

1. FAMILY POLICY: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 The institutional framework for family policies

iii) Relationship between government and non-governmental organisations in the formulation and implementation of family policies

Austria

The creation of a family policy committee (Familienpolitischer Beirat) – according to the Federal Law of 1 March 1967. Function: Consultation of the responsible ministry. On request of the ministry, the provision of evaluations and expert opinions on economic, social, legal and cultural matters pertaining to family policy. It has the right to direct suggestions and applications to the federal ministry. Evaluation and giving of expert opinions on demands of family organisations. According to § 3 (2) it has a maximum number of 15 members. No more than 10 representatives of family organisations that are representative according to size and that represent the interest of families in social, legal, economic and cultural matters.

Azerbaijan

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs closely cooperates with local and international non-governmental organisations since its establishment. This work is conducted both on the level of formulation and realisation of family policy. A number of legislative acts and action plans concerning gender, children and family affairs have been drafted in close participation of local and international NGOs. In line with cooperation on the legislative level, the State Committee also implemented following joint projects with local and international NGOs: Eurasia Public Union on International Relations and Research, project on organising trainings for social workers in order to develop capacity of local NGOs working in with socially vulnerable families; Organisation of Young IDPs and refugees, project on solving family problems of IDP and refugee youth; Global Fund for fighting AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, project on organisation of anonym, volunteer and free of charge check up for drug addict young people; Women Problems Research Centre, project on solving family and social problems of women in prison; Women Solidarity Public Union, project on early marriages and protection of young women's rights, preparation of amendments to legislation; NGO Alliance on Child Rights, project on promotion of degrading effects of domestic violence on children and its connection with increase of minor crimes. Heydar Aliyev Foundation, UNFPA in cooperation with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan organised a film festival on "Families in Azerbaijan" to raise awareness on problems and challenges modern families face in Azerbaijan.

UAFA-Azerbaijan Joint Assistance Organisation, Volunteer Rehabilitation program, aimed at increasing the level of social services to for children with disabilities.

Mother and Child Health Centre, project on raising awareness of young families on reproductive health.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Belgium

La communauté flamande.

The Flemish Government developed a tradition to consult the NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. This has been usually implemented by creating various types of (Family) Advisory Councils or Expert commissions.

By mid 2008, this is now included in the terms of reference of a much broader and newly established Council for Well-Being Health and Family (= SAR, Strategische Adviesraad voor het Vlaamse Welzijns-, Gezondheids- en Gezinsbeleid).

Related to family matters, Flanders still has a strong Family League (= Gezinsbond) serving a membership of more than 300.000 families and also voicing its views about family policy issues. More recently, other stakeholders such as employers or large organisations providing care (for dependent persons) indirectly also impact on the formulation of family policies.

La région wallonne

Les organisations non-gouvernementales, appelées en Belgique associations, sont souvent associées aux politiques familiales menées, soit qu'elles sont partenaires de pouvoirs publics, soit qu'elles sont financées par ceux-ci pour exercer un rôle de service public.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Government creates and implements policies, while the NGO sector participates, depending on problem (e.g. domestic violence).

Bulgaria

Over recent years the opportunity was developed for the active participation of non-governmental organisations in the management of social services for children after acquiring a license from the State Agency for Child Protection. Cooperation between state institutions, non-governmental organisations, local authorities and all interested parties is a necessary precondition for the provision of quality care as well as for broadening the spectre of services rendered.

Under the State Agency for Child Protection there is a National Council for Child Protection /NCCP/ with consultation and coordination functions with the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Healthcare, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Culture, the State Agency for Youth and Sports, the National Social Security Institute, the Central Commission for Combating Antisocial Behaviour of Underaged and the National Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Bulgaria as well as legal persons with non-for-profit objectives working in the field of child protection.

Under the NCCP there is a Children Council which gives children the opportunity to express their opinion and to participate actively in the decision-making processes in the development of policies for their protection.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Croatia

Forms of cooperation between the Government and the non-governmental sector reflect as follows: in legislation (consultations in decision-making on new acts or amendments to the existing acts, inclusion of representatives of non-governmental sector in work groups developing legislation); in the process of making and implementing national programs, documents and strategies issued by the Government; in the financing of programs and services of non-governmental sector, etc.

Representatives of civil society organizations participate in the work of counselling bodies of the Government of Republic of Croatia (Population Policy Council, Council for Children, Youth Council, Commission for Disabled Persons of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, Advisory Committee for civil society development, etc.)

Representatives of civil society organizations actively participate in drafting, implementing and monitoring of application of national strategies and programs from the area of family and population policy, rights and interests of children, protection from violence in family, gender equality, youth action, persons with disabilities, etc.

On grounds of tenders, State Budget of the Republic of Croatia, i.e. Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity financially supports a number of programs/projects of civil society organizations whose programs' objectives are to affirm the rights of children and protect them, to promote positive parenting and raising children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; to protect victims of domestic violence and improve the quality of their lives, to introduce preventive and interventional programs for protection of children from abuse and neglect, to initiate projects aiming to raise the quality of life from large families, projects directed to youth, persons with disabilities, etc.

Government of the Republic of Croatia has adopted the National Strategy for Creating a Stimulating Environment for the Civil Society Development stating all the basic guidelines for implementation until 2011, in order to improve the existing and create a new legal, institutional and financial system of support to the development of civil society and to create a stimulative environment for further development of civil society in the Republic of Croatia. Code of Positive Practices, Standards and Criteria was adopted in order to realize financial support to programs and projects of associations regulating basic standards and principles of action for state administration bodies allocating financial support to associations from the State Budget.

Cyprus

Non-governmental organisations participate in the preparation of both our Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion and our National Reform Programme. They also participate in the preparation of our periodic reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Furthermore, the Government of Cyprus consults with the social partners and non-governmental organisations in an increasing number of policy areas, thereby strengthening the role they play in structuring civil society and enhancing democracy. This is well illustrated by the variety of boards and councils that have been established by legislation or by decision of the Council of Ministers, which are concerned with specific social and economic issues, such as: social insurance, health and safety at work, ageing, developmental and physical disabilities, family violence and drug abuse.

Czech Republic

The government bodies co-operate with the various non-profit organizations during the preparation of documents of legislative and non-legislative character, and these organizations provide comments and recommendations to such documents being prepared, which the Ministry further process according to their relevance. MLSA is involved in a long-term co-operation with several family policy-oriented non-profit organizations (NPO) within the framework of realization of pro-family projects and also its own conceptual proposals. The NPO representatives are being invited as active participants to conferences and seminars organized by MLSA and correspondingly the MLSA representatives often take part in events organized by the NPOs.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Denmark

The department of civil society and family affairs aims to cooperate with the Non-governmental bodies as much as possible and are often heard prior to the implementation of any new family policy.

Estonia

According to the Estonian Governments' principles on involvement of all stakeholders into policy making and implementation process, the non-governmental organizations are always involved in the preparation of laws as well as preparation of development plans. And in case some survey tackles some target groups specially, non-governmental organisations are involved into the preparation process of the survey.

Finland

The most important bodies preparing family policy reforms are the working groups, committees and advisory boards/committees set up for the purpose by the Government. In general, all the stakeholders in the relevant area are represented in them. Also the relevant NGOs and the social partners take part in the work of the groups.

France

The Interdepartmental task force on family affairs (DIF) routinely works in close liaison with the family affairs ministry and with other ministerial departments conducting actions connected to these policies.
It is the constant key talking partner of all bodies associated with family policy, viz. associations in the family sphere (with the UNAF in the lead) and the social sector.
It is the family affairs ministry's representative with national and international institutions and partner bodies (e.g. European Commission, UN, Council of Europe, National Consultative Commission on Human Rights, national audiovisual productions classification board, Forum for rights on the Internet, etc.).
It maintains close relations with the family branch of social welfare, representing the family affairs ministry at meetings of the CNAF (family benefits fund) board of administration.
It has privileged links with the associations representing local authorities (AMF, ADF, ARF). Thanks to the contact which it maintains with the research community, and to the studies which it has the duty of conducting, the DIF furthers research helpful to decision-making in the family policy field.

Germany

There is a regular, in-depth exchange of information and views with the organizations representing the interests of families. Under the "Common Rules of Procedure" of the Federal Ministries, expert communities at Federal level must be involved in Federal legal initiatives.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Greece

The importance of action of the Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) is recognised for the obliteration of phenomena of social exclusion and the protection of people in need. The NGO's, the charitable associations, the Church and other institutions are involved actively in various actions either by covering gaps or by contributing in the success of the policies. Their contribution is important in the institutional care of children and the protection of mother, in the care of the elderly, in the network of Social Supporting Services, in the programs of camps and natural education and in the support and care of the immigrants. It is clarified, of course, that the above concern the realisation of policies drawn in central level or partially financed from resources of E.U, as well as the acts of integration of initiatives of the NGO in a single frame. Summing up, the NGO have a very important role because they supplement and strengthen the initiatives and actions undertaken in governmental level. Also, in the frame of modern governing, the State attempts to strengthen their participation in the configuration and the planning of social policy actions. Furthermore, the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection promotes a provision of law with which the state encourages the dialogue between the social partners and the dialogue with the NGO, with regard to the field of reconciliation of professional, family and personal life and the equal participation of both parents in the professional and family obligations. The Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity has elaborated a National Action Plan for the Rights of the Child which has been given for public consultation. This Action Plan's ultimate goal is to further develop the welfare state and to upgrade the quality of services offered to the Greek citizens by the health and social solidarity system. The Family Protection Directorate of the Ministry has set, inter alias, the following main operational targets:

- To inform the families
- To create a co-operation network with NGOs specifically in the framework of supporting and promoting the institutions of foster families and adoption.

Hungary

The non-governmental organizations assisting the governmental bodies in legislation, giving methodological guide and processing model programs.

Iceland

Unions, employers associations, interest-groups, and other interested parties are consulted during the policy-making process. In some cases such organisations raise issues that they want the government to address.

Ireland

Since 1987 a system of what is referred to as National Social Partnership has been in existence in Ireland. Under Social Partnership a multi-annual Programme is agreed between Government, employers, trade unions, farming organisations and the community and voluntary sector covering incomes, fiscal, social, economic and competitiveness policies. Social Partnership, therefore, enables non-governmental organisations to enter discussions with government on a range of social and economic issues. There have been seven social partnership agreements since 1985.

Ministers and departmental officials also regularly meet with NGO representative groups to discuss issues arising, relating to policy and implementation of same.

In terms of implementation of family policies, non-governmental organisations have a key role to play, with the support of state funding. For example, the Family Support Agency provides financial support to the national network of Family Resource Centres. It also provides grants to a range of organisations providing marriage, relationship, child and bereavement counselling services.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Italy

The "third sector" represents one of the most important factors in Italy in this field. It includes not-for-profit, voluntary organizations, social cooperatives, associations and auxiliary bodies, immigrants' associations and NGOs working abroad. Italy recognizes that it is also thanks to this network that it can provide assistance and services to the elderly, the disabled, minors and people in distress, as well as organize cultural and social activities. The Government promotes and facilitates dialogue and the exchange of information and experiences with the NOGs, also with the aim to promote collaboration, synergy and a constructive debate through meetings, round tables and working groups.

Latvia

Non-governmental organizations are involved in the formulation of family policies: they are invited to express their opinion regarding respective bills which influence the situation of the family. At the same time non-governmental organizations are also involved in implementation of family policies as providers of certain services relevant for families nurturing children. In terms of the National Tripartite Cooperation Council Ministry of Welfare together with the biggest non-governmental organisations in Latvia – Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia and Latvian Employers' Confederation observes the principles of social dialogue in cooperation with the social partners. Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia and Latvian Employers' Confederation participates in the elaboration of economic and social development programmes, in the evaluation of all draft laws in the area of family policy, in working groups on improvement of labour conditions, salaries, tariff policies, compulsory social insurance and social guaranties for families, healthcare as well as employment, vocational education and lifelong learning. Also many others non-governmental organizations, such as Latvian Gender Equality Union, Latvian association "Caring a child", Children and youth with disabilities union "The wings of hope", Invalids and their friends union "Apeiron" and other non-governmental organizations are involved into the process of policy making by giving the most complete information on the existing situation and possible direction of activities, participating in the working groups that develops the draft policy planning document or legislative act, as also by expressing their opinion on the problem by sending letters and statements to the Ministry of Welfare.

Lithuania

There is close cooperation of Government and NGOs on the implementation of family and children right protection policies. In the budget assigned to the MoSSL there are finances, allocated to support NGOs which are working on the promotion of family policy issues and children right protection issues ("watch-dog" function). These money are foreseen in the Strategy of National Demographic Policy (family welfare) and it's Plan of Action for 2008–2010 yrs. Women NGO's make a big contribution in achieving gender equality, in particular reconciliation of work and family life, implementing a number of projects in cooperation with governmental bodies and academic institutions.

Luxembourg

Selon les secteurs les relations sont plus ou moins fortement institutionnalisées.
Ainsi en est-il du Conseil supérieur de la Famille et de l'Enfance qui regroupait les associations familiales les plus représentatives sur le plan national (pour la nouvelle approche voir ci-après):
La Commission d'harmonisation
Cet organe règle les relations entre l'Etat et le secteur des associations gestionnaires de structures d'accueil.
Le Conseil supérieur des personnes âgées (Le Conseil, de caractère consultatif, est chargé d'étudier tous les problèmes se rapportant aux personnes âgées. Il donne son avis, à la demande du Gouvernement, sur toutes les mesures qu'il est envisagé de prendre par

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



voie législative ou réglementaire dans l'intérêt des personnes âgées et il conseille le Gouvernement sur toutes les réformes ou innovations qu'il juge indiquées à leur bien-être.

Il est composé de 25 membres (effectifs), 13 associations y sont représentées.) (mars 2009)

Le Conseil supérieur des personnes handicapées (Le Conseil est un organe consultatif qui a pour mission: a) d'assister et de conseiller le ministre ayant dans ses attributions le handicap dans son travail de coordination de la politique gouvernementale en faveur des personnes handicapées; b) de réunir à cette fin les partenaires impliqués à savoir des personnes à besoins spéciaux, des professionnels du secteur et des membres du Gouvernement; c) d'aviser tout projet de loi ou de règlement touchant de près ou de loin le domaine du handicap; d) d'étudier toutes les questions qui lui sont soumises ainsi que tous les sujets qu'il juge utiles.

Le Conseil supérieur du bénévolat fonctionne auprès du Ministère de la Famille et regroupe les associations et organismes représentatifs des volontaires ou bénévoles.

Signalons également qu'il existe un médiateur spécial pour enfant qui peut donner un avis ou des recommandations. En 2008, les sujets clé traités par l'ORK étaient l'enfant confronté au à la pauvreté, origines et remèdes, l'avis de l'ORK au sujet d'une future réforme de la législation relative à l'adoption et à l'accouchement anonyme, l'adoption internationale ou traite de l'enfant, l'enfant broyé dans l'engrenage d'une presse malfaisante, l'enfant et l'école, les enfants à besoins spécifiques et éducation différenciée, l'audition des enfants par la police, la prison, les adolescents hospitalisés en psychiatrie, l'âge légal du mariage.

De plus, l'ORK a émis des recommandations à diverses institutions concernant la protection des droits de l'enfant concernant l'avocat pour l'enfant, la prescription en cas de viol et d'attentat à la pudeur, la vente de films violents à des mineurs dans un commerce, des problèmes de sécurité routière dans le secteur du transport, dans le domaine de l'égalité des chances ainsi que des passeports et cartes d'identité. L'ORK informe sur les 999 enfants placés au Luxembourg et à l'étranger de même que sur les 272 enfants placés jour et nuit dans des familles d'accueil.

L'ORK a ouvert 139 dossiers concernant 201 enfants avec les motifs suivants : conflits de loyauté par suite d'un divorce ou d'une séparation, violences scolaires, problèmes liés à un placement institutionnel, signalement de négligences, problèmes administratifs, pauvreté et exclusion, recherche d'identité, problèmes liés à l'intégration scolaire des enfants à besoins spécifiques, maltraitements, menaces, harcèlement, suspicion d'abus sexuel, asile et regroupement familial. Notons que les diverses demandes de renseignements concernant les droits de l'enfant ne sont pas reprises dans les statistiques. L'ORK a réalisés plusieurs entrevues et formations avec les institutions et partenaires du secteur. www.ork.lu

Malta

Non-governmental organisations are consulted in the formulation and implementation of government policies. At present there are various representatives from NGOs selected by the office of the Prime minister sitting on various government agencies' Boards.

Moldova

In the process of elaboration and promotion of family policies the public authorities collaborate with NGOs. In this regard see Art 12 of Law 241-XVI of 20 October 2005 on prevention and combating trafficking in human beings, which sets out that for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, for providing protection and assistance to the violence victims of trafficking, for the coordination of the recent activities, the international organisations with the representatives in Moldova republic and the non-governmental organisations active in the field are in the capacity to cooperate with the public administrative authorities and the competent bodies, according to their regulations and statutes and are able to organise informational campaigns on trafficking in human beings and the risks the victims are exposed. The NGOs can establish rehabilitation centres and provide legal or other assistance to victims, organise actions of prevention and combating trafficking in human beings and help victims, in conformity with their legal status. By Gov. Decision nr.984 of 25.08.2006 has been approved the National Plan "Promotion of human gender equality in the society for years 2006-2009"

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Monaco

Not mentioned.

Montenegro

According to Law on State Administration, ministries and administration bodies are obliged to provide cooperation with NGO, especially by:

1. consulting NGO sector about legal acts and other projects and provisions, regulating freedoms and rights of citizens
2. giving them opportunities to participate in working groups, work on issues of a common interest or legal formatting of certain issues
3. organizing public reviews, round tables, seminars and other forms of common activities
4. getting familiar with work programme and reporting about state administration work.

Netherlands

Non-governmental organisations carry out implementation research, make implementation recommendations and implement policies independently. They do this by approving and/or carrying out long-range plans, programmes of activities, research programmes, or specific commissions.

Norway

There are active family organizations in the formulation on family policies, mainly representing lone parents, parents not living with their children, people in one person households, "Norges Kvinne- og Familieforbund (Women- and family organization" (earlier the organization of the housewife's), homosexual and lesbian organizations, women's organizations etc.

In the implementation it is mainly different religious groups/organizations that are active in cooperation with the government/municipalities. This involvement has decreased somewhat over time, and is lesser than in many other European countries.

Poland

Governmental proposal of legislation shifts in system of family benefits are discussed with non-governmental organizations.

Portugal

To understand the relationship between government and non-governmental organizations in the family policy process it is important to underline a policy option, adopted since the early 1980s, which focuses on the development of mixed welfare solutions

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



in Portuguese society, with the emphasis laid on balanced combinations between states, third sector and family responsibilities. This reliance on mixed welfare solutions has been particularly important in relation to the building up of service provision to support families: the strong increase in different types of services since the 1980s, in particular of child-care facilities and services for elderly persons, has been based to a great extent on the expansion of services provided by publicly-subsidized non-governmental organizations.

This cooperation between the State and social solidarity NGOs was first established in 1983/84, when new legislation recognized the legal status of non profit social solidarity institutions (designated as IPSS – Private Institutions of Social Solidarity) and established the institutionalization of yearly agreements, between third sector representatives and the ministry in charge of social affairs, concerning the flat-rate subsidies paid by the state per child or per elderly persons.

Non-governmental organizations have therefore become important social partners concerning the formulation and implementation of family policies. As welfare providers, their knowledge of families' problems and needs, of the gaps in support for families and their longstanding experience in service provision are essential not only for the assessment of the impact of family policies but also for advice on changes and new proposals. On the other hand, in order to implement many aspects of family policy, such as the expansion and restructuring of services, governments rely strongly on the third sector's capacity to carry out these developments.

Romania

According with the Romanian legislation, the process of making legislation is realised through a consultative approach with a large involvement of the relevant stakeholders. Also, in the decision making process, are set up different protocols of cooperation between the central institutions and different other partners.

For instance, in order to strengthening the national social inclusion mechanism the Romanian Government signed a protocol with the Romanian Orthodox Church and also with the Catholic Church.

A cooperation protocol was concluded between MLFEO and NIS, by which NIS undertook to provide databases, and MLFEO will calculate the secondary and tertiary social inclusion indicators.

In the field of domestic violence, the National Agency for Family Protection signed up a protocol with United Nations Population Fund. The National Agency for Family Protection is part of the OSCE Action Platform to fight against trafficking persons and focal points for World Health Organisation in the field to prevent violence and trauma.

Russian Federation

In the most cases decisions are made taking into account opinions of non-governmental organizations, which mainly act in the field of children rights protection, family policy, etc. Representatives of these organizations regularly take part in joint discussions (they are invited to councils, belongs to advisory councils, participate in parliamentary hearings, etc.). When a non-governmental organization introduces any motion, it is always considered.

To arrange relations between state bodies and public organizations in 2006 in the Russian Federation it was legally established the Public Chamber, which unites representatives of federal, regional, municipal public organizations. The Public Chamber of the Russian Federation is called to realize the interaction between citizens, state authority bodies and local self-government bodies to take into account requirements and interests of citizens, to protect their rights and freedoms by elaborating and realizing state policies, to exercise public control for authority bodies' activity. The Public Chamber of the Russian Federation expertises federal laws drafts, promotes and maintains civil initiatives, which are of All-Russian significance and aim to exercising constitutional rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens. In the structure of the Public Chamber there is the Commission on social and demographic policy, which is responsible for issues of family policy realization.

On regional level the similar public chambers are created.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Serbia

In Republic of Serbia, according to the assessment by Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the role of NGOs is important in forming and implementing policies for family help and support. NGOs do not participate only in implementing policies, but they are also important participants in the work of government councils.

One of the examples is the fact that NGOs that deal with issues related to the family abuse, child protection from abuse and neglect, development of uninstitutional forms of protection of children and youth without parental guardianship (Serbian Victims Society, Centre for Child Rights, Incest Trauma Centre, Refuge for Women Victims of Abuse, etc.) had been actively involved in development of new Family Law, which was adopted in February 2005 and has been implemented since 01/07/2005.

Also, NGOs have an important role in development of uninstitutional forms of protection on local level that go into a system of family help and support such as providing services of daily centres and clubs for disabled children and those with developmental difficulties, grown up disabled people, refuge for «children of the street», refuge for women trafficking victims, refuge for women and children victims of abuse, habitation with support of children and people with mental disabilities, promotion and organization of guardianship, as well as realization of various support programs for special focus groups of elderly, grown ups, children, etc.

Slovakia

The provision of assistance to families and individual members in crisis situations, protection of the interests of families with children, assistance to families upon securing care for health-impaired children, programs for parents and children directed towards common leisure activities, organization of education for parents and various other activities for parents and children form the content of work of many non-governmental organisations and interest associations.

The department of labour, social affairs and family, which fulfils within the governmental organisations the role of a coordinator in the area of state family policy, cooperates with non-governmental organisations upon formulating the starting points and objectives of state family policy as well as in the area of its implementation in the form of providing financial subsidies for specific projects. The non-governmental organisations that take active part in the cooperation include, for example, the Union of Mother Centres of Slovakia, Multi-Children Families Club and the Civil Association "Návrat".

At the same time, the non-governmental organisations take an active part in the preparation of legal regulations concerning the protection of children and their representatives are also involved in discussions concerning significant policies in the relevant area.

Slovenia

The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs has been supporting non-governmental organisations by co-financing social protection (assistance) programmes since 1993. Every year it also co-finances family support programmes. After 1996 the Ministry has stepped up the co-financing of social protection programmes, allocating approximately 136 million tolar (567.517, 94 EUR) for supplementary social protection programmes. A special emphasis and greater stability of financing of supplementary social protection programmes were determined by the National Social Protection Programme. The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs co-financed 183 programmes for the implementation of supplementary social protection programmes in 2004. In addition to that, the Ministry every year co-finances family support programmes. In 2003 two sets of programmes regarding family support were co-financed: programmes for preventing domestic violence and programmes for help and support to vulnerable groups of children and young people.

In 2003 the Office for Equal Opportunities co-financed 10 projects of non-governmental organisations with SIT 3,031,346 (12649.58 EUR). In 2007 the public tender (at the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs) for co-financing family support programmes covered family mediation programmes, programmes for personal growth of children and young people, and schools for parents.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Spain

Within the State Council for Families there is a wide and diversified representation of national NGOs (19) related to family matters: Parents of students, catholic and non catholic, single mothers, separated and divorced mothers, widowed mothers, Rural women, Union of family associations, Adoption, Fostering, Childhood organizations, different sexual condition organizations, family and working life conciliation, National association of Family Meeting Points.

At the level of financing, NGOs working in family programmes have two opportunities in the year to apply for subsidies for their social projects, within the policies laid down by the Government (financed through income tax and Social Security).

Sweden

NGOs do not have any responsibilities of their own, but comprise important pressure groups and in some cases supplement public measures. They also produce important background information and accounts with other perspectives, such as focusing on issues concerning the needs and rights of children. NGOs such as Children's Rights in Society (BRIS) and Save the Children Sweden are pressure groups for children's rights that also provide support to children and young people, for example by means of special help lines.

Switzerland

Les organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) sont nombreuses en Suisse et jouent un rôle important dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des mesures de politique familiale. Certaines, subventionnées par l'Etat, sont chargées de tâches spécifiques.

L'Office fédéral des assurances sociales (OFAS) soutient plusieurs ONG actives au niveau national et a conclu avec elles des contrats de prestations. En 2007, 13 organisations faitières ont ainsi été soutenues.

La Commission fédérale de coordination pour les questions familiales (COFF) est un organe consultatif du Département fédéral de l'intérieur créé en 1995. En tant que commission extraparlamentaire, elle est chargée de donner au public et aux institutions compétentes des informations sur tout ce qui concerne les conditions de vie des familles en Suisse et de les sensibiliser à la problématique. Elle sert également de plaque tournante pour les échanges entre l'administration et les organisations privées, ainsi qu'entre les diverses institutions actives dans le domaine de la politique familiale.

Turkey

General Directorate of Family and Social Researches works together with non governmental organizations, universities and other public partners in the formulation of policies. Therefore it organizes meetings including these partners and consults them. Currently it conducts consulting meetings on family support services with non governmental organizations.

Ukraine

Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sport Affair involves non-governmental organizations in the formulation, implementation and family policies.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



United Kingdom

The government has formal consultation exercises in relation to prospective legislation, including public meetings where major policy initiatives are involved. It has also established the Family and Parenting Institute which advises on family policy matters.