 19	Nov 19	May 20	Nov 20	Nov 21	May 22	Nov 22	May 23
		Oct 19	Apr 20	Oct 20	Oct 21	Apr 22	Oct 22	Apr 23	Oct 23
	Management Committee meetings	1 st and 2 nd meeting	3 rd meeting	4 th meeting	5 th and 6 th meeting	7 th meeting	8 th meeting	9 th meeting	Final conference
	Eurofamnet principles	Foundational document							
	Eurofamnet structure	Launching	Map european stakeholders		Monitoring report		Monitoring report		Sustainability report
	Action results				Intermediate brochure				Final brochure
	Developing the European conceptual framework on family support								
	Family support organization and delivering				Research report Policy brief	Academic paper Policy brief			
	New realities and families targeted-needs				Stakeholders workshop		Academic paper Policy brief		
	Quality standards and evidence-based programmes								
	Programmes quality standards		Map of agencies		Research report Policy brief		Training school	Academic paper	
	Evaluation strategies position				Research report Policy brief		Training school		
	Evidence-based programmes				Stakeholders workshop Catalogue		Training school	ICT-focused academic paper	
	Evaluation tools						Catalogue	Academic paper	
	Developing a standardisation framework on skills								
	Skills standards for workforce in family support		Map of agencies		Academic paper Research report Policy brief				
	Standardisation framework on family support workforce skills						Stakeholders workshop	Catalogue Academic paper Policy brief	Training school
	Dissemination of activities and results								
	EurofamNet dissemination strategy	Foundational document			Monitoring report Dissemination activities		Monitoring report Dissemination activities		Monitoring report Dissemination activities compilation
	Interactive platform			Launching					Sustainability report

Click on each deliverable along the Action's timeline to find out more

Working Group 1 + Working Group 5

Management and coordination Click to view all outputs and activities

-  Oversight of all work towards delivery
-  Coordination of actions towards efficiency / effectiveness
-  Network development during Action and towards sustainability
-  Monitoring of participation in the network ensuring mutual training in perspectives, disciplines and methods
-  Mapping key stakeholders in family support at the European and national levels
-  Organisation of Action meetings and knowledge exchange seminars

Dissemination of activities and results Click to view all outputs and activities

-  Launch and ongoing update of the EurofamNet website
 -  Dissemination of the results of the network through various channels
 -  Translation of results to ensure their impact beyond the academic sphere
 -  Development of the members' outputs tool and reports
 - 
 - Instagram
 - Twitter
 - Youtube
 - Facebook
 - Linkedin
- SOCIAL MEDIA

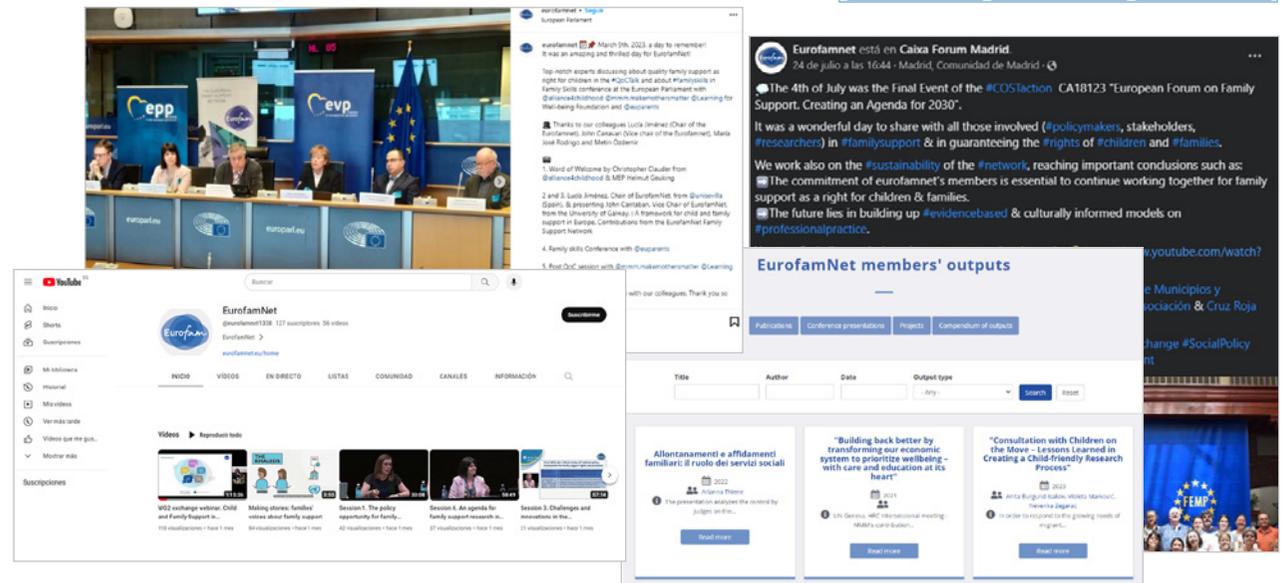


Supporting families to meet children's needs by making quality family support a right for all

4th July 2023 CaixaForum [Madrid]

EUROPEAN FORUM ON FAMILY SUPPORT
Creating an agenda for 2030
Family support research and policy for all children and families

European Action Participants
KEY ACTORS IN FAMILY SUPPORT AT EUROPEAN LEVEL



EurofamNet @eurofamnet1308 127 seguidores · 36 videos

EurofamNet notis en Caixa Forum Madrid
24 de julio a las 16:44 · Madrid, Comunidad de Madrid ·

The 4th of July was the Final Event of the #COStaction: CA18123 "European Forum on Family Support. Creating an Agenda for 2030".

It was a wonderful day to share with all those involved (#policymakers, stakeholders, #researchers) in #familysupport & in guaranteeing the #rights of #children and #families.

We work also on the #sustainability of the #network, reaching important conclusions such as:

- The commitment of eurofamnet's members is essential to continue working together for family support as a right for children & families.
- The future lies in building up #evidencebased & culturally informed models on #professionalpractice.

EurofamNet members' outputs

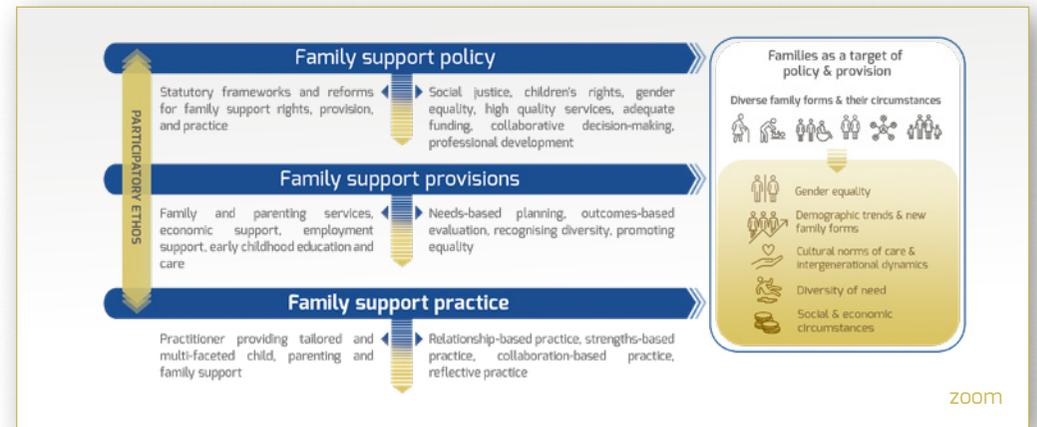
Title	Author	Date	Output type
Allotnamentament a l'afidament familiar: el rollo del servid social	Theresa Ploner	2023	Report
"Building back better by transforming our economic system to prioritize wellbeing - with care and education at its heart"	Uth Gervasi	2023	Report
"Consultation with Children on the Move - Lessons Learned in Creating a Child-Friendly Research Process"	Anna Berglund, Malin Skarvén, Hanna Lager	2023	Report

Working Group 2

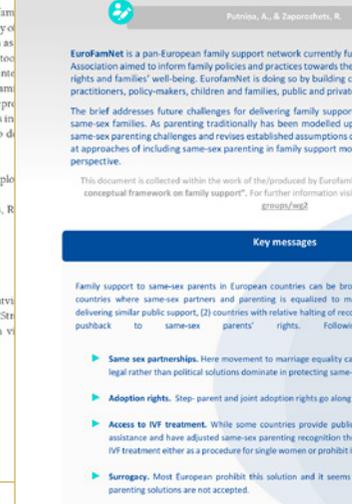
Developing the European conceptual framework on family support

Click to view all outputs and activities

- Family support conceptualisation
- Family support policies and provision across Europe
- New realities and families' targeted needs



ZOOM



Working Group 3

Quality standards and evidence based programmes

Click to view all outputs and activities

- Evaluation strategy
- Quality standards
- Evidence-based Practices
- Evaluation tools
- ICT in family support



Eurofam

Evidence-based family and parenting support evaluation strategies: The position of EurofamNet

- A pluralistic approach to the development and refinement of evaluation methodologies is a necessity, not a luxury**
- Evidence-based programmes should be available for all families, in a wide range of intensity of interventions, to adequately address each family's needs and characteristics**
- In community-based services, family support practices nest effective prevention efforts with real-world dynamics**

Agreed and formally approved at MC level on 30th June 2022

cost EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the European Union

Working Group 4

Skills standards for workforce in family support

Click to view all outputs and activities



Skills standards for workforce in family support



Standardisation framework on family support workforce skills

Map of international agencies on family support workforce skills standards

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKFORCE SKILLS STANDARDS: INFORMATION SOURCES

agencies | linked documents

Domain: Any | Sector: Any | Level of Organization: Any

- acvcp** - Association for Child & Youth Care Practice (ACYCP)
- Better Care Network (BCN)** - Service provider, Public Policy Maker, Education/Training, Methodological Coordination & Supervision
- CanChild** - Centre for Childhood Disability Research - CanChild, Wellbeing and Occupational Therapy
- CR&DALL**
- ChildFamily WellBeing**
- CHILD & YOUTH CARE CERTIFICATION BOARD** - Child and Youth Care

Eurofam

Systematic review of Family Support workforce skills: conceptualization, process, and findings

Research report

Updated on March 30th, 2021

Agreed and formally approved at Management Committee level on 18th June 2021

cost - European Cooperation in Science and Technology

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union

Eurofam - European Family Support Network

Policy Brief

20th July 2022

Family support workforce skills: A scope review of books and handbooks

Ana Pereira Antunes, Ines Pereira, Romãkoviči & Mubumba Kubwira

EurofamNet is a pan-European family support network currently funded as a COST Action by the COST Association aimed to inform family policies and practices towards the ultimate goal of ensuring children's rights and families' well-being. EurofamNet is doing so by building collaborations between researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, children and families, public and private agencies, and general society.

The WGA is committed to "developing a standardisation framework on skills" and a work task was to analyse the existing professional practice skills to systematise the skills used in the family support field of action. This policy brief presents the results of a review on the family support workforce skills published in handbooks and books (Antunes et al., 2021), which was developed to complement a previous systematic review on the topic (Burgard et al., 2021; Zagarac et al., 2021).

This document is collected within the work of this (produced by EurofamNet) WGA "Developing a standardisation framework on skills".

For further information visit: <https://eurofamnet.eu/working-groups/wga/>

Key messages

- Professional family support encompasses a wide range of interventions and human resources. So, the knowledge and the development of family support skills is crucial to effective practice. However, despite that assumption, we found:
 - A lack of standardised guidelines for family support workforce skills.
 - The family support professional skills presented in three main scientific areas: Mental Health, Psychology and Social Work.
 - And specific contents about Knowledge Development, Intervention, Research and Practice, and Assessment.
- Related to family support workforce skills some recommended readings were collected:
 - Forrestal, D., Wilkes, D., & Whitaker, C. (2021). Multidisciplinary reviewing for working with children and families: A practical guide for early intervention and child protection. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
 - Paterson, J., Williams, L., Edwards, T., Channon, L., & Small-Groves, C. (2016). Essential skills in family therapy: From the first interview to termination (3rd ed.). Guilford Press.
 - Tombalis, B. (2015). Family assessment handbook: An introduction and practical guide to family assessment (2nd ed.). Brooks/Cole.
 - Tombalis, B. (2012). Social work skills and knowledge: A practice handbook (3rd ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.
 - Uhlen, P., & Hagg, A. (2012). Effective social work with children and families: A skills handbook. Sage.

AMALGAM QUALITIES

- Integrity
- Commitment
- Flexibility
- Non-judgmental
- Engagement with family members and professionals
- Managing emotionally demanding situations
- Ethical stance & conduct
- Empathy & compassion

PERSONAL TRAITS

CORE & FIELD SPECIFIC PS SKILLS

- PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION
- SET OF EMPATHIC SKILLS
- ADVOCACY & EMPOWERMENT
- GOOD LISTENING
- PROBLEM SOLVING
- USER-FRIENDLY COMMUNICATION
- INFORMING & REFERRAL
- MANAGING CRISIS
- DOCUMENTATION & REPORTING



2. EurofamNet outputs

2.1 Toolbox

8 Research reports 🔍

2 Special issues 🔍

15 Academic papers 🔍

12 Policy briefs 🔍

10 Practice resources 🔍

2 Training School resources 🔍

5 Videos with Voices from the Frontline 🔍

Compendium of EurofamNet members' outputs 🔍



2.1.1 Special issues, academic papers and research reports

Special issues

Home / Archives / Vol. 21 No. 2: Family Support in the European Context

Vol. 21 No. 2: Family Support in the European Context

This Special Edition of SWKSSR is dedicated to furthering our understanding of family support across Europe. The work springs from an informal group of scholars, practitioners and policy makers who met initially under the auspices of UNESCO in Paris in 2015. The group kept working and growing since then, creating the European Family Support Network. The network developed an application to the EU COST programme: this application (using the acronym: Eurofam-Net) was approved in 2018, and has funded a number of workstreams which involve representatives from 35 countries across the continent (they can be viewed on the website: <https://eurofamnet.eu/>).

Published: 2020-05-18

Open Journal Systems

Subscription

Information

For Readers

For Authors

For Librarians

Introduction: European Family Support Network (Eurofam-Net)

Nick Frost, David Herrera-Pastor, Nevenka Zegarac

Evaluation of Programmes under the Positive Parenting Initiative in Spain: Introduction to the Special Issue

Maria J. Rodrigo, Victoria Hidalgo, Soledad Byrne, Isabel M. Bernedo, and Lucía Jiménez

Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain; Universidad de Sevilla, Spain; Universidad de Málaga, Spain

Psicología Educativa

Part of the PKP|PS

3-4

Abstract: The prevention science has evolved standards for evidence related to research on programme evaluation. However, some controversies persist regarding its application in the provision of family support under the European Positive Parenting Initiative. This special issue aims to raise the requirement of prevention family support programmes in Spain and to control the quality of the evidence against the prevention standards according with the European Family Support Network. Members of the Spanish Family Support Network made eight studies in several sectors identified 37 programmes implemented in Spain and filled in a formative evaluation sheet for each programme. The articles in this issue analyze the results of four case studies in all programmes: description, implementation, evaluation, and impact/sustainability. The findings will define the scope and variety of support provided and the quality of programmes in Spain, providing guidelines for implementation and addressing challenges to reinforce quality evidence in child and family services.

Keywords: Evidence-based programmes, Parenting support, Family support

Abstract: La ciencia de la prevención avanza los estándares de evidencia relativa a la investigación en evaluación de programas. Sin embargo, hay aún controversias en cuanto a su aplicación a la prestación de apoyo familiar bajo la iniciativa europea de la parentalidad positiva. El número especial tiene por objeto mejorar la calidad de los programas preventivos de apoyo familiar en España y comparar la calidad de las pruebas con los estándares de prevención de la Red Europea de Apoyo Familiar. Los miembros de la Red Española de Apoyo Familiar de nueve familias por entidades de sector, identificaron 37 programas que se aplican en España y completaron una ficha de evaluación formativa para cada programa. Los artículos de este número analizan los resultados de cuatro aspectos principales de todos los programas: descripción, implementación, evaluación e impacto/sostenibilidad. Los resultados describen el panorama y variedad del apoyo brindado y la calidad de los programas en España, proporcionando orientaciones sobre mejores y abordando los desafíos para mejorar la garantía de calidad en los servicios para la infancia, adolescencia y familias.

Papers and reports

Evidence-based family and parenting support evaluation strategies: The position of EurofamNet

A pluralistic approach to the development and refinement of evaluation methodologies is a necessity, not a luxury

Evidence-based programmes should be available for all families, in a range of intensity of interventions, to adequately address each family needs and characteristics

In community-based services, family support practices nest effective prevention efforts with real-world dynamics

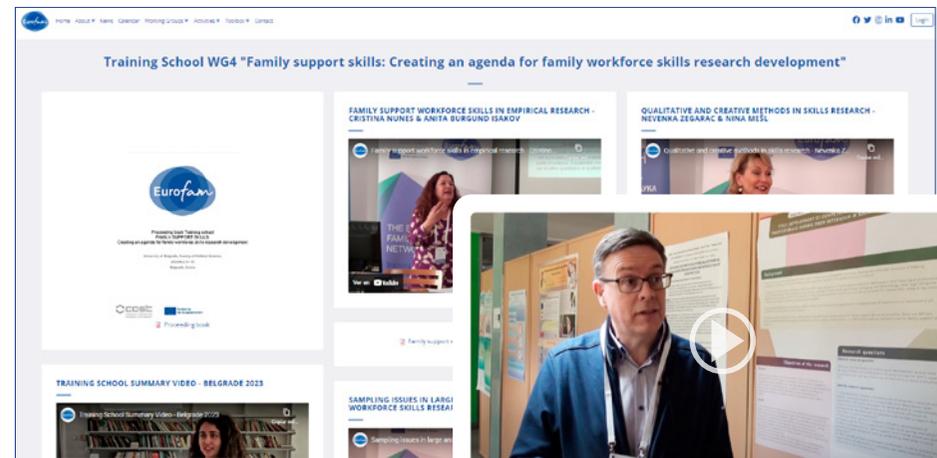
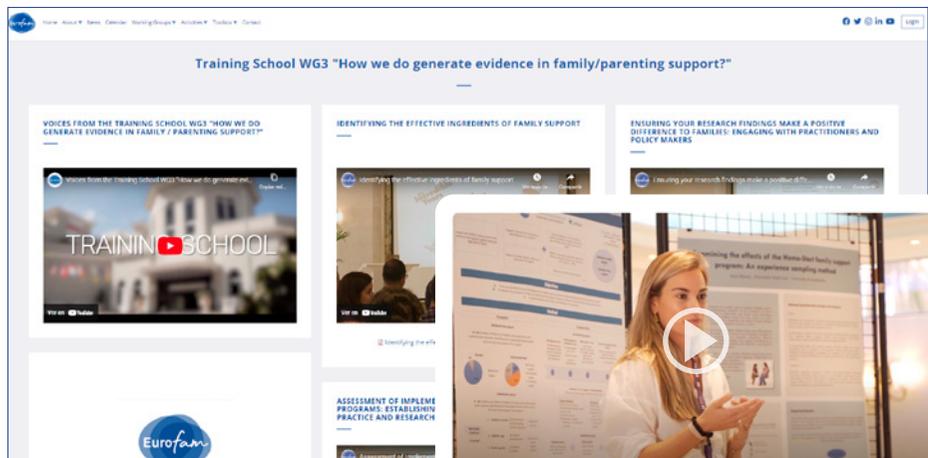
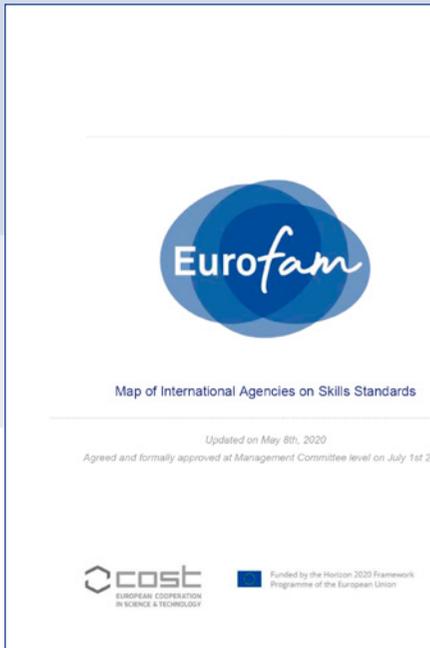
The Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Family Support across Europe: A Narrative Review

Ana Catarina Canário, Soledad Byrne, Eliška Kodyšová, Borek Bureš, Bismillah Akik, Aleksandra Lewandowska-Walter, Koraljka Modić Stanke, Ninelava Peñik, and Patty Lejten

Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to deliver parenting and mental health support services to families. This narrative review illustrates the diverse ways in which ICT is being used across Europe to provide family support to different populations. We distinguish between the use of ICT in professional-led and peer-led support and provide implementation examples from across Europe. We discuss the potential advantages and disadvantages of different ways of using ICT in family support and the main developments and challenges for the field more generally, guiding decision-making as to how to use ICT in family support, as well as critical reflections and future research on its work.

Keywords: information and communication technologies; ICT; family support; psychoeducative; online self-directed programs; programs delivered through videoconferencing; professional-led support; peer-led support

2.1.2 Policy briefs, Practice and Training School resources



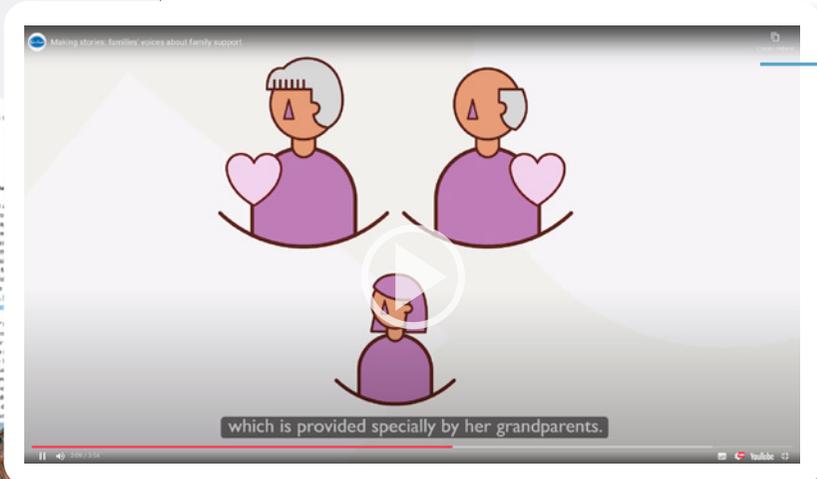
2.1.3 Voices from the frontline

EurofamNet has the commitment to really listen to the voices of children and families, in order to incorporate their views, experiences and needs in our work towards our ultimate goal of improving the lives of families and children

The screenshot shows the EurofamNet website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, News, Gender, Rising Group, Advisory, Toolkit, and Contact. Below this is a search bar and social media icons. The main content area is titled "Voices from the frontline" and features several article cards:

- Making stories: families' voices about family support**: Includes a video thumbnail for "THE KHALEDs" and text describing EurofamNet's commitment to academic outputs and practice resources.
- The Family Education and Support Program (FAS)**: Features a video thumbnail of a man speaking and text about Spanish members developing this video to share good practice in supporting families at psychosocial risk in Spain.
- Family diversity and COVID-19: The voice of the professionals**: Includes text about the challenges of the pandemic and the importance of family support, along with a video thumbnail of a man.
- Supporting families of young children through the "Growing up Together" programmes: Parents' and practitioners' voices**: Features a video thumbnail of a young child and text about the Centre for Parenting Support's work.
- Supporting Roma girls and families: RomaMATEr experience**: Includes a video thumbnail of a woman and text about the RomaMATEr initiative.

At the bottom of the page, there are logos for COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) and the European Union.



Making stories: families' voices about family support



Supporting families of young children through the "Growing up Together" programmes: Parents' and practitioners' voices

2.2 Activities

Click on each blue button to expand the information

EurofamNet meetings

[View more](#)

EurofamNet workshops and open events aimed at society at large

[View more about Workshops](#)

[View more about Open events](#)

STSMs

[View more](#)

ITCs

[View more](#)

Dissemination Conferences Grants

[View more](#)

Newsletters

[View more and Subscribe](#)

Virtual Networking Tools

[View more about Support Grants](#)

[View more about Mobility Grants](#)

Training Schools

[View more](#)

EurofamNet has participated in

EurofamNet on social media

[View more and Subscribe](#)

3. Sustainability of the Network

Mid and long-term plan for sustainability

Actions

- **Undertake** networking Events
- **Develop** tools for practice
- **Increase** the multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral nature of the action
- **Implement** EurofamNet recommendations and outputs at national level
- **Influence** policy
- **Involve** parents, young people and children in the network in an ethical and meaningful way

Goals

- 1 **To support the professionals and the policy making institutions** in family support with high quality knowledge adapted to their needs from a transnational collaboration framework
- 2 **To raise awareness among key European and international stakeholders in family support** by involving them into the Action and disseminating internationally with interactive tools
- 3 **To mobilise a critical mass of researchers across Europe** for family support research, working through coordinated activities that are multidisciplinary and inclusive
- 4 **To enable frontier-knowledge responses to parenting across the life-course and**, in particular, to challenges faced by families affected by migration (including intra-European one), psychosocial risk, mental health issues, or that are multicultural or diverse in structure
- 5 **To contribute with high quality training of the future generations of European researchers** in the field of family support from an evidence-based and pluralistic approach

Immediate next steps

A quality assurance protocol for family support services in Europe. An evidence-based and culturally informed model for professional practice.



Goals

- 1 **To guarantee quality in family support services** by implementing a quality assurance system addressing inequalities in access, experience, and outcomes at country level and across Europe.
- 2 **To apply agreed principles, quality standards and measurable indicators aimed** at improving outcomes in wellbeing and quality of life in children, youth, and families across Europe.
- 3 **To create a national and local led collaborative scenario** to identify challenges, strengths, and need for improvements in the family support services at the country level
- 4 **To develop recommendations** at the European policy level to ensure high quality, evidence-based, and culturally sensitive family support provision

This document is based upon work from COST Action CA18123 The European Family Support Network, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

www.cost.eu

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Any citation of this document should use the following reference:

European Family Support Network (2023). *A European perspective on family support. EurofamNet COST Action final brochure*. EurofamNet

ISBN: 978-84-09-54171-3

