

1. FAMILY POLICY: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 The institutional framework for family policies

i) Current institutional framework for family policy (single Ministry, Government Department or Minister). Names/main functions of the governmental bodies responsible for family policy

Austria

Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth

Azerbaijan

Since February 6, 2006 with the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan there have been established the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA). SCFWCA is the central executive body with the ministerial portfolio which is responsible inter alia for developing and pursuing family policy in Azerbaijan. Main responsibilities of the State Committee are, among others, the followings:

- To ensure protection of human rights and civil liberties, particularly those of women and children and prevent violation of these rights within its authority;
- To implement normative regulation in the relevant field concerning its competencies given by the legislation;
- To participate in elaboration of state programs in the relevant field;
- To ensure implementation of state programs and development concepts within its authority;
- To coordinate other executive bodies' work in the fields within its authority;
- To ensure implementation of the international treaties ratified by the Republic of Azerbaijan within its authority;
- Develop and implement state family policy;
- To explore social problems of refugees and IDPs (children and women) and poor families and involve related state bodies in resolution of these problems;
- To file petitions addressing relevant state bodies to resolve problems of martyr's families who lost breadwinners, as well as single mothers, especially disabled women and children by state bodies;
- Provide training of professionals in the relevant field, development of professionalism and specialization of the Committee staff;
- To apply modern scientific achievements, learn modern international experience, conduct researches and studies in relevant sphere;
- To provide effective use of the budget, credits, grants and other financial resources allocated to deal with problems of families, children and women;
- To take measures within its authority to improve the structure and the activity of the Committee;
- To consider applications and complaints related to the Committee's activity and take measures in accordance with the legislation;
- To fulfil other duties set up by the legislation in accordance with activity directions.

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Belgium

La communauté flamande

Following the constitutional reform of 1980 resulting in the transfer of responsibilities from the federal to the Community level, among others policy issues related to the "support of persons". It was felt that 'family policy' was transferred accordingly to the authority of the Community level governments in Belgium. In practice, major policy instruments (child benefits, leave policies, tax incentives) are still under the responsibility of the federal Government.

At present, the Minister of Well-Being, Health & Family (= WVG) holds to responsibility for family policies on behalf of the Flemish Government. Within his policy domain, Minister S. Vanackere is supported by a Department (= Departement voor Welzijn, Volksgezondheid en Gezin) and various agencies within the Flemish administration. One of the latter (= IVA Kind en Gezin) explicitly monitors child care services and parent support on behalf of this Minister.

La région wallonne

Au sein du Gouvernement wallon, c'est le Ministre de la Santé, de l'Action sociale et de l'Egalité des chances qui est compétent en matière d'action sociale et d'aide aux personnes. La politique familiale n'est pas reprise, en tant que telle, dans les compétences ministérielles.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the RS, Ministry for Family, Youth and Sport of the RS

Under the provisions of Article III.2.e) and Article III.3 (1) and (2) of the FBiH Constitution, the Federation Government and cantons are jointly responsible for social policy (including protection of families with children).

This responsibility is carried out jointly or separately, or the cantons carry it out with coordination by the Federation Government. Under the provisions of the Law on Federation Ministries and Other Federation Authorities (Official Gazette of FBiH, 58/02), the Federation Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs performs administrative, proficient and other duties provided for in the law and related to the duties within the jurisdiction of the Federation; among other fields, also in the field of social policy and protection of family and children.

BD: Government of Brčko District of BiH
Department for Health and Other Services

Bulgaria

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy manages, coordinates and controls the implementation of state policy in the field of social investments, family and demographic policies.

Within the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, since the end of 2005 there is a Directorate for Demographic Policy and Equal Opportunities which is responsible for:

- taking part in the development of methodologies and methodics for monitoring and research of demographic processes and equal opportunities;
- developing policies, regulators and mechanisms for the improvement and assessment of demographic indicators of the country and investment in the development of human capital;
- developing measures, programmes and projects in the field of demographic development, families and children and equal opportunities;
- organising, coordinating, monitoring and analysis of the implementation of the National Strategy for Demographic Development of the Republic of Bulgaria 2006-2020 and the national annual action plans under it and others.

Another state structure with responsibilities regarding families and children is the State Agency for Child Protection.

The State Agency for Child Protection /SACP/ is a specialised body of the Council of Ministers dedicated to the management, coordination and control in the field of child protection. The main powers of the Chairperson of the State Agency for Child protection are: development of state child protection policy together with the institutions in charge of executing childcares; development of and control over the implementation of national and regional programmes related to child protection; organising inspections on the

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observation of criteria and standards for social services for children; inspections on the observation of children's rights in all state, municipal and private schools, kindergartens and crèches, service units, health establishments, Social Assistance Directorates - providers of social services for children and by legal persons with a non-for-profit objectives working in the field of child protection; issuing licenses to natural and legal persons for provision of social services for children; organisation and management of the National Council for Child Protection.

Croatia

Assuming family as the highest social value, Government of the Republic of Croatia undertook important steps with its program action and establishment of the ministry competent for family in 2003, thus creating the institutional and other preconditions to successfully cope with family and professional challenges of a contemporary family.

Authority in the area of family policy is primarily divided between the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, which demands a high level of coordination between these two bodies.

Cyprus

The majority of family policies are the responsibility of the Social Welfare Services, under the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, which provide personal services to families. These policies are augmented by policies and measures implemented by other Departments of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, as well as separate Ministries, listed below.

Other relevant Departments of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance: Social Insurance Services; Department of Labour; Department of Labour Inspection; Department of Labour Relations; Cyprus Productivity Centre.

Other Ministries:

- Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Education and Culture; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Justice and Public Order; Planning Bureau.

The main functions of the Social Welfare Services relating to family policies are:

1. The implementation of legislation and administrative procedures relating to:

- the protection, welfare and best interests of children,
- the provision of public assistance to ensure a socially acceptable minimum standard of living,
- the quality control of residential, day care and other services for children, older persons and persons with disabilities,
- the treatment/probation of juvenile and adult offenders.

2. The organisation, provision and promotion of preventive, supportive and remedial social welfare services aiming at:

- protecting children and promoting their welfare and best interests,
- ensuring a decent standard of living, both economically and socially, for all persons legally residing in Cyprus, encouraging activation and preventing social exclusion,
- strengthening and supporting families in order to enable their members to effectively exercise their roles and responsibilities,
- helping individuals, families and communities to cope with the social problems of changing conditions and facilitating individual and group adjustment,
- preventing and treating social problems such as delinquent behaviour, family violence, substance abuse, etc.

3. The organisation and development of communities and the pursuance of community participation with a view to:

- promoting social development in both rural and urban areas,
- encouraging collective action in identifying and meeting social needs at the local level,
- providing flexible, diverse and decentralised services which meet family and social needs more effectively and efficiently on a local level.

Czech Republic

Welfare of the family and the children falls by law within the competence of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Within the

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Ministry the social policy, social services and family policies section is responsible for family-related policies. A part of this section are the departments of social policy and social services, and of the family policy which is divided into two units: unit for social and legal protection of children (11 officers) and the family policy unit (8 officers). The family policy unit is charged with the preparation of conceptual materials and monitoring of the development of legislative and non-legislative measures which affect the living conditions of families in the Czech Republic. The family policy unit is also involved in the preparation of various projects of a pro-family character (e.g. organizes labelling com petitions, conferences, realizes grant proceedings of the Ministry for non-governmental and non-profit organizations which are active in the filed of family support, acts as the material guarantor during the realization of the family promotion projects financed by the ESF, co-operates with the regions during the realization of regional family-related policies and similar).

Besides the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) the family issues are also addressed by: the Government Council for Equal Opportunities of Men and Women and the Committee for the Rights of the Child. These bodies comprise of representatives of other state departments, non-profit sector, employers and professional public. The function of these bodies is mainly advisory as they have no executive competence.

Denmark

The Danish family policy is administered by different ministries. The ministry of Social Welfare is the overall responsible of any laws and policies within day care institutions and the overall family policy.

The ministry of work is responsible for the parental leave field and the Ministry of Justice is the overall responsible for family laws.

Estonia

Since June 2007 the responsibility for national family policy is in the Ministry of Social Affairs (Labour, Health and Social Affairs). More precisely, the Family Policy unit within the Gender Equality Department is subordinated to the Deputy Secretary General on Family and Social Policy.

Before 2007, the responsibility for all demographic questions including family policy used to be under the responsibility of the Minister of Population and Ethnic Affairs. The minister is a cabinet minister without ministry, but with an office which belongs to the state chancellery – office of prime minister. The office is currently responsible for all demographic questions.

Ministry of Social Affairs covers 3 policy areas: labour, health and social policy. Family policy unit itself is a small unit in the ministry, but around 20 experts from the whole ministry belong to the working group. The unit has the role as a co-ordinator within the ministry and between other ministries.

The first outcome is an analysis on the impact of the national family policy initiatives. Right after the analysis a new development plan for family policy in Estonia will be elaborated.

Finland

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (MSAH) is responsible for family policy.

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France

State Secretariat for Family Affairs attached to the Ministry of Labour, Social Relations, Family Affairs and Solidarity. This secretariat deals with all family affairs questions referred to it by the parent ministry.

Germany

At Federal level, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is the main body responsible for family policy (Federal Minister Dr. Ursula von der Leyen). In addition, there are family ministries in the individual states.

Greece

The family policy in Greece is the subject of more than one authority, without however existing a coordinative body. More concretely, the main institutions that are involved in the planning and implementation of policies for the family and the child are:

- The Ministry of Internal,
- The Ministry of Economy and Finance,
- The Ministry of Employment and Social Protection
- The Secretariat General for Social Security
- Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED)
- Workers' Social Benefits Organisation
- Workers' Housing Organisation
- The Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity which is one of the main authorities applying allowance policy in order to support and strengthen the family. Towards this direction it implements benefits programmes and provides social services.
- The Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs
- In a decentralised level the Local Government Organisations of first and second degree.

With law 3454/2006 the National Council of Family and Population was established, having an advisory and consultative character, aiming at the promotion of public dialogue in basic issues of demographic policy and the proposal of relative measures. With the same law the Institute of Social Demography and Research was founded, aiming at the scientific study of demographic tendencies and developments, as well as the documentation and evaluation of relative policy measures.

Hungary

In Hungary the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is responsible for family policy. The Ministry is responsible for planning, and preparing legal acts connected to family policy. The benefits are administered by the National State Treasury and its territorial bodies, and the National Health Insurance Fund and its territorial bodies.

The Institute for Social Policy and Labour is a statutory, multidisciplinary agency in Hungary. Its responsibilities cover research, development and a wide range of tasks concerned with the coordination and support for implementation of family, youth, and social policies, with the national drug prevention strategy and labour related policies. The Directorate has many different research projects concerning theories related to the practical implications of labour issues, particularly those related to employment, labour relations, working conditions and social problems at the work place. The Directorate also explores different interrelations and regularities of the labour market, and prepares reports, analyses and evaluations on the current state of labour affairs.

It conveys scientific findings and knowledge of the above areas from other countries, participates in international projects, and liaises with institutions abroad, especially with those of the EU and its member states and with the International Labour Organisation.

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Iceland

The ministry for social affairs and social security is responsible for family policies. The local authorities, in association with the Government Agency for Child protection, are responsible for the affairs of children. The local authorities are also responsible for family policies and preventive measures. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the family law. The Ministry of Education is responsible for the pre-school, though the municipalities are responsible for their administration. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for Child Allowances.

Ireland

There is no single ministry responsible for family policy, which spans a number of Departments / Agencies:

Department Social and Family Affairs - responsible for payment of family & child-related income support, maintenance recovery, family policy development, money advice and budgeting service, employment supports services (see also Family Support Agency below).

Department of Education and Science - responsible for education provision, addressing the educational needs of children from disadvantaged communities, measures for children with special educational needs, adult education.

Department of Health and Children - responsible for family support services e.g. parenting programmes, community based initiatives to support families, provision of medical cards, maternity & infant care service, child and adolescent health, support services for families with disabilities, community care, childcare, child welfare and protection, residential and foster care of children, adoption, crisis pregnancy services.

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform – responsible for immigration and integration including how this relates to immigrant families, resettlement programmes for immigrants, equality legislation.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment – responsible for promoting the development and implementation of arrangements and policies to assist workers in combining employment with other aspects of their lives.

The Family Support Agency (under the remit of the Department of Social and Family Affairs) brings together family programmes and services introduced by Government in recent years. Its mission is 'to promote family and community well being through the provision of appropriate supports and services to families'. It:

- Supports and develops the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme.
- Supports marriage and relationship counselling services, child counselling services and bereavement support for families and provides grant aid, to voluntary organisations providing these services.
- Provides a Family Mediation Service for couples who have decided to separate,
- Commissions research into family related matters.

Italy

As regards the policies of parenthood support, it must be underlined that in 2006 Italy created a Department for Family Policies dedicated specifically to this field, under the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

The new Finance Act 2007 introduced a long-term family policy through measures integrating a new network of services with specific tax regimes and economic benefits.

- a) to promote and coordinate governmental policies aimed at ensuring the protection of the rights of the family in all its elements and generational issues, as well as ensuring the implementation of policies in favour of the family in every sphere;
- b) to take the necessary steps for planning, directing, coordinating and monitoring measures for supporting the family;
- c) to promote institutional communication in the area of family policy;
- d) to promote and coordinate governmental action relating to the legal system of family relationships;
- e) to promote and coordinate governmental action aimed at overcoming the demographic crisis and to implement action for the support of motherhood and fatherhood as well as promoting measures to support the family, parenthood and birth rate, with reference to that established by law n. 296, 27 December 2006;
- f) to promote and coordinate, in agreement with the Ministry for Equal Opportunities, the reconciliation of time devoted to work

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and to caring for the family;
g) to promote and coordinate activities relating to family guidance centres, the departmental political authority responsible is delegated to carry out the functions of guidance and systemic coordination in the field of Italian and foreign child adoption. Moreover, it is delegated the functions assigned to the State Ministry of Labour Health and Social Policy to communicate agreements regarding "social security funds for persons who perform work of unpaid care due to family responsibilities".

Latvia

Within the institutional framework for family policy are involved two central government institutions in Latvia - Ministry for Children and Family Affairs and Ministry of Welfare.

Ministry for Children and Family Affairs is a leading government institution in the field of children rights protection, children and family rights and youth. The main functions of Ministry for Children and Family Affairs are:

- provide implementation of state policy in the field of children and family policy;
- coordinate implementation of children and family policy;
- produce the regulatory acts related to the children and family policy;
- cooperate with state and municipalities as well as with non-governmental institutions in the field of children and family policy.

Ministry of Welfare is the leading government institution that is responsible for the development and coordination of the policy of the labour, social security and gender equality in the state. The areas of responsibility of the Ministry of Welfare include social assistance and social inclusion, social insurance and state social benefits, labour policy and gender equality. Within the framework of state family policy Ministry of Welfare organizes, implements and coordinates policy in the field of providing state social benefits and social insurance benefits for families with children and in the field of gender equality.

Lithuania

1. At the Parliament of Lithuania family and children right issues are considered by the Committee of Social Affairs and labour. Since 01 January 2009 Commission of Family and Children Affairs is reorganized.

2. According to the programme of a new elected Government of Lithuania, in 2009 the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (MoSSL) should be reorganized into the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs and this Ministry should become responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the family policies in the country. At the beginning of 2009 a new Division of Family Welfare was established and the Department of Family, Children and Youth was reorganized into the Department of Financial Assistance, Children and Youth.

3. In the MoSSL there is Division of Gender Equality. One of the objectives of this Division is reconciliation of work and family life, especially promotion of family friendly working places. This is implemented through a number of national programmes and financial support from EU Social Structural Fund.

Luxembourg

Le Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration est responsable de la politique familiale.

Les compétences du Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration sont fixées par arrêté grand-ducal du 7 août 2004 portant constitution des Ministères.

1. Famille et politique familiale – Conseil Supérieur de la Famille et de l'Enfance – Formation, médiation, consultation et assistance familiales – Prestations familiales – Caisse nationale des prestations familiales.
2. Protection sociale – Droits de l'enfant – Promotion familiale – Structures d'accueil de jour pour enfants - Placement familial – Internats - Centres d'accueil avec hébergement pour enfants et jeunes adultes – Maisons d'enfants de l'Etat – Centres socioéducatifs de l'Etat – Adoptions – Emplois de proximité – Bénévolat – Groupe Permanent d'Encadrement Psycho-Traumatologique.
3. Politique de la jeunesse – Service National de la Jeunesse – Education non formelle et activités de loisirs – Relations avec les mouvements de jeunesse – Conseil Supérieur de la Jeunesse – Formation d'animateurs et de responsables d'activités de loisirs –

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Service pour jeunes et centres résidentiels - Congé-éducation – Relations avec les communes – Programme d'action communautaire Jeunesse – Méthode ouverte de la coopération dans le domaine de la politique Jeunesse – Infrastructures pour jeunes – Service volontaire Luxembourgeois pour Jeunes.

4. Politique pour personnes âgées – Conseil Supérieur des Personnes Agées – Revalidation gérontologique – Personnes affectées de troubles psycho-gériatriques – Accueil et soins de jour et nuit – Mesures de formation et d'animation dans le domaine des personnes âgées – Accueil et soins palliatifs en milieu extrahospitalier – Formation de compétences individuelles – Maintien à domicile - Etablissement public «Centres, Foyers et Services pour personnes âgées» – Senioren-Telefon – Unité d'orientation et de guidance – Relations du département avec les ONG et les services privés (agrèments, conventions, tarification sociale).

5. Politique pour personnes handicapées – Conseil Supérieur des Personnes Handicapées – Services d'accueil de jour et/ou de nuit, de formation, d'information, de consultation, de travail, de rééducation, d'aide précoce et d'assistance à domicile pour personnes handicapées – Accessibilité - Service des travailleurs handicapés – Ateliers protégés.

6. Intégration des étrangers et action sociale en faveur des étrangers – Commissariat du Gouvernement aux étrangers – Centres d'accueil pour demandeurs d'asile - Foyers d'accueil pour immigrants – Conseil national pour Etrangers.

7. Solidarité – Fonds national de Solidarité – Assistance sociale – Domicile de secours – Surendettement – Foyers pour adultes en détresse – Lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale – Service National d'Action Sociale – Service social de proximité – Accompagnement social – Economie solidaire.

Malta

In Malta the Ministry for Social Policy is responsible for Family Policy. The following government agencies and commissions under the Ministry's umbrella are responsible for the various aspects of the Family policy:

Foundation for Social Welfare Services: The Foundation is responsible for Appogg Agency, Sapport Agency and Sedqa Agency. Its objectives are:

to provide social welfare services, in particular in relation to alcohol and substance abuse and in relation to other social welfare problems prevalent in the country, especially those related to Family Welfare;

to further and promote social and related studies and scholarship, through research, publications and education;

to collaborate with other similar entities, especially, though not exclusively, on a regional and international basis

Appogg Agency: Appogg (within the Foundation for Social Welfare Services) has as its ultimate aim the enhancement of the lives of people in need, through the provision and availability of professional care and support. The services within the Agency give priority and focus on children and their families, adults in need, in vulnerable situations and at risk of social exclusion and the community at large thus ensuring that social networks are strengthened and are more equipped in dealing with the real issues that members of our society, especially children and families, are facing.

Sapport Agency: (within the Foundation for Social Welfare Services) Sapport aims to provide disabled people with support rather than care, so that they would be able to achieve independence to the best of their ability, continue living within the community and receive support as and when required.

Services offered by Sapport include :

The Residential Service - SAPPOR's core service, and with the ultimate aim of independent living in mind, the Agency set out to identify residences based within the community and possibly housing just a few persons within each unit.

The Community Services give support to the disabled person in the family environment and in the community to which s/he is used to, while at the same time giving all available support and consultancy to the family as a whole in a bid to ensure that the disabled person continues living within his/her natural family for as long as possible.

In adherence with the Agency's Holistic and Person-Centred Approach, the Resource Services work hand in hand with the disabled person while striving to design and offer individualised support services that would enable and empower the disabled persons to realize their vision, dreams and hopes in life to enhance their quality of life.

Social Work Services works with disabled individuals and their families/carers to deal with their social problems in an effective way. It responds to all service requests and plans to meet the desired objectives of the client and his/her family/carer through assessment, short-term and/or long-term interventions.

Commission for Domestic Violence: The main role of the Commission is that of advising the Minister responsible for social policy on all aspects of Domestic Violence.

These aspects include:

(i) the fight against domestic violence, especially in raising awareness on the problem

(ii) suggesting areas for research, identifying training for professional groups.

Department for Social Welfare Standards: The Department for Social Welfare Standards is the regulatory body in the Social Welfare sector. Once the required legislation is enacted, it will focus on the licensing of social welfare services, on the monitoring and assessment of established standards, and on ensuring compliance with regulations set out by Government.

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National Family Commission: The National Family Commission, (also known as KNF - Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Familja) within the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity, was set up in 2001. One of the main objectives of the Commission is to advise Government and to suggest appropriate measures so as to promote the well being of Maltese families, in the context of the rapid social changes that are taking place.

Commissioner for Children: The Commissioner for Children is an independent human rights institution which promotes children's rights and gives them a voice. The Commissioner for Children is committed to the four Ps as envisaged by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - Promotion and Protection of children's rights, Participation of children, Monitoring the Provision of services.

Moldova

The main authority responsible for family policies is the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child. Among the main functions of the Ministry in charge are:

- elaboration and promotion of state policies and national strategies in the field of family protection policies, equal opportunities/equality between women and men, violence prevention and combating violence in the family and trafficking of human beings.
- elaboration of legal and normative framework necessary for the implementation of the strategic objectives in its fields of responsibility and activity, adjustment of the national legal framework in the social field compatible to the international standards and treaties to which Moldova Republic is a member Party, alignment to the legal framework/ acquis communautaire of the European Community;
- organisation and coordination of the implementation of the family protection policies, equal opportunities /equality between women and men, violence prevention and combating violence in the family and trafficking of human beings, providing a uniform application of the national legislation in the fields of reference,
- identify, jointly with the central and local public administrative authorities, as well as with the social partners of the effects of the implemented social policies under the competence of the MSPFC.

Monaco

Département des Affaires Sociales et de la Santé placé sous la responsabilité du Conseiller de Gouvernement pour les Affaires Sociales et la Santé.
Direction de l'Action Sanitaire et Sociale placée sous l'autorité du Conseiller de Gouvernement et la responsabilité du Directeur de l'Action Sanitaire et Sociale.

Montenegro

Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare - department for social and child protection.

Netherlands

The Interministerial Programme for Youth and Families, established in 2007, is responsible for family policy and works closely with the Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sport, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Affairs & Employment and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. It will publish its views on family policy in autumn 2008.

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Norway

From 1990 family policy has been part of the responsibility of the Ministry of children and equality.

Poland

The main institution responsible for family policy is the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. It cooperates inter alia with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Justice. Legislative initiatives concerning family policy are widely discussed with all ministries, local authorities, employers' associations, labour unions and non-governmental organisations.

Portugal

Apart from a few irregular and short-lived efforts to set up a separate institutional framework for family welfare, family policy affairs over the last three decades have been under the responsibility and coordinated by the ministry for labour and social affairs (sometimes known as the Ministry for labour and social security, other times as the Ministry for labour and social solidarity/or for solidarity and social security).

Overall, governments have found it easier to deal with family policy as a subfield of social policy rather than to assign broad or powerful mandates regarding the family to any place in government. Family issues are therefore dealt with in different government departments: taxes in the Finance Ministry; preschool education and school timetables in the Ministry of Education; juvenile crime and family mediation in the Ministry of Justice; the family benefit system, formal service provision, public financing and the overseeing of provider NGOs, responsibility for compiling information on children and the family, the problems of child labour and of equal opportunity and gender equity in employment (in fact, a large share of what is considered as a legitimate focus of family policy making) in the ministry of labour and social security. The latter has thus emerged as the main, even if not the only, locus for family policy making and therefore carries responsibility for achieving better operational co-ordination and services integration.

Current institutional frame work for family policy:

At present, it is the Ministry for Labour and Social Solidarity that has responsibility for the definition and coordination of family policy. One of the main functions of the ministry is "To promote the improvement of support for families and the reconciliation of work and family life (Decree-Law n° 211/2006, DR n° 206, 27th Oct. pp. 7510)

Within the Ministry, the Deputy Secretariat of State and for Disability (Secretária de Estado Adjunta e da Reabilitação) is the main entity responsible for family affairs. This secretariat coordinates six main bodies: the National Institute for Disability; the National Council for Disability and the Integration of Handicapped Persons; the National Council for the Promotion of Voluntary work; the National Commission for the Protection of Children and Young People at Risk; and, more related to the family policy process, the Commission for the Promotion of Family Policy and the Consultative Council for Families. The latter were set up as counselling/coordination bodies by the Ministry in 2006 (Decree-Law n° 155/2006), with the aim of tackling family issues which span several policy sectors, promoting cooperation between the different ministries, and ensuring the participation of other governmental and non-governmental agencies and actors in the family policy process.

The Commission for the Promotion of Family Policy has representatives from different ministries, a member of government as president, and the following main functions: definition and assessment of family policies; proposing measures to reinforce support for families; promoting the role of families in society and their contribution to social cohesion and intergenerational solidarity; producing information on families' rights and duties; promoting family associations. The Commission must prepare an annual report on its activities and propose recommendations on family policy.

According to the same decree-law, the President of the Commission is also the President of the Consultative Council of Families. This counselling body was set up with the aim of promoting and guaranteeing the participation of civil society in the process of

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assessment and definition of family policies. Different actors and entities may therefore be represented in the Consultative Council, such as: trade unions and employers' associations, non governmental provider organizations, family associations, women's organizations, municipal associations, governmental agencies linked to gender equality issues, some experts in social policy (three). According to decree-law n° 155, the Consultative Council of Families must: prepare recommendations with the objective of contributing to the assessment of family policy and to the identification of the specific needs of families; promote practices and measures to improve support for families; take part in the implementation of family policy and produce information on family matters. The Consultative Council of Families also prepares an annual report on its activities. At present the Consultative Council for Families is coordinated by the Deputy Secretary of State.

Romania

In the family policy field, at national level, Ministry of Labour Family and Equal Opportunities is the main responsible institution with promoting and implementing the policies, strategies and programmes, though Department of Social Affaires and Equal Opportunities.

Subordinated to the Ministry is National Authority for Protection of Children Rights, institution with legal personality with role of regulation, methodological coordination and monitoring in the field of child protection.

Also, subordinated to the Ministry act the National Agency for Family Protection, responsible in elaboration of policies and strategies for preventing and fighting domestic violence, in developing services for the domestic violence victims' protection, no matter what member of family represents: woman or man, child or aged man or the disability person. Also, National Agency for Family Protection, created a mechanism for monitoring domestic violence in order to elaborate annual reports referring to the evolution of this phenomenon and of the measures which have been taken in this field. Subordinated to the National Agency for Family Protection, are 2 centres representing public institutions financed from the state's budget, as follows: the Pilot Centre for Assistance and Protection of Domestic Violence Victims and the Family Information and Counsel Centre.

At county level, it was set up the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection, public institution subordinated to the county councils and Local councils of Bucharest districts. The role of these structures is to implement the policies and social assistance strategies in the field of family protection, child protection, single persons, elderly and disability persons, and also for other disadvantages groups. The main responsibilities are related with development of specialised social services.

Also, Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities has, at county level, deconcentrated structures named Directorate for Labour and Social Protection. The role of these bodies are related with monitoring the social inclusion policies in the counties and also the administration of the social benefits.

At local level (municipalities, cities and communes) is organised public social assistance services with the following attributions:

- a) to identify the social needs of the community and solve them under the law;
- b) to be responsible for the establishment, organisation and provision of primary services;
- c) to develop and manage specialised social services, as the case may be, under the law;
- d) to conclude partnership conventions and initiate programmes of collaboration with other local authorities, public and private institutions, associative structures and denominational institutions recognized by the law, in order to provide the social services developed in compliance with the identified local needs and the provisions of the county action plan;
- e) to provide information and data to the county public assistance service as well as to relevant central public authorities;
- f) to develop and implement projects with national and international funding;
- g) to draft the annual budget in order to support social services and other social assistance measures, in compliance with its own action plan, and submit it to the local council of the city, town or commune.

Russian Federation

In the Russian Federation there is no special federal body of executive authority (federal governmental structure), which activity is exclusively devoted to the family policy realization.

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However taking into account the interdepartmental character of the family policy different Ministries are responsible for its realization in their directions. The following ministries deal with various aspects of the family policy:
Ministry of Health Care and Social Development of the Russian Federation (social security of families, women and children, employment of working persons with family responsibilities, providing social guarantees for families with children - allowances, regulating labour relations, securing preferences for employees with family responsibilities, health care for mothers and children, etc). In the Ministry there established the special Department – the Department on Medical-Social Problems of Family, Motherhood and the Childhood, which is responsible for coordination of the activities in the sphere of the family policy;
Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation (development of preschool caring the children, upbringing the children, establishing care for orphans and children left without parental care, providing social support to them and so on);
Ministry of Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy, as well as the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs;
Ministry of Culture;
Ministry of Finance (taxation policy, providing tax benefits to families with children, financing measures of the family policy) and several other federal ministries and agencies.
Russia is a federal state, therefore the federal subjects of the Russian Federation are self-dependent in establishing the system of executive authority bodies on their territories. For that reason taking into account the great significance of family policy realization some regions have established administrative units responsible for family policy in these systems of bodies (Moscow city, Samarskaya Oblast, Bryanskaya Oblast and other).

Serbia

In Republic of Serbia, institutional framework of family policies is within authority of Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, in which authority are also:
Labour Law, Law about Social Protection and Securing Social Security of Citizens, Law about Financial Support to Families with Children and Family Act.
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy is the prime carrier of family policy, which is implemented also through authorities of other ministries such as: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Youth and Sport.
Government of Republic of Serbia has formed the following bodies that also deal with family policy within their authorities: Council for Children's Rights, Gender Equality Council, Council for Protection of People with Disabilities, Employment Council, Council for Elderly Matters and Aging, Social Councils, as well as the specifically organised departments for protection of people trafficking victims.

Slovakia

There are two Ministries acc. to the Act No 575/2001 Coll. on the Organisation of Activities of the Government and on the Organisation of Central State Administration as amended (Competence Law) which are responsible for family policy.

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (§ 15 of the Act No 575/2001 Coll.) is the central body of the state administration government in the field of state social benefits, social assistance, assistance in material need and social-law child protection and coordination of state family policy.

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (§ 13 of the Act No 575/2001 Coll.) as the central body of the state administration government prepare legislative framework in the field of civil, commercial, family, bankruptcy and international private law.

Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (§ 7) is the central body of the state administration in the field of finance, taxes and duties, customs activities, finance control and internal audits.

Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic (§ 17) is the central body of the state administration in the field of primary schools, high schools and universities, school institutions, state care for youth and sport and others.

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Slovenia

The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Directorate for Family Affairs is responsible for the making and implementing of the part of family policy concerning marriage, relations between parents and children, adoptions, fosterage and custody, and the field of parental protection and family benefits.

In addition to implementing the regulations mentioned, the Directorate for Family Affairs also:

- prepares implementing regulations,
- is the appellate body in the matters under its jurisdiction,
- is the mediation body in the Republic of Slovenia in the proceedings concerning the recovery of unpaid maintenance in cases when either the maintenance debtor or the rightful claimant lives in another country.

Every year, the Directorate publishes an invitation to tender for the co-financing of programmes in the field of family affairs, thus primarily including non-governmental organisations in the implementation of preventive programmes. The Directorate also prepares proposals for the granting of the status of an association in the public interest in the field of family policy implementation.

Slovenia has already developed quite well those elements of family policy that ease the burden on families and contribute to a reduction in the social differences between them, these being direct family receipts (child supplements, large family supplements, etc.); and to a great extent at least on the statutory level, those elements that contribute towards the coordination of work and family roles and obligations (one-year maternity leave and parental leave, kindergartens, etc.).

In the last years the Slovenian Government amended the Parental Protection and Family Benefits Act to introduce certain additional privileges for employed parents, a higher threshold for calculating parental benefits, incentives for earlier maternity and family life, more favourable conditions for parental benefits, the introduction of a care and education supplement for preschool children not attending preschool or kindergarten and being cared for by one parent, a close relative or person or other institution. The National Housing Programme also provides favourable housing loans for young families and other forms of support. A new Family Code is also being in parliamentary procedure.

Spain

Responsibility for family and social protection in Spain is widely decentralized. There are three levels of Administration: National Administration (Administración General del Estado), the Regional Administration (Comunidades Autónomas) and Local Administration (Corporaciones Locales o Ayuntamientos).

The Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sport currently is the main responsible at national level. Within this Ministry is the Secretary of State for Social Policy and Families, which includes the General Direction for Families and Childhood.

Within the scope of State responsibility, the Secretary of State is responsible for the protection and promotion of families and childhood and the prevention of situations of need.

Besides, other ministries of Government are responsible for family policies of social and economic protection: the Ministry of Labour and Immigration which includes the Social Security; the Ministry of Economy and Finance, responsible for family tax policy; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Health and Consumption or the New Ministry for Gender Equality.

In each of the Autonomous Communities (17 plus the cities of Ceuta and Melilla) there exists a Department in charge of family and social welfare policies. In the Spanish model, the Regional Governments have the main responsibility for direct attention to families. This responsibility is complemented by Local Authorities.

Sweden

The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs is responsible for most of family policy. This includes such matters as financial family policy, child welfare, children's rights issues, maternity and child health care, dental care, opportunities to combine working life and family life, birth rate issues, social policy, adoptions, elderly care issues and issues concerning financially vulnerable children. The minister responsible for family policy is the Minister for Health and Social Affairs, who is head of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

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Most financial support to families with children is administered and paid by the Swedish Social Insurance Agency.

- The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for issues concerning preschool and school-age childcare. The responsibility for providing preschool and school-age childcare rests with the municipalities (of which there are 290).
- The Ministry of Employment is responsible for legislation on the right to parental leave and issues on labour force participation by parents.
- The Ministry of Justice is responsible for family law issues (custody, residence and access, as well as divorce regulations). The implementing authorities in this area are courts and social welfare committees in the country's municipalities.
- The Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality is responsible for general gender equality issues that can concern matters such as gender equality aspects of family policy.

Switzerland

La politique familiale suisse est régie par les principes du fédéralisme et de la subsidiarité. Cela implique que ce sont les cantons et les communes qui s'occupent en premier lieu de politique familiale. La Confédération n'intervient qu'à titre subsidiaire. Les organisations privées (ONG) jouent également un rôle important.

Au niveau de la Confédération, c'est le Département (ministère) fédéral de l'intérieur (DFI) qui est principalement responsable en matière de politique familiale et, au sein du DFI, le domaine Famille, générations et société (FGS) de l'Office fédéral des assurances sociales (OFAS), lequel est compétent, au niveau fédéral, pour tout ce qui touche à la famille, à l'enfance, à la jeunesse et à la vieillesse, aux relations entre générations et aux questions de politique sociale en général. Il est principalement chargé de surveiller l'application de la loi fédérale sur les allocations familiales dans l'agriculture, de traiter les demandes en lien avec la loi fédérale sur les aides financières à l'accueil extra-familial pour enfants et de soutenir les organisations faitières actives au niveau national sur la base de contrats de prestations. Le domaine FGS prépare aussi l'introduction de la nouvelle loi fédérale sur les allocations familiales. De manière générale, il s'occupe en fait de toutes les questions de politique familiale.

Turkey

Ministry of State Responsible for Women, Family, Child and Disabled People decides social policies and carries out social services related to women, family, children and disabled people. Other governmental bodies related to this ministry are:

General Directorate of Family and Social Researches

- To determine and solve the social problems in our country
- To make or to have national and international scientific researches made oriented for the protection of the integrity of Turkish family and to strengthen and raise the social welfare of it
- To advance, support projects and to ensure these projects to be performed
- To assist the formation of a national policy for family

General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection

Required programs and services for the disabled groups are developed and implemented in terms of distributing aid in cash and kind

Supplies these services for children:

- Adoption Services
- Protector Family Services
- Nursery Schools
- Child Homes
- Day-Care Centres, Rescue Homes
- Child and Youth Centres
- Breeding Dormitories

Supplies these services for the elders:

- Pensions/ Retirement Homes
- Old People Support Centres
- Day Care Centres for the Alzheimer Addicted Patients

Supplies these services for disabled people:

- Family consultations and education

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- Occupational education and rehabilitation
 - Services by social rehabilitation centre
- Prime Minister Administration for Disabled People
- Defines problems of disabled people and makes research in order to solve these problems
 - Provides systematic, efficient and productive service for disabled people
- Directorate General of the Status and Problems of Woman
- Makes studies to strengthen the position of women in social, economic, cultural and politics life
- Provides the protection and development of women rights.

Ukraine

Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sport Affair functions of the governmental bodies responsible for family policy. It include the Government Department for Family and Gender policy and Demography Development and special Department for Children Issues (Adoption and soon).

United Kingdom

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has lead responsibility overall for children and families. Formerly the Department for Education and Skills, in June 2007 the new department was created to have a stronger focus on children's overall wellbeing, with responsibility for higher education and lifelong learning being transferred to the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills.