

6. POLICIES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING FAMILY LIFE AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

6.1 Parental education and support for parenting

Policies to support parents in their upbringing tasks (parenting programmes/parental counselling/training sessions in order to support working parents etc.)

Austria

Responsible for parents' education at the federal level is the Ministry responsible for Family Affairs, currently Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth. There are also different parents' education programmes supported or financed by the Laender (provincial level).

Following parents' education programmes can be subsidized according to the law:

- Seminars for better understanding of the different developmental phases of children
- Specific seminars asked for by parents
- Specific seminars for grandparents, step parents, single parents, fathers, e.g.
- Specific seminars for families with children with special needs
- Specific seminars which can be attended out of classrooms, e.g. at the workplace or at a holiday place
- Professional guiding for parent-child-groups which offer the opportunity to exchange experience with other parents or the possibility of self-reflection on one's own educational style.

There is also funding for:

- Awareness raising activities for special programmes of the institutions organizing high-quality parents' education
- Networking of relevant institutions
- Train the trainer – programmes for professionals in the parents' education sector

Awareness raising campaign

In 2001, an awareness-raising campaign was launched with the aim of introducing the concept of parents' education to all mothers and fathers and of raising their interest in the existing programmes and showing them how to use them. The campaign included direct mailings to families with children, schools, kindergartens and physicians, advertising in newspapers, programmes on radio, a helpline and a website providing information on existing programmes.

Website

Following up the campaign, the website was re-launched and expanded in February 2003. Since then it has provided information about parents' education and its effects on every day life as well as child-guidance and non-violent parenting. There is also the possibility for online-exchange with other parents and experts. Tips for web-links and specialised literature are available too. The website is visited by 325.000 users per year. See: www.eltern-bildung.at

"Parents' – Letters"

The parents' letters issued by the Ministry responsible for Family Affairs are another instrument for parents' education. The parents' letters are a low-threshold service, which helps parents to cope with everyday problems in the child's individual development stages, supports mothers and fathers through technical information and encourages them to reflect on these issues and visit parents' education programmes.

There are six different letters which cover the following developmental phases of children: the first 8 weeks with the baby; the 1st year; from age 1 to 3 years; 3 to 6 years; 6 to 10 years and above 10 years. The first letter is distributed via the birth clinics to all parents, the following letters can be ordered free of charge. Those are ordered by about 10.000 parents each year (this is more than 10 per cent of children born each year).

Additionally to the parents' letters in 2006 multimedia-CDs "tips for parents" were published. There are also 6 different CDs covering pregnancy and the developmental phases of children from birth to adolescents.

Azerbaijan

1999, February 16 Young Family Program: increase the role of the government in solving the problems of young families; tackling challenges caused by modern trends in the context of preserving positive family traditions and adjusting to the demands of the time; special focus on preparing young children to family life.

Belgium

Communauté flamande : « Enfance et Famille » est un organisme public chargé de promouvoir et d'organiser l'accueil et la protection sociale de l'enfance en Flandre (Belgique). Parmi ses principaux champs d'action, citons le soutien familial préventif (médical et psychosocial).

Le soutien familial préventif est assuré gratuitement par chacun des 300 centres d'accueil de la petite enfance en Flandre. Tant que les enfants sont en âge préscolaire, les parents ont la possibilité de suivre jusqu'à 10 consultations au centre d'accueil de la petite enfance. Ces consultations comportent plusieurs actions : suivi du développement des enfants, vaccinations, surveillance des possibles risques sanitaires et soutien parental. En outre, des services infirmiers régionaux (600) effectuent des visites à domicile dans toutes les familles ayant un ou des nouveau-nés. Lors de ces visites, nous apportons aux parents des informations et un soutien concernant les soins, le bien-être et le développement de leur bébé.

Les parents ayant des questions supplémentaires ou manifestant des indicateurs à risque en ce qui concerne la santé, le développement et l'éducation, ont droit à des consultations ou à des visites à domicile supplémentaires.

Dans le cadre de ce soutien familial global, nous privilégions de plus en plus le soutien parental.

Le soutien parental vise à renforcer l'éducation. Méthode de soutien parental souvent utilisée : discussion sur l'éducation des enfants. Un dialogue s'instaure avec le(s) parent(s) à partir d'un sujet préparé à l'avance (par exemple, les étapes de développement de l'enfant). Le but est d'améliorer la compétence des parents et d'exploiter leurs capacités existantes.

Dans le cadre de la protection préventive de l'enfance, Enfance et Famille recourt à des méthodes de soutien parental plus spécifiques :

- Consultations parentales

Ce soutien à court terme est facilement accessible aux parents rencontrant des problèmes mineurs liés à l'éducation et au stress. Ces consultations parentales s'étalent au maximum sur 4 à 5 séances et sont assurées par une infirmière. Les infirmières sont supervisées par des consultants en éducation.

- Consultations de groupe

Dans les consultations de groupe, les parents participent avec leurs enfants. Les enfants font l'objet d'un suivi médical et préventif, les parents reçoivent des informations sur sujets essentiels au développement et à l'éducation des enfants, et il y a échange des expériences.

- Travail parental de groupe visant à un transfert des informations (réunions thématiques)

Ces réunions ont pour but d'étendre les connaissances et la compréhension des parents concernant l'éducation et le développement du jeune enfant en les informant et en discutant avec eux sur un sujet spécifique.

- Partage d'expériences et de préoccupations parentales avec d'autres parents

Ce service a pour but de renforcer le réseau social et les compétences d'éducation des parents. Il porte, en particulier, sur la mise en commun des expériences et des préoccupations avec d'autres parents.

- Soutien parental pratique ou « faire des choses ensemble »

Le soutien parental pratique se traduit par une coopération, des démonstrations et/ou des discussions sur des sujets liés aux soins et à l'éducation à apporter aux enfants, en vue de renforcer les compétences d'éducation des parents et de promouvoir une interaction parent-enfant positive.



Dans les situations de familles difficiles à toucher (par exemple, familles exclues par la pauvreté, par la migration, etc.), les membres du groupe font office de médiateurs (par exemple, pour déterminer les besoins en services, pour apporter un soutien émotionnel et pratique, etc.). Ces experts « de terrain » reçoivent une formation spécifique - également pour les aider à résoudre leurs propres problèmes.

Dans un certain nombre de quartiers défavorisés de villes flamandes, des équipes consultantes (centres d'accueil thérapeutique) proposent un soutien supplémentaire aux familles en situation difficile, notamment par le biais d'activités menées en groupe.

À l'heure actuelle, la Flandre privilégie la coopération au niveau local entre tous les différents acteurs proposant un soutien parental. Dans les grandes villes flamandes, des centres d'accueil ont été créés pour fournir des services collaboratifs complets pour toutes sortes de soutien parental (par exemple, guichets d'information, assistance téléphonique aux parents, consultations de soutien parental, cours parentaux, etc.

Dans ces villes, ces centres d'accueil offrent un vaste éventail de services parentaux aux familles avec enfants de 0 à 18 ans. Ils s'efforcent de créer une atmosphère chaleureuse et non stigmatisante pour proposer des consultations et des échanges entre personnel et visiteurs. Toutes les familles peuvent profiter d'une gamme de services, depuis les contacts occasionnels jusqu'aux conseils plus intensifs proposés dans un ou plusieurs cadres. Il peut s'agir de visites à domicile ou d'activités menées au centre. Cette variété d'activités permet au personnel d'adapter l'intensité et l'offre des services à l'évolution des besoins des familles. Il peut élaborer des programmes spécialement adaptés aux besoins locaux à partir de services existants proposés par les différents acteurs qui organisent le centre d'accueil. Les parents qui fréquentent ces centres d'accueil viennent de tous horizons, certains souhaitant se tenir parfaitement informés pour apporter des soins de qualité à leurs enfants, d'autres rencontrant des difficultés et désirant, par exemple, suivre un cours en matière d'éducation. En règle générale, ces centres d'accueil parental ont pour objectif d'améliorer la vie familiale et le processus éducatif au sein des familles. En Flandre, fin 2007, 13 centres d'accueil parental basés sur une collaboration entre les agences seront créés et subventionnés par Enfance et Famille.

En 2003, K&G a lancé le développement des « kleuterkooffers » (boîtes éducatives) avec les Kinderrechtswinkels (boutiques de droit des enfants), afin d'offrir du matériel didactique adapté aux petits enfants sur les droits de l'enfant. Cette initiative était opérationnelle fin 2004.

Communauté française

Missions de l'Office de la Naissance et de l'Enfance

- Les projets « santé - parentalité » dans les consultations pour enfants de l'ONE (683 lieux de consultation gratuite en Communauté française) : ils ont pour but de mobiliser et d'organiser les ressources existantes dans le cadre d'un projet cohérent, adapté aux besoins de la population desservie et développé, si possible, en partenariat avec d'autres acteurs locaux.

- Le « carnet parental » (brochure destinée aux parents) : complémentaire au « Carnet de la mère » (brochure destinée aux mères) et au « Carnet de l'enfant » (brochure sur les soins à apporter à l'enfant), « Devenir parents » propose des pistes de réflexion sur la famille et le rôle de chacun des parents et apporte une série de réponses aux questions que les (futurs) parents se posent. Il reprend des informations relatives aux besoins de l'enfant et au rôle parental, à l'accompagnement préventif visant au bien-être de l'enfant, aux informations concernant l'éducation à la santé, à la responsabilité parentale et aux droits de l'enfant, aux différentes mesures et démarches entourant la naissance.

- Campagnes de soutien à la parentalité : dans le cadre de sa mission transversale de Soutien à la parentalité, l'ONE organise des campagnes de sensibilisation destinées aux parents d'enfants de 0 à 12 ans et des professionnels de terrain. Chaque campagne comporte la création d'outils destinés au public cible, une promotion médiatique, ainsi que la formation-sensibilisation des professionnels.

Un des thèmes de campagne que l'ONE a développé dernièrement portait sur les limites et les repères à donner aux enfants. Trois brochures ont notamment été réalisées. La première, à destination des futurs parents et des parents « Grandir avec des limites et des repères », a pour objectif :

- d'accompagner les parents dans leur rôle « d'éducateur »;
- d'augmenter les connaissances des parents sur les étapes du développement psycho-affectif de leur enfant;
- d'expliquer à quel point les « limites et les repères » sont des nécessités de base dans le développement de l'enfant;
- d'expliquer le rôle de la sanction et ses critères de choix;
- de donner aux parents des idées, des pistes de réflexions sur la manière de réagir;
- de faire prendre conscience aux parents qu'ils ne sont pas les seuls à vivre cette situation;
- de faciliter le dialogue entre les parents et les professionnels.

En 2007, la brochure à l'attention des parents continue d'être distribuée et s'est vue complétée par un dossier destiné aux professionnels. Ce dossier se compose de deux brochures complémentaires. Afin de soutenir les professionnels dans leur mission d'encadrement, une brochure d'approfondissement « Grandir avec des limites et Repères ... pour aller plus loin » et un guide pratique « Grandir avec des limites et Repères... Guide pratique » ont été réalisés.

La brochure d'approfondissement a été conçue pour soutenir les professionnels dans le cadre de leur formation continue et le guide pratique apporte quant à lui, des pistes pratiques d'animation sur le thème des limites et des repères.

- Soutien des lieux de rencontre parent-enfant :

« Les lieux de rencontre enfants et parents » offrent un espace de parole, d'échanges et de rencontre dans un environnement de qualité. Dans une perspective de prévention, ces lieux poursuivent les objectifs communs :

- a) De soutenir la relation entre l'enfant et ses parents
- b) De favoriser la socialisation précoce de l'enfant
- c) De rompre l'isolement social
- d) De favoriser le développement global de l'enfant.

Cette définition intègre la notion d'environnement de qualité, l'accueil pourrait quant à lui être effectué par des professionnels ou par des bénévoles en fonction de la spécificité des activités.

A côté de ces objectifs généraux les Lieux de rencontre poursuivent des missions plus spécifiques (actions sociale, remédiation, santé mentale, éducation permanente, etc.

Il est important de préciser que les lieux de rencontre enfants et parents remplissent généralement plusieurs missions, excepté les lieux de rencontre d'inspiration Dolto qui privilégient un objectif de prévention en santé mentale.

- Airs de familles

L'ambition première des microprogrammes télévisés Air de familles coproduits par l'ONE et la RTBF (Radio Télévision Belge Francophone) et diffusés quotidiennement, est de mieux faire connaître aux familles les services que l'ONE met gratuitement à leur disposition. Ils ont également pour objectif d'informer les familles à propos de la santé et de l'éducation des enfants de 0 à 12 ans. Des conseils pratiques sont donnés sur antenne, par des spécialistes issus de l'ONE ou en contact fréquent avec lui tandis que sont mis en valeur les documents d'information (brochures, affiches...) et l'expertise des professionnels de l'ONE (Travailleurs médico-sociaux, conseillers médicaux, pédagogiques, accueillants, ...).

Suivant de près les grandes campagnes thématiques annuelles que mène l'ONE, Air de Familles adapte ses thèmes à l'actualité ainsi qu'aux demandes des parents. Ceux-ci peuvent retrouver les microprogrammes Air de familles en ligne sur le site Internet de l'ONE (www.one.be).

Les thèmes des microprogrammes sont également développés, chaque semaine et sous forme d'interviews, dans le supplément week-end du journal « Le Soir », Victoire.

Par ailleurs, une émission de radio de la RTBF « Appelez on est là ».

accueille une fois par mois, de 11h30 à 12h10, un spécialiste de l'ONE (ou collaborant avec l'ONE et le magazine «Victoire») afin de traiter l'un des thèmes abordés en télévision.

Dans le cadre de son nouveau contrat de gestion (2008-2012), diverses initiatives ont été prises.

Comme dans le cadre des milieux d'accueil l'ONE a pris l'initiative (avec le soutien du Fonds Houtman) d'élaborer un référentiel de soutien à la parentalité qui offrira aux professionnels un cadre de références sur lequel s'appuyer.

Module de formation « soutien à la parentalité » destiné aux professionnels.

L'ONE élabore un module de formation spécifique sur le soutien à la parentalité. Son contenu se base sur la formation « bientraitance » dispensée à l'initiative de l'ONE. Ce module de formation est construit avec la collaboration d'experts en s'appuyant sur la diversité des contextes professionnels et institutionnels recouverts par le concept de soutien à la parentalité.

- Sensibilisation au rôle de parent : L'ONE développe des expériences pilotes et des recherches sur la sensibilisation au rôle de parent, notamment à l'attention des parents présentant des difficultés, notamment au niveau social, en vue de leur permettre de mieux assumer leur rôle auprès de l'enfant.

Des outils spécifiques seront réalisés dans ce cadre (Pictogrammes, Vidéos).

Il convient également de citer les diverses recherches action développées par le Fonds Houtman en matière de soutien à la parentalité notamment vis à vis des familles en difficulté (Enfants dont les parents sont incarcérés, enfants porteurs de handicap, etc.)

- Assistance téléphonique : Ce nouveau service d'accueil téléphonique est destiné à soutenir la fonction parentale, en encourageant la parole des familles.

● DVD intitulé « Ciel, un bébé ! » : Le ministère de la Santé, de l'enfance et de l'aide à la jeunesse en Communauté française a décidé de soutenir ce DVD, afin d'aider les jeunes parents. Outre le travail accompli par les services évoqués plus haut, les Espaces-rencontres, dont la législation est en cours d'élaboration, participent également à l'exercice de la parentalité en offrant des lieux de rencontre encadrés pour les enfants dont les parents sont maintenus à l'écart (décision judiciaire, difficultés relationnelles, etc.) et le rôle de chacun des parents et apporte une série de réponses aux questions que les (futurs) parents se posent. Il reprend des informations relatives aux besoins de l'enfant et au rôle parental, à l'accompagnement préventif visant au bien-être de l'enfant, aux informations concernant l'éducation à la santé, à la responsabilité parentale et aux droits de l'enfant, aux différentes mesures et démarches entourant la naissance.

Communauté germanophone

- Missions du « Dienst für Kind und Familie DKF »

Le DKF a pour mission de soutenir les familles dans leur potentiel d'éducation et de mobiliser avec la famille les ressources afin de répondre aux besoins éducatifs des enfants.

En fonction des besoins de la famille, elle reçoit l'aide qu'elle demande ou dont elle a besoin.

- Dans une commune, le DKF propose un group de mères - échanges entre mères, d'après des thèmes proposés.

- Le DKF travaille avec le DVD « Wege aus der Brüllfalle » qui est un outil de support pour l'entretien avec une famille ou un groupe de parents.

L'objectif est de sensibiliser la famille à la communication non – violente au sein de la famille.

- Ecole parentale : des cours parentaux ont lieu régulièrement, soit pour le tout venant, soit adapté à un public défavorisé ou pour des familles monoparentales.

- L'aide spécialisée dans le cadre de l'Aide à la Jeunesse prévoit des mesures d'aide en famille.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

No such programs. Counselling centers within regular work activities - Subdepartment for Social Protection (i.e., Center for Social Work) – through the team of experts. Debate does not exist.

Bulgaria

The following are some of the child protection measures indicated in the CPA: provision of pedagogic, psychological and legal assistance to parents on problems related to the raising, forming and education of their children; guidance towards appropriate services in the community; counselling of parents on matters related to social assistance and social services.

The respective training programmes for qualification of recipient families which are to be applied by the providers of Family Care services are developed and adopted.

The realisation of the Family Centres for Children Project and the National Programme In support of Motherhood is ongoing.

Croatia

If parents are dealing with any problems in raising and upbringing of a child, they can ask for help and support in Family Centers.

If parents are making mistakes in caring about and upbringing the child, the welfare centre warns them in a written statement, helps them to remove the mistakes or even sends them to schools for parents or to counseling office.

If parents are making serious mistakes in child's upbringing or they need special help in it, the welfare centre decides on controlling

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



the execution of parental care. The centre appoints a person who controls and makes a program for control in cooperation with parents.
There is also a practice that the government finances civil society organization's projects which are intended to strengthen parents in upbringing of a child, etc.

Cyprus

The Social Welfare Services provide support and counselling to parents through its Child and Family Service, which was established over 40 years ago and constantly promotes new programmes to meet emerging needs. (Details on the objectives of policies and the programmes provided by the Social Welfare Services may be seen under section 1.2. i)). Examples of such programmes are the Family Guidance Centre established in 2001 (described under section 5.2. i)) and home care services established in 1991. Home care services are provided not only to elderly and other dependent family members but also to families receiving public assistance who find it difficult to cope with basic responsibilities such as the care and supervision of children, housework, the preparation of meals and planning of ways to meet domestic needs. Similarly, children whose families are experiencing problems in coping with such basic responsibilities may receive care on a day-care basis in children's residential institutions.

Since 2006 the Educational Psychology Service of the Ministry of Education and Culture has developed a programme for an in-depth training for parents on matters of communication within the family. The programme consists of a series of 13 workshop sessions based on experiences where specially trained people from the Ministry of Education coordinate a group of about 20-parents in two hour weekly meetings. The training of parents aims at promoting psychological health through improving the quality of communication within the family and furthermore between others and also aims at the reduction of domestic violence.

The Adult Education Centre, under the Ministry of Education and Culture, organises lectures and debates on pre-marital and parenthood issues.

Health visitors provide preventive services to mothers, infants or children and generally to the whole family in order to preserve and promote health and prevent illness. The Health Visitor meets parents and their children at the Well-Child Clinics or at their homes, assesses the child's growth and provides support and counselling with regard to child raising, nutrition, breast feeding and family planning. In addition, health visitors cooperate with other professionals, through a Health Education Programme, for the implementation of educational programmes for parents to be and for pregnant women. These programmes cover topics such as pregnancy, nutrition of the baby, minor ailments, dealing with a sick baby etc. Health Education Programmes are also implemented in schools for students of higher education (lyceums) on issues related to puberty, parenthood and prevention of STIs. The role of NGOs in promoting healthy parenting practices is extremely important and is supported by the Government, through the provision of grants. E.g.:

- The Pancyprian School for Parents receives funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture and organises lectures delivered by experienced professionals (social workers, psychologists, teachers, doctors, etc), aiming at promoting healthy inter-personal relationships and parenting practices. The School for Parents cooperates closely with Parents' and Teachers' Associations and other relevant professional societies.

- The Family Planning Association receives grants from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and the Social Welfare Services. It organises lectures and workshops on sexual and family life issues at schools, work places, etc. and also provides personalised pre-marital and parenthood counselling to women and young people, through its clinical services.

The Advisory Committee established in 1994 in accordance with family violence legislation (described under section 5.1) consists of representatives of both the governmental and private sectors and among its activities is the promotion of upbringing without violence, through awareness raising. In this connection, the Committee delivers lectures to Parents' Associations and circulates guides and booklets for parents, carers of children and children themselves, as well as pamphlets for the general public.

Czech Republic

From the view of family policy the three main types of activities may be discerned which focus on the promotion of families:

1. Social services, which focus on help and support to individual family members and/or to the family as a whole which is in an adverse social situation in order to prevent their social exclusion. The basic types of social services are: social counselling (such as marriage or family counselling, counselling for seniors, handicapped persons, victims of criminal acts and domestic violence); services of social care (such as personal assistance, home care services, relief services, home service centres); services of social prevention (early care, telephone help lines, asylum homes, halfway homes, socially activating services for families with children,

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



terrain programmes).

2. Services focused on the support of functional families, which have preventive and supportive character. Their purpose is to lighten and strengthen partner and marital coexistence and parenting, to support families in their care for the children and to harmonize the professional and family life. Within this area the following distinctions can be made:

3. Commercial services provided to support functional families: care for children under three years of age and above three years by a non-parent; household assistance (such as maintenance of the household, family supplies); leisure and educational activities for children

Non-commercial services provided to support functional families: maternal centres; organization of leisure activities for children and families with children (such as the centres for the family, care centres [družiny]); promotion of the harmonization of professional and family roles (lecturing activities and counselling); promotion and education toward harmonic partnership, marriage and responsible parenting (especially lecturing activities and courses); other activities promoting and supporting functional families.

4. Activities provided within the framework of the social and legal protection of the children: preventive activities within the framework of social and legal protection of the children; counselling activities within the framework of social and legal protection of the children; activities within the framework of social and legal protection of the children in foster families; work with the children requiring increased attention within the framework of social and legal protection of the children; establishment of the facilities for the social and legal protection of the children.

Services directed at the support of functional family are universally operated by non-profit organizations which include maternal and parental centres.

In the area of support of families in 2008 MLSA announced through its department of Family Policy and Equality of Men and Women grant proceedings for the promotion of families. Within these proceedings grants will be provided within the following areas:

1. Subsidies to facilities providing services related to the prevention of social exclusion for parents looking after children
2. Support for increased quality of partnership and marital relationships and for the strengthening of parental competences
3. Support for foster care
4. Support to the accompanying of children and young adults in foster care and education care

In 2005, within the grant procedure of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, three programmes were announced. One of these programmes concerned the support for projects focused on advisory and educational activities in the field of teaching people "how to achieve harmonious partnership and marriage and responsible parenthood". A total of 32 projects thus received support within the grant procedure for 2005 through the above grant programme.

For 2006, the programme in support of advisory and educational activities teaching how to achieve harmonious marriage and responsible parenthood, extended by the focus on advisory activities, was again included into the grant procedure. The remaining programmes within the grant procedure (the programme of rehabilitation of families with children threatened by dysfunction, the programme of support for and assistance to children leaving institutional or foster care) focus on projects addressing the issues of assistance to dysfunctional families and integration into society of adolescent children that grew up outside their own biological family. The programme in support of establishments providing services preventing social exclusion for parents taking care of a child under 6 years of age, that was part of the grant procedure already in 2005 and remained unchanged, is designed for the support of projects aimed at prevention against social exclusion of parents on maternity and parental leave.

Municipalities and District Offices provide counselling services to parents through their divisions or departments for social affairs and also special departments for family and childcare.

Parents can also make use of the services of counselling facilities - counselling offices for marriage, family and human relationships, which provide counselling for married and engaged couples, single parents, dysfunctional families, families with medically disabled members and others. These services are both governmental and non-governmental facilities.

Denmark

The National Board of Social Services has since 2003 supported the local implementation of different forms for evidence based educational programmes, designed to increase the parenting skills of parents to children with problematic behaviours.

In addition the Danish Parliament passed a new bill in 2006 introducing the concept of parenting orders. Since then the municipal council may decide to issue a parenting order against the custodial parent or other person having custody, where there is a risk that the development of a child or young person is in danger, and this is considered to be due to the failure on the part of the custodial parent or other person having custody to live up to his/her parental responsibilities.

Estonia

Parent education and counselling programs:

- PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education) training. This is training for foster parents and adoptive parents, Estonia use the program since 2000. Training is based on the emotional experiences of participants and consists of special parts (child's needs, child's special needs, attachment, lost, network). From 2007 the PRIDE training is obligatory for all foster parents. The training is recommended also for adoptive parents. The PRIDE training is organized by the National Institute for Health Development and financed from the state budget.

- Counselling help lines are available both in Estonian and Russian language. A free emergency psychological help short-number 126 is available 24h. Information is also available in www.usaldus.ee. Helpline "Eluliin" ("Life Line") 655 8088 provides emotional support and psychological help (for more detailed information please see www.eluliin.ee). Child helpline 1345 is operating in Tallinn and Harju County. All Estonian child helpline 116 111 will be available in 2008-2009. Family practitioner's helpline 1220 is available for 24h (both in Estonian and in Russian).

- Counselling centres in all regions offering different kinds of psychological counselling services, family therapy etc. Counselling centres are NGO-s or private enterprises and usually for a fee.

- Counties, local governments and schools organize different lectures and training courses for parents. The state supports several projects of providing parental education (for example Gordon family school project) and a project to train divorce counsellors. The family centre "You and I" as the state's cooperation partner offers training courses for social workers, child welfare workers, teachers and other specialists on the needs of parents. The aforementioned specialists are trained to carry out similar courses in their working areas.

Parenting programmes:

- Hospitals, also profit or non-profit organisations offer education programmes for expecting and young parents. Several websites (for example www.perekool.ee, www.beebiweb.ee, www.pereklubi.com, www.nupsu.ee and some others) have been created with the purpose to support expecting and young parents with professional advice and possibility to communicate online. After the baby is born parents can participate in the baby schools where they can communicate with other young parents and take part of gymnastics and other suitable activities for babies. A family oriented monthly magazine "Family and home" is being published (website www.perekodu.ee).

- The family practitioner's instructions stipulate the nurse's obligation to supervise the infant's physical and mental development and to carry out regular examinations. Estonian Paediatric Association has developed guidance note for family practitioners for the regular examination of pre-school children. The recommendation also includes home visits to the families with newborn children. The guidance note is available in the Ministry of Social Affairs website www.sm.ee.

- Social campaigns "Don't hit the child" (in 1997 and 2000) and "The child is not a doll" (in 2004) have been initiated with the purposes to promote upbringing without violence and raise awareness of parents about the needs of their children.

- Development of the parental education system has been initiated in the cooperation of the state and the family centre "You and I". The goal of the development of the parental education is to improve the parenting skills, to offer counselling for parents and to raise public awareness on the issue. The educational activities will be implemented through parent effectiveness training (PET training). More information on the family centre is available on the website www.sinamina.ee.

The debate on the family policy and parenting issues has been initiated by the governing coalition. The Programme of the Coalition for 2007-2011 sets the family and population policy as one of the main policy areas. On the basis of the principles and tasks in coalition programme, the family policy unit in the Ministry of Social Affairs was established. For more detailed information, please see chapter 1 "Family policy: institutional framework and objectives" of this questionnaire.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Finland

The Government is carrying out an extensive national Development Programme for Social Services in which families with children are one of the target groups. The local authorities responsible for organising services have been allocated for the purpose considerable supplementary financing in addition to the ordinary central government transfers to local government. There are several projects under way in municipalities for developing services for families with children.

One important project is the FAMILY project in which different local level actors are encouraged to build mutually co-ordinated networks in order to gain optimal benefit from the services needed by an individual family. The co-ordination between the bodies producing services helps to avoid the splitting of problems as well as overlaps in services. The project is being carried out in the territory of some tens of municipalities basically in a similar form (reform of the service structure) but with varying applications (e.g. support for parenting, effective health education, or strengthening the father's role). Involved are the public social welfare and health care and school service, private social and health care, and non-governmental organisations.

Particular training for parenting is not available in Finland to any considerable extent. The primary service system for families includes free maternity clinic services during pregnancy. It encompasses parenting and prenatal training for both parents. Increased attention is being paid to the father's involvement; most Finnish men are present at the birth of their children. The support for parenting continues after the birth of the baby by means of child health clinic services, by which health care staff keep in regular contact with individual families, in particular in order to ensure the babies' overall wellbeing.

Day care is a central area in the co-operation with families. In early childhood education and care the co-operation is based on the principle of partnership for upbringing. In this way parenting and child upbringing are supported, and a uniform frame of reference for children's growth is created both at home and in the day-care settings. The starting point is respect for parents' views on the principles regarding their child's growth and wellbeing, and planning of activities related to a child's everyday life.

France

As part of their child welfare mission, the départements are required to render material, educational and psychological assistance to children and their families, and to organise collective activities aimed at preventing social exclusion. At the level of the département, the mother and child welfare service also puts forward programmes of support to parenting aimed at future parents and young parents of children aged under 6. Again at the level of the département, support to parenting is tending to become a fully-fledged activity in child welfare strategies.

For parents who experience difficulties in shouldering their parental responsibilities, there is a support mechanism which enables them to pool experiences and information with their peers and makes for mutual assistance: the Réseau d'Ecoute, d'Appui et d'Accompagnement des Parents (REAAP) (parents' counselling, support and mentoring network) which supports all actions implemented to support parents and encourage their active participation. These actions are directed at all parents.

See also the particulars of the REAAP given above.

In addition, a "parental responsibility contract" (CRP) was instituted by Article 48 of the law of 31 March 2006 on equal opportunities, to be implemented "in the event of pupil absenteeism [...] or disturbance of the functioning of a school or any other difficulty linked with a shortcoming of parental authority". Its purpose is to enable the chair of the département council, on his own motion or at the behest of the educational district inspector, the school head, the mayor of the municipality where the minor resides, the director of the family benefits payment body, or the Prefect, to put before the defaulting parents or the minor's legal representative a contractual document comprising mutual undertakings. Accordingly, the contract should recapitulate the obligations of the holders of parental authority in respect of upbringing, but also propose "any social assistance and welfare measure likely to remedy the situation". In the event of unjustified refusal to sign, or non-compliance with, the contract, the chair of the council may ask the director of the family benefits payment body to suspend the payment of all or some benefits payable in respect of the child, or to take the matter to court.

Lastly, the law of 5 March 2007 on crime prevention provides for the possibility of setting up in municipalities a council on the rights and duties of families whose chair - the mayor or the mayor's representative - is responsible for "discussing with the family such measures of assistance to the performance of the parental function as may be proposed to it, and the expediency of informing social welfare professionals and interested third parties of the recommendations made to it and, if appropriate, of the commitments made

by the family under a parental responsibility contract".

Germany

The Federal Government supports the country-wide operating bodies that are responsible for family education and counselling as it takes innovative action approaches. Examples are parental letters that provide the parents with continuous guidance and information from the birth of their child to their eighth year of life and which, especially for migrant families, are also published in German-Turkish language versions.

In order to meet today's family needs, the Federal Government supports the national extension of Multi-Generational-Centres. The Multi-Generational Centres Action Programme brings the tradition of several generations living together from the private into the public sphere. It draws on the know-how and potentials of all generations and thereby, in a manner of speaking, activates social capital. Multi-Generational-Centres help to nurture and educate children, advise families, activate civic commitment, provide older persons with a meaningful task and develop and broker family-based and intergenerational services. Since the beginning of 2008, a total of 500 multi-generational centres have started their work all throughout Germany. For five years, each centre is funded by the government and the European Social Fund with 40.000 Euros per year.

Since 2000, children have the right to a non-violent upbringing. At the same time, child and youth services were required by law to support the parents in their child-raising tasks and to show them non-violent ways of resolving conflict situations in the family. The legal amendment was accompanied by the campaign "More respect for children".

In addition to the counselling services and numerous departments at the regional offices for social services and special child guidance centres, there are also parental education establishments, including special centres for mothers, and diverse advice centres to promote competent parenting and the day-to-day handling of children.

* Provisions for the promotion of parenting competence include not only actions aimed at improving parents' knowledge on children's developmental needs and parents' educational strategies (family education), but also actions aimed at helping parents to deal with ordinary but also difficult situations in family life (family counselling).

There is a great variety of family education and counselling provisions in Germany. In Table 1 we refer briefly to the main modalities of provision. In Tables 2a-2h we present a brief description of some selected parenting programmes that are implemented in Germany. We have selected among programmes with a nationwide scope of implementation. For the purpose of this report, we could not consider the big number of programmes developed at regional or local levels.

Description of main family education and counselling provisions in Germany:

Parent courses and training

- Courses preparing for pregnancy, birth and newborn care: expectant parents receive information about physical, mental and emotional changes related to pregnancy and birth, and they learn strategies for coping with the new situation after birth (e.g. role and task allocation).
- Courses for parents of infants: parents (mostly mothers) learn all aspects of infant care, ways of promoting early infant development and of building a healthy parent-child relationship. Many of these courses are organized in groups of parents with their children ("breastfeeding groups", "baby massage groups", "playgroups") that meet regularly to exchange experiences.
- Courses for parents of preschool (kindergarten) and school children: most of them are part of a prevention programme. Trainers teach parents strategies to educate children so as to promote their development (e.g. how to cope with conflict situations, how to improve interaction and communication within the family). Some of these courses or programmes are directed at disadvantaged families or specific risk groups.

Examples

EiBa – Kursprogramm für Eltern und Babys im 1. Lebensjahr
PEKiP – Prager-Eltern-Kind-Programm
Opstapje (Schritt für Schritt)
HIPPPY – Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters
EFFEKT – Entwicklungsförderung in Familien: Eltern- und Kinder-Training
Starke Eltern – Starke Kinder
Triple P – Positive Parenting Program
PEP – Präventionsprogramm für Expansives Problemverhalten
Providers and supporters

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Self-help oriented associations (e.g. mother centres, Deutscher Kinderschutzbund), other help associations (e.g. German Red Cross), local and regional support institutions and other public institutions involved in projects to evaluate those courses and programs, BMFSFJ

Parent booklets (Elternbriefe)

According to the developmental level and age of the child, parents receive regularly these booklets with information on the topics of psychological development, education and child care, health, and changes within the family system. Parent booklets are widely used in Germany (e.g. about 3.5 million booklets of the kind edited by "Neue Erziehung" are annually distributed to parents). Versions in other languages are also available (e.g. Turkish).

Examples:

Parent booklets of the working group "Neue Erziehung"

Peter-Pelikan-Briefe

"Elternbriefe du und wir"

Providers and supporters

Youth welfare offices, non-profit associations (e.g. Peter Pelikan Verein), other support institutions (catholic church), BMFSFJ

Parent Telephone

Since 2001 a free of charge telephone service is offered to parents nationwide: trained counsellors give parents advice on topics around children education and help them to find solutions to problems in their family interaction and communication. Calls are attended confidentially.

Examples:

"Elterntelefon" of the association "Nummer gegen Kummer"

Providers and supporters

Different associations, coordinated by Nummer gegen Kummer and supported by BMFSFJ, Deutsche Telekom and private donors

Online counselling for parents

Parents have access to a Web site, in which after logging in, they can ask trained counsellors for advice in family-related themes. Various possibilities are offered at the Web site: to ask for advice via e-mail, individual chat or at specific consultation hours, when counsellors are available online; to participate in discussion forums and in thematic or group chats; to get additional information (newsletters, frequently-asked-questions section, links to other useful Web sites, etc.). These online counselling services are offered nationwide and free of charge and they operate anonymously (e.g. using nicknames).

Examples:

"Online Elternberatung" - Bundeskonferenz für Erziehungsberatung

"Beratungsportal des Deutschen Caritasverbandes e.V."

Providers and supporters

Bundeskonferenz für Erziehungsberatung, supported by BMFSFJ

Counselling centres of the German Caritas Association

Online Family Manual (Online-Familienhandbuch)

Main goal of this Web site is to provide extensive and qualified information so as to improve families' parenting competence.

Addressees are parents, expectant mothers and couples; professionals (teachers, educators and family trainers) and academic people. Several possibilities are offered:

iv) articles in four thematic domains: parenting and education, family life, public provisions for families, research contributions (at the end of 2004 more than 1400 articles were available online)

v) up-to-date news on relevant family topics with links to related Web sites

vi) users can comment on the news and articles they have read

vii) access to the online journal "Familie leben" (only till 2004)

viii) use of a discussion forum, where parents can ask for advice, give their opinion and exchange experiences.

"Online-Familienhandbuch des Staatsinstituts für Frühpädagogik

Staatsinstitut für Frühpädagogik München, BMFSFJ, Bavarian State Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Family Affairs and

Women, other support institutions (Diakonie, Caritas, Deutscher Kinderschutzbund, etc.)

Parent-child groups

In regular meetings, parents receive specific guidance on how to communicate and interact with their children in order to foster child development. In collective play and activity situations, they have the opportunity to observe their own interaction and the interaction of their children with other children and adults. By reflecting upon their educational attitudes, goals and behaviour, they can also improve their parent-child relationship. In parent meetings, they can communicate with other parents about their educational experiences and difficulties, or discuss about other themes relative to family life.

Examples:

"Eltern-Kind-Programm" (EKP) -Katholische Bildungswerke der Diözese München und Freising

Providers and supporters

Family education centres (about 30-40% of their provisions are parent-child groups), parochial communities, ecclesiastic education organisations and self-help oriented associations (e.g. mother centres, family centres)

Education and family counselling centres (Erziehungs- und Familienberatungsstellen)

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Parents of children with behaviour and learning problems, families having serious difficulties in their interaction and communication receive help from psychological and pedagogical professionals in order to be able to cope with those problems. Counselling is provided in regular sessions, and it is generally accessible to all and free of charge. Occasionally, these centres offer talks by experts on educational and psychological topics.

Providers and supporters

Local public and private support institutions (ecclesiastic or welfare work institutions)

Centres combining child care services with family work

In some cases, institutions providing child care (e.g. day-care centres) offer additional services aimed at promoting parents' participation in their educational programs and in community life. These services include activities to strengthen parenting competence, to help families to get in contact with other people or to facilitate parents opportunities for professional development. In other cases, community centres integrate child care with diverse family services aimed at promoting child development, supporting parents in the education of their children, fostering collective participation or encouraging interaction and communication among generations.

Examples:

Häuser für Kinder und Familien (Centres for children and families), based on the British model of the Early Excellence Centres (EEC)

Familienzentren – Project of the State Nordrhein-Westfalen

Mehrgenerationenhäuser (More generation centres)

Providers and supporters

Day-care centres, self-help oriented associations (parent initiatives, family centres), local ecclesiastic institutions, BMFSFJ, regional authorities, etc.

Greece

The Greek National Action Plan 2005-2006 places the strengthening of family as one of its basic policy objectives. It is the first time in the last few years that there is such a clear commitment to support families.

At the level of national adult education policies, the national programme "Parental Counselling" is worth mentioning. This is a programme that has been developed by the General Secretariat for Adult Education and implemented by the Institute of Continuous Adult Education. The programme started two years ago. During the school year 2004-2005, 51 Parental Schools operated in the country with a total of 262 forty-hour duration schemes, 5,670 participants and a budget of 800,000 euro. For the year 2005-2006, the budget has almost quadrupled a fact that will allow the development of 1,440 new schemes. Non-violent upbringing of children is part of the programme. The positive elements of this programme is the fact that all Counsellors are trained together and use the same material, in contrast to other parental education programmes run by municipalities or NGOs. Another positive thing is that in the selection process priority is given to remote and needy areas.

Within the sphere of improving parental practices and non-violent child upbringing, the undergoing discussion on the abolishment of the use of corporal punishment of children by parents must be mentioned. In fact, the relative committee has suggested the necessary legal changes while a Network for the Prevention and Combat of Corporal Punishment, consisting of governmental and non-governmental agencies, is in the process of being formed with the purpose of coordinating and promoting measures for non-violent upbringing.

Hungary

In the interest of the protection of children and the effectuation of their rights, the Child Protection Act provides for the complete prohibition of corporal punishment. The introduction of this provision was not so much aimed at providing for sanctions or punishment as rather aimed at serving the development of parental capabilities and providing for a clear framework of support. These measures are intended to encourage parents to seek assistance if they encounter difficulties in bringing up their children as well as to encourage them to acquire alternative methods of disciplining their children. At the same time these provisions strive to reduce the use of corporal punishment in disciplining children, and to alter the public notion of corporal punishment in the society and to make everyone more sensitive to issues concerning the human dignity of the child.

• Programmes promoting upbringing without violence.

A methodological brochure on how to prevent, recognise and manage child abuse and neglect has been prepared to be used by

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



general practitioners, paediatricians, district nurses and health specialists, the police and people working in the administration of guardianship as well as by social workers.

Children's mental aid telephone hotlines also have an important role in the prevention of child abuse and victimisation, the operation of which is financed by the state.

As of 1 July 2005 in larger localities (with a population of over 40 thousand), it is obligatory to run so called "gutter-child" programmes by providing social work in the streets and in housing estates; hospital-based social work must be provided at paediatrics sections (neglected and abused children) and at maternity wards (mothers in social crisis). In child welfare centres emergency services (availability on the phone) have to be performed, and weekend contact services have to be provided for the children of divorced parents to facilitate making contacts with their other parent living separately, and for the children living with foster parents if they want establish contacts with their biological parents.

Iceland

(1,2,3) The role of the child protection authorities is to support parents in their upbringing tasks. Furthermore, local social services and health care centers also have supportive roles towards parents. Since local authorities make their own policies the organization of these services differ between municipalities. In certain municipalities parental training has been organized for all parents of children of certain age groups, e.g. in Reykjanesbær were all parents of preschool children were invited to participate in SOS courses, while in Hafnarfjörður and Akureyri the municipalities offer parents of children the PMT training.

Ireland

Family Support Services

Family Support Services play an intrinsic role in assisting and supporting parents in the task of rearing their children. They help to develop existing strengths of parents/carers and children who are under stress and promote parental competence and confidence. Examples of effective family support services include the Springboard Initiative, the Teen Parent Support Programme (TPSP) and the Community Mothers Programme.

Springboard Initiative

The Springboard Family Support Projects were established by the Department of Health and Children in 1998. Springboard is a community based early intervention initiative to support families. All Springboard projects have a general strategy of being open and available to all families, parents and children in their communities as well as a more specific strategy of working intensively with those who are most vulnerable. Group work aims to impart parenting and personal development skills through a diverse range of activities. Family work involves counselling and therapy. There are currently 22 projects in operation nationally. Funding has been made available to develop a further five Springboard Projects in 2005.

Teen Parents Support Programme (TPSP)

The Department of Health and Children implemented a pilot initiative in the health sector on Teen Parents Support in 1999 and 2000 as part of the National Child Care Investment Strategy. The TPSP was set up to identify and develop models of good practice in service planning and service delivery for young parents, particularly those deemed to be at risk. Along with providing practical support, young parents are encouraged in their new role, given skills to enhance their confidence to enjoy parenthood and to understand child development. Research has found that the majority of Teen Parents interviewed believed that the Initiative had helped them in their role of parenting. There are now a total of five TPSP projects in operation nationally. The Health Services Executive (HSE) has been funded to develop a further three projects in 2005.

Community Mothers Programme

The Community Mothers Programme is operational in several community care areas. It is a support programme for first and second time parents to help develop their skills and self esteem. The programme uses experienced volunteer mothers in disadvantaged areas to give support to first-time parents in rearing their children up to one year old.

Family Support Programme

The fund has been used to provide or co-fund training and development programmes for disadvantaged social welfare customers

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

and their families including very young lone mothers, other parents rearing children without the support of a partner, Carers, Travellers and the disabled.

The objective of the fund has been to increase the capacity of those in the most difficult circumstances to improve their self-esteem and personal and family situations through the training, developmental and educational opportunities made available. Programmes covered under FSP include parenting skills courses, family support programmes and personal development programmes.

Total expenditure for 2007 was €2.9m

Activation and Family Support Programme

The Family Services Programme and the Special Projects fund were amalgamated into the Activation and Family Support Programme (AFSP) from January 2008. The programme aims to provide funding for to assist individuals and families to enhance their employability through education, training and personal development opportunities and to improve their quality of life. The programme is administered through the local Facilitator network which provide local communities with resources to enhance social inclusion and improve employability in a very positive way. Funding local groups is one of the many initiatives which the Department administers as part of the activation programme.

Examples of activities funded under the programme include parenting projects for young lone parents, support programmes for families of disabled persons, family support for travellers, projects providing include personal development courses, computer training, literacy/numeracy and life skills. It is envisaged that the funding will prove invaluable in allowing the Department reach the more marginalised groups in local communities.

The combined budget for 2008 is €6m.

Italy

The Italian Law no. 285 of 28 August 1997 made an outstanding contribution to the legal promotion of children's and teenagers' rights at the time of the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This law provides for special training for teachers, social and health care workers and parents. The relevant government departments and public bodies are conducting research, monitoring and studies on school integration. The following measures are being planned:

- i) specific benefits for employed parents of children with disabilities;
- ii) positive action to guarantee the admission and integration of children younger than 3 in day-care centres and pre-schools.
- iii) support services specifically targeting the parent-child relationship in a context of poverty and family violence;
- iv) alternatives to placement in institutes for Italian and foreign children, in order to protect their well-being.

Latvia

The Ministry for Children and Family Affairs approves the annual National Programme for Improving the Situation of Children and Family.

Also in the framework of the Action plan for the implementation of the conception "National Family Policy" for the year 2004 – 2013 the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs provides informative and educational activities regarding relations in the family, child rearing etc.

Lithuania

From 2002 Lithuania implementing a national program on Child day care. One of the aims of this program - socially disadvantaged parents parental education. In 2008 from the state budget for this program EURO 2.75 billion (in 2006 about EURO 1.2 billion and in 2009- EURO 2.3 billion)

A positive influence on the promotion of good parenting is the provision of assistance by social workers to children from socially

disadvantaged families who are attending day-care centres for after school activities. From 2007 a social worker who are working on promotion of positive parenting and social skills with socially disadvantaged families are working in every local community and are subsidized from the state budget. In total there are more than 600 such social workers.

Luxembourg

Le programme gouvernemental de 2004 souligne que les programmes parentaux nécessitent encore un développement supplémentaire. Au plan local, le gouvernement souhaite mettre en place, avant la fin de l'année 2009, une offre de programmes parentaux dans toutes les régions du pays.

Sur le plan du cofinancement public des établissements qui assurent les programmes parentaux, plusieurs textes de loi définissent les mécanismes de financement, les procédures et les conditions qualitatives à remplir pour obtenir un soutien. Ce sont notamment les textes suivants:

Formations et conférences

Des formations de longue (plusieurs jours) et de courte (une journée) durée sont proposées par divers organismes et sur différentes questions. Certains centres de formation établissent deux fois par an un calendrier regroupant toutes les différentes formations et conférences qu'ils organisent. Les parents peuvent y participer de leur propre initiative. Le stage "triple P" pour la prévention des problèmes de comportement de l'enfant et pour les compétences parentales et de couple figure à ce programme.

Service d'assistance téléphonique pour les parents

Un numéro spécial (n° 266 40 555) d'assistance téléphonique pour les parents a récemment été créé pour offrir aux parents la possibilité de demander un soutien et de l'aide dans leur rôle parental en cas de problèmes.

Campagnes de sensibilisation

Des campagnes de sensibilisation sont organisées à l'aide de différents outils multimédia tels que l'Internet, les vidéos et les CD-Roms, ainsi que de publications écrites et de brochures. Les parents sont sensibilisés à certains risques et problèmes qui pourraient surgir, notamment en rapport avec l'Internet, l'éducation et la prise en charge de l'enfant. Ces outils de sensibilisation jouent un rôle préventif et sont proposés à l'hôpital, à l'école, dans les centres de formation, dans les garderies ainsi par les ministères de la Famille et de l'intégration, de l'Education et de la Santé.

Centres d'accueil pour (futures) mères avec leur enfant

Les (futures) mères en situation précaire (sur les plans économique ou social) peuvent demander leur accueil dans des centres spécialisés qui leur offrent un hébergement temporaire pour elles et pour leur enfant.

Groupes d'entraide de parents

Certaines institutions offrent aux parents la possibilité de se rencontrer régulièrement pour des échanges sur leur expérience de parents. Ces groupes étroits sont animés par du personnel socio-pédagogique. Des activités d'animation familiale sont proposées; les membres du groupe et leurs enfants peuvent y participer.

Consultation individuelle d'experts

Les parents peuvent aussi faire appel à des experts en psychologie ou en pédagogie dans des établissements qui organisent des consultations thérapeutiques pour les familles, dont certains proposent de la médiation familiale.

Organismes privés

Même si d'un point de vue juridique les organismes sont privés, la plupart d'entre elles sont financés par des entités publiques comme le Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration et le celui de l'Egalité entre les femmes et les hommes.

Etablissements de formation des parents et des familles

Différents organismes de formation tels que "Eltereschool, Familienzenter CPF, Planning familial, Info-Video-Center, AFP-Services, Kannerjugendtelefon et Initiativ Liewensufank" se spécialisent dans la formation et l'assistance aux parents dans leurs obligations pédagogiques et de soins. Ils proposent des formations de longue ou de courte durée pour les parents, des informations générales, des conférences, des activités de médiation, des sites Internet et une ligne d'appel anonyme pour parents. Leurs activités sont organisées soit dans leurs locaux, soit au niveau de la collectivité locale, par exemple dans les communes.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Garderies

Les garderies prennent en charge les enfants pendant la journée, quand leurs parents ne sont pas disponibles. Certains organisent des manifestations et des conférences publiques sur différentes questions du domaine de l'éducation des parents.

Centres de placement familial

Des centres de placement familial, où les enfants retirés à leur famille biologique sont placés, restent en contact régulier avec les parents afin de programmer et de préparer la réintégration de l'enfant dans sa famille biologique. Ces centres aident les parents à acquérir les responsabilités, attitudes et compétences parentales nécessaires.

Associations de parents

Chaque école primaire ou secondaire a sa propre association de parents. Une fédération les regroupe toutes au plan national. Cette fédération organise des formations et des conférences sur diverses questions qui intéressent les parents d'élèves membres des associations locales de parents.

Médiateur des droits de l'enfant

Le médiateur pour les droits de l'enfant du Luxembourg protège les droits de l'enfant par son travail de défense et de promotion. Il organise régulièrement des conférences au plan local dans les communes.

Association de sages-femmes

Cette association regroupe les sages-femmes du Luxembourg et organise à intervalles réguliers des séminaires et des formations avec des experts sur différentes questions. Un des plus récents a porté sur "les grossesses des mineures".

Etablissements d'adoption pour parents et personnes adoptées

Ces établissements de formation assurent des formations à l'intention des parents prévoyant d'adopter un enfant du Luxembourg ou d'un autre pays. Ils assurent également le suivi de l'adoption et proposent des consultations psychologiques pour la famille et ses membres après une adoption.

Malta

Although there is little official data on the provision of personalised social services to children and other family members at risk, social surveys manifest the extent of assistance received by persons experiencing family related problems, including family breakdown. This phenomenon has led to the development of parenting programmes delivered by both sedqa agency (government organization) and the Cana Movement and Caritas (Catholic Church institutions).

Since 2006 there is also the Homestart program running by Agenzija Appogg. APPOGG also offers services to families and parents through Cottonera Community Services (a community development unit), the Generic Team and Programm Ulied Darna (a service in which trained volunteers offer their time, skills, friendship, material support (in case of Progett Tereza), information and practical help to facilitate the life of families who are under stress in their own homes.)

Monaco

Les équipes psychosociales, les professeurs et chefs d'établissement reçoivent individuellement les parents lorsque cela s'avère nécessaire.

La Direction de l'Education Nationale entretient des liens avec l'Association des parents d'élèves, qui peuvent déboucher sur des actions communes.

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



Netherlands

The government offers parenting support to all parents before and just after the birth of their first child, on an equal basis. Primary responsibility for this lies with the municipal authorities. To encourage municipalities in this, central government is giving them €50 for each newborn baby, which they can spend on preventive child policies. Municipalities can use these funds to improve early and general parenting help for people with young children which was to be provided by the youth health services starting from 1 January 2006.

For the period from 2004 to 2007 the government made extra funds available to around 50 municipal authorities for the extension and improvement of help to families at risk. All municipalities have a duty to support these families. The municipalities used this incentive to try and learn lessons in the area of support to families at risk which are valuable to all municipalities.

As explained earlier, an Interministerial Programme for children and families was set up at the beginning of 2007, while at the same time a Minister for Children and Families, who also holds the post of Deputy Prime Minister, was appointed. Priority is given to parenting support. Due to our decentralised system, where municipalities are responsible for offering parenting support programmes and services, there is no national programme or standard. As a result of Operation Young People, a 3-year programme operated by 7 ministries aiming to reform children's and young people's services, the recommendation has been made that in each municipality a Youth and Family Centre should be created. Municipalities have a statutory obligation to set up the Centres, and in some areas they are already up and running. Central government provides extra funds for all municipalities for the extension and improvement of help to families. There is national support for setting up the Centres and a number of guidelines, but implementation is up to the municipalities. The Centres must be built on existing structures such as the child health clinics (for post-natal care from 0 - 4) and youth health care and have a connection with provincial youth care as well as schools. Since they are a network of child services, many other services can be added. Centre-based parenting support programmes, either for all parents or specifically targeted (e.g. for migrant mothers) can be offered. Municipalities also offer home-based programmes like Opstap ('Step up'), which teaches parents, mostly mothers, to undertake certain activities together with their children. A similar programme is Home-Start. For more information on both programmes see <http://www.europarent.org/evaluation.asp>

As is the case with other welfare services, these programmes are funded by the government (either at national or local level) but carried out by independent organisations and institutions.

Practitioners in the field of children's and young people's services are not employed by the government in the Netherlands.

Various programmes are in use, but the government is keen to work with the more sustainable ones, for example creating a register of proven effective methods of parenting support. Or by subsidising a research programme in this field (ZonMw). The Netherlands Youth Institute has collected a lot of data on effective parenting programmes and advises on implementation. The NJI also provides practitioners with information on relevant developments in parenting support through its website and e-zines.

A precondition for timely recognition of problems is the development of an electronic child database, making information available more quickly and on a larger scale. As of 1 January 2009 all newborn children in the Netherlands are to get their own electronic files administered by the youth health services. In addition to the electronic database there will be a referral index/risk box where various sectors involved with young people can report risks and incidents. Together, the electronic child database and the referral index will hopefully ensure that risks to children are better monitored and problems more easily prevented.

Besides all these formal initiatives, there is also a wide range of commercial and private initiatives, e.g. through internet. And 'Super nanny' programmes are hugely popular.

Norway

Relationship enrichment groups for parents with disabled children.

As a part of the Government's Plan of Action for the Disabled, a new project has been initiated on family guidance for parents with disabled children. We are now in a situation that we can provide nationwide services like groups and courses based on selected Family Counselling Offices I just mentioned. This national initiative is aiming at enhancing communication, strengthening relationships and preventing family break-up in families with disabled children. The program is now permanent and the commission is to contribute to a competence build-up focused on the problems met by parents when they have a disabled child. The Program is baptized "What about us?"

Relationship enrichment courses and groups for parents having their first child.

During 2004 the Ministry initiated a new program for parents who become parents for the first time. As many of you may have experienced, being a mother or father for the first time, change your life situation completely. What are the demands, how do we organize the day, what about work, the economic situation are all question among others parent have to ask themselves having their first baby. This program is implemented in all our municipalities and boroughs (430 all together) and will be offered on a voluntary basis to all couples (or single mothers/fathers) responsible for their first child. Both professionals and non-professionals have been trained to charge groups of parents and there have also been developed guidelines for parents.

Relationship enrichment measures in cooperation with the non-governmental organizations

Due to the growing number of separation and divorces, the Norwegian Government regards it as being important to strengthen relationship enrichment measures. State financed or subsidized relationship enrichment courses are a low-threshold service aimed at reducing relationship conflicts and break-ups. Preliminary the financial supports to such courses are given to different non governmental organisations, churches, and sometimes to the already mentioned Family Counselling Offices in cooperation with nongovernmental organisation on the local level.

(The scheme whereby grants are provided for relationship enrichment measures was established in 1994.) The scheme includes both support for local relationship enrichment courses and meetings for groups of couples and support for development measures to improve competence and expertise in this area. The demand for relationship enrichment measures has increased steadily. However, the allocation for this purpose is still relatively small.

The Parental Guidance Programme

The Ministry of Children and Equality initiated already in 1995 a nationwide Program for parental guidance. The programme aims to support parents and other caregivers in their care-giving role, through sensitizing them to children's needs and enhancing the ability to respond to those needs. The programme is based on knowledge and research in developmental psychology, stating that children develop positive through interaction with persons close to them. Thus, the programme focuses on building a positive relationship between the caregiver and the child, and how to develop good interaction. The program is preliminary run in groups, where parents themselves are activated through discussions and where they can exchange experiences mostly under the supervision of a professional. Parental guidance is also an integrated part of the communication and contact between the parents and the staff in the for example a day care centre. The program has been implemented in the municipalities, through the services where parents meet other parents and professionals; in healthcare centres, day care centres, schools, child welfare etc. As you understand, we have not been building up new structures or organisations but trained professionals' in existing services to focus more on the relationship between the child and parents and building up their competence in this field.

Over the last two years, a new project within the framework of the parental Guidance Programme has been carried out, targeting minority groups. The program was tailored to the special needs of minority parents. In addition to the topics on how to build a good relationship and develop good interaction, the focus is on multicultural background issues in child development and different values and traditions in child rearing. So far the project has been very successful. One of the explanatory factors I believe has been the use of one person representing the minority group and one Norwegian facilitator running the groups of parents together.

Over the last 8-10 years, the Ministry has initiated the implementation of new methods based on the family and the local environment in work with children and young people with behavioural problems.

Parent Management Training (PMT) target families with children with behavioural problem aged 5-12. This method has been developed over a period of thirty years by the Oregon Social Learning Center in the USA. The aim of PMT is to change the interaction between parents and children so as to foster and support pro-social behaviour. At the same time, engrained negative patterns are broken down and reduced. This method has both a preventive and a therapeutic goal. It is intended to prevent and halt the development of antisocial behaviour among children in the aged group concerned.

Through PMT, parents learn specific approaches in their interaction with their child. Research results show that intervention leads to a significant reduction in antisocial behaviour, both at home and at school. In addition to treating families' a process based on PMT is under way to develop models for working with children with behavioural problems in day care centres and schools, with children placed outside home, such as foster homes and institutions.

Another method is Multisystem Therapy (MST). MST is a family based method that aims to preserve the family and empower parents. This method, which also was developed in USA, targets children and young people up to 17-18 who are in danger of developing serious behaviour problems, or who have already developed such problems. The method therefore targets children and adolescents who will soon meet or already fulfil the criteria under the Children Act for placement in an institution. The method is based on the premise that the most effective way of helping children and young people is to help the family and involve it actively in the therapy, from the formulation of goals until the therapy as been completed. This therapy, which is an alternative to placement in an institution, is provided in the young person home in the local community. Under special circumstances MST can also be used for children living in foster homes and also in institutions. (New program from 2005) Over the last 8 years we have been trained

professionals in the different regions to use these new methods.

Poland

The assumptions of the family policy are laid down in the "Social Policy Strategy 2007-2013 (SPS), Initial Proposals of the Ministry of Social Policy for discussion." This programme, in its assumptions, complies with the provisions of the Lisbon Strategy, and – together with two other programmes: "Employment and Social Integration" and "Civil Society" – it will lead to increased social cohesion in Poland.

The programme points out three negative phenomena concerning Polish families: lack of economic security (low level of salaries/wages, high costs of children's maintenance and education, impossibility to acquire and maintain one's own apartment), increase in the number of pathologies and socially undesirable phenomena (physical violence in the family, alcohol abuse, moral cruelty towards the family members), and increased demoralisation among the young (violence, crime). The implementation of the following actions is proposed to combat these tendencies and to support families in the upbringing and education of children:

- Establishment of conditions conducive to the development of the young generation in family and in extra-family environments, as the factor contributing to the improvement of the human capital quality;
- Establishment and strengthening of solutions serving the purpose of the reconciliation of work and child raising in order to increase occupational activity and allow for the realisation of procreation plans to a better extent;
- Development of the family support system for families experiencing child care and raising difficulties;
- Earmarked support system for families with children oriented on the elimination of deficits – equalisation of opportunities of children pursuing education;
- Development of educational and cultural establishments for children and the young;
- Development of a positive climate and attitudes towards the family, marriage, fertility rate (number of children per family);
- Support for families with disabled children in order to equalise opportunities for children who commence and/or continue education;
- Establishment of a comprehensive prevention system to prevent crime, demoralisation and abuse of psychoactive substances by the young.

* Workshop for Parents and Their Children We learn from each other

These workshops organized in the primary school of Bytom are for parents of grade 1-3 pupils (ages 7-9), who want to know their children's needs, expectations, some mechanisms and reactions to difficult situations. They are also for those who wish to improve their relationship with their children or more actively take part in their development. The series covers 9 meetings run at 2 week intervals after lessons, for both parents and children at the same time in the form of a workshop.

The general aim of the workshop is to introduce examples for activities developing educational skills, while the more specific aims include: showing parents and pupils ways of good communication; introducing the good and bad sides of the media influence on children; presenting parents with the value of educational games; showing parents patterns of activities to compensate for the children's feeling of inferiority; making parents aware of the things their children find very important; presenting parents with the types of exercises which aim at strengthening the child's already existing "WAK" channels (kinaesthetic, auditory and aural).

The methods used include mini-lectures, talks, games, audiovisual instruments. In order to prepare the programme evaluation, special questionnaires for children and parents have been prepared.

Portugal

Parenting programmes have been gaining attention and interest in Portugal during the last decade, leading to the building up of a more consistent policy and efforts to support, increase and federate institutions who have such programmes and also to increase training (Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Family Affairs XXVIIIth Session, 16-17 May, 2006).

The 1999 law on the protection of Children and Young People (Decree-law 147/99 1st September) underlines in its article 41 the need for parenting programmes in the context of support measures for the protection of children and young people at risk.

The Federation of Associations of Parenting Programmes has been created, with the aim of improving the quality, coordinating and integrating all the programmes implemented around the country. The aim of these programmes is to help parents to be more self-confident, more self-controlled, more positively attuned with their feelings and their children's emotions, and less destructive and violent. More recently, some Programmes have been gradually introducing training as well as sessions that involve parents and their

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

offspring at the same time and, sometimes, their teachers as well. Parenting programmes are also beginning to focus on particular situations (such as divorce, adoption, adolescent mothers, fathers...) and to use new and varied methodologies, such as telephones, the Internet, DVDs, games to play at home or at school.

In 2006 the Ministry of labour and Social Security established that parenting programmes would be a part not only of social integration programmes for vulnerable families but also of all existing training/educational/lifelong learning courses organized by the ministry, in particular by the Institute for Employment and Professional Training.

In 2007 a protocol of cooperation was signed between several public institutions and universities to diagnose the needs of parenting support programmes and to prepare models and programmes of parental training. The universities who participate in this protocol also have as their mandate to identify and report good practices.

Romania

Not mentioned

Russian Federation

The necessity of parenting support program (regular parental counselling, training and enlightenment) is proposed by community and experts as a vital element of the family policy.

Nevertheless in fact these programs are realized sporadically without joint coordinative centre and scientific and methodological support.

At the same time upon the request parents may receive coun-selling assistance in establishments for social services for families and children, by school psychologists, in counselling establishments of educational system.

Serbia

Since 2004 the programme titled "I Can Do It Better" has been continuously offered in the Marriage and Family Counselling Service of the Belgrade Centre for Social Work. It is a preventive programme offering specific primary prevention from juvenile delinquency. It is targeted to children and their parents, with aim to prevent developmental problems in children's behaviour.

After first signs of anti-social behaviour, multidisciplinary measures are taken targeted to its factors and cause in order to mitigate unfavourable effects and prevent those aspects that could progress to delinquent behaviour. The Programme encourages new and more purposeful aspects of behaviour.

Evaluation of the Programme indicates that it has been extremely effective for children who were included in the workshop activities. The goal has been achieved, that is, children succeeded in developing new pro-social skills and elimination of anti-social patterns of behaviour as disruptive and aggressive behaviour was reduced and self-respect increased. On the basis of evaluation results, and increasing need of children with anti-social behaviour for protection and support to overcome challenges of psychological and social nature they are facing, and particularly their need for professional staff and experts involved in work with this category of children in schools and municipalities, this programme has been extended to many schools. Upon completion of every cycle, survey is done for effects and results, and to check if the aims have been achieved, namely:

- development of pro-social skills, and
- elimination, that is, reduced anti-social patterns of behaviour with children at risk of anti-social behaviour development, elimination of the aggressive behaviour and enhancement of their self-respect.



The children were highly motivated to participate in the Programme (workshops and Club); according to their teachers, they became more cooperative and adaptable; they are more accessible and acceptable to their peers, and respond better to challenging situations); they accepted well proposed aggression management models.

The evaluation results provided by children, show that transition trends may be indicators of more mature responses of respondents in sense of better control of their impulses, enhanced ability to postpone reactions, reduced level of aggressive tendencies and more frequent recourse to mature defence mechanisms such as rationalisation and sublimation. Detected trends imply that if similar activities are extended to wider sample it would be undoubtedly useful for children involved in thus extended project.

On the basis of results of test that parents took, it can be assumed that programme resulted in significant changes in functioning of families who were involved in the programme. Having participated in workshops, these families become more cohesive, less confliction-prone and their members more autonomous and proactive to leisure activities. On the other hand, their interest in culture, intellectual sphere, ethical and religious contents was heightened. Also, they became more goal-oriented, which indicates that they successfully internalised more structured adjustment mechanisms. Finally, these families adopted new and effective patterns of behaviour, and raised general level of their functionality.

Slovakia

From the point of view of the department of labour, social affairs and family, it concerns a guarantee of the support of parents in their parental rights and obligations on the basis of the execution of measures under Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on socio-legal protection of children and social curatorship, as amended.

Slovenia

In Slovenia health visitors have traditionally played a key role in parental education and support. All families receive at least one visit from a health visitor within 10-14 days of the birth of the child. The role of health visitors is in health promotion, screening. They advise parents in matters such as breastfeeding, immunisation, child development, diet and general childcare.

The Slovenian government facilitates educational programmes which are carried out by different nongovernmental organizations: pre-marriage counselling for couples, baby-counselling for couples expecting baby, family crisis counselling, etc.

Among those the "Maláki Paláki" (Baby Dwarfs) project which was implemented by the NGO SEZAM in 1999 was first and foremost intended for parents, but also their children. It consisted of five parts: help telephone – a telephone information line open to parents for questions about babies, toddlers and pre-school children, active on Fridays all day long; counselling service organised on the premises of the Sezam association; the "čajanka" (Tea Party) – parent meetings with the purpose of spending time together, exchanging information and knowledge (on family planning and pregnancy, giving birth, having a baby, toddler, pre-school child, older child, adolescent, the protection of children, a modern family, etc.); advocacy of children's rights in the relations between institutions-children-parents; get-togethers of parents, children, nannies, expectant parents in order to informally bring together families and foster family life.

Sweden

In Sweden, family counselling is normally concerned with support and guidance aimed at improving relations within the family. In couples counselling or marriage counselling the emphasis is on the two partners, irrespective of whether they seek help in order to continue living together, to separate in a sensible way or to be able to cooperate with the children following a separation.

Much of the social services' work with children and their families in Sweden comes under the heading of family counselling. All

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



counselling provided by the social services is free of charge. Child and youth guidance too, focuses on the family and is concerned with family counselling. In most county council areas, child health and medical care is free of charge.

The Government has commissioned the Swedish National Institute of Public Health to suggest methods and programmes for parental support and education. The Institute has presented a DVD version for self-organised groups (study circles) in January 2008. The Institute is required to follow developments in this field in municipalities and county councils all over Sweden.

The Swedish Statement of Government Policy declares renewed strong measures within the field of public health. One especially important issue is interventions to promote health as well as to prevent ill-health among children, and to develop and extend support for parenting so that it applies to the child's whole growth.

In May 2008 the Government will appoint an inquiry tasked with drawing up a strategy for how to: extend parenting support so that it applies to the child's whole growth; increase the existence of health promotion arenas in municipalities by facilitating cooperation between, above all, maternity care, the child health service, the social services, day-care centres and compulsory school, and other actors with parents as a target group; increase the use of evidence-based parenting support methods by offering education to relevant professionals.

The starting point for the inquiry is that the support for parenting is to treat children and parents as the holders of rights and obligations, and is to be based on a voluntary choice by the individuals concerned, except when public authorities have to intervene to protect the child. It is important to recognise the variations in parenting and parental situations by adopting a holistic and pluralistic approach. It is crucial that professionals adopt a positive approach to parents' potential, and that the support is long-term in order to guarantee stability and continuity of policy. Furthermore it is important to acknowledge that parents have the prime responsibility for their child, subject to the child's best interests, and that support must be based on the equal involvement of parents and respect for their complementarities.

Upbringing without violence

Since 1979, Swedish law has prohibited the use of spanking or other forms of degrading treatment as child-rearing methods. Knowledge of the law is widespread in society. Research shows that the provision has had a great impact on the population. A study from 2000 where parents were asked about their experience of and attitudes towards corporal punishment showed that forceful corporal punishment of children, which could potentially cause severe injuries, has decreased substantially. A study of children's experience from the same year shows that the absolute number of corporally punished children has decreased. The children who are exposed to such punishments experience this much less often than before.

The Social Services Act stipulates that the municipality is responsible for support to and protection of all children living in the municipality. Anyone observing that a child is maltreated or physically punished or at risk of such treatment should report this to the social services, which are obliged to investigate and meet the needs of the child.

Switzerland

Conformément à la loi fédérale sur les centres de consultations en matière de grossesse, tous les cantons proposent des centres de planning familial et de consultation en matière de grossesse (consultations gratuites). Dans ce cadre-là, les parents peuvent obtenir des renseignements sur la fonction parentale mais les programmes ne sont pas particulièrement destinés à certains groupes cibles.

Il existe aussi dans tous les cantons des programmes destinés aux futurs parents concernant la préparation à l'accouchement et les nouvelles tâches liées aux soins d'un nourrisson, afin que ceux-ci soient en mesure le mieux possible de faire face à leurs nouvelles responsabilités. Les parents de nourrissons et de petits enfants peuvent s'adresser dans leur région à des services de consultation médico-sociaux pour les questions liées à la préparation à l'accouchement, à l'allaitement, à la nutrition et à la croissance de leur enfant. Les services de puériculture sont gratuits. Le dépistage précoce des handicaps et des difficultés de croissance est assuré par des pédiatres, des conseillers aux mères et aux pères et des centres de consultations pour parents. Les enfants présentant des besoins particuliers sont ensuite soignés et soutenus par des services ambulatoires ou stationnaires d'éducation précoce hautement spécialisés. Pour ce qui est des conditions psychosociales, ce sont en particulier les crèches, les jardins d'enfants et les écoles qui assurent la reconnaissance précoce des difficultés ou des particularités de développement nécessitant l'intervention de spécialistes.

Formation des parents

Les écoles de parents et centres de formation d'adultes proposent une multitude de cours axés spécifiquement sur les divers thèmes

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



du développement de l'enfant, de la scolarité. Par exemple, l'Institut suisse de prévention de l'alcoolisme et autres toxicomanies (ISPA) propose de nombreux cours, dont certains, traitant de la prévention, sont destinés aux parents d'adolescents. Tous les objectifs de ces cours sont, dans un premier temps, d'aider les parents à éviter les situations de crise et, dans un deuxième temps, de les aider à gérer ces situations si crise il y a.

D'une manière plus générale, la Fédération Suisse pour la Formation des Parents, soutenue par la Confédération, offre un soutien et des cours à tous les parents intéressés. Celle-ci accomplit un travail considérable (env. 60'000 parents fréquentent annuellement les cours pour parents). Ces formations permettent notamment d'accroître la sensibilisation des parents et des enfants aux abus et violences envers les enfants, d'augmenter la capacité des parents à s'occuper et à veiller sur leurs enfants et à leur bien-être (responsabilisation parentale), d'apprendre les comportements adéquats et de gérer les situations critiques et à risque.

Dans les cantons et certaines villes, les bureaux de l'égalité entre hommes et femmes, les offices pour la protection de la jeunesse ou les offices des mineurs publient des classeurs et brochures d'information ou des répertoires d'adresses d'aide et de consultation utiles aux parents, couvrant les domaines de développement de l'enfant tant physique que psychique ainsi que les questions relatives à la scolarité, à la santé, aux loisirs. On mentionnera en outre les "Messages aux parents" de la fondation privée Pro Juventute qui sont des petites brochures distribuées à grande échelle dans toute la Suisse. Les communes prennent fréquemment en charge les frais liés à ces brochures. Elles contiennent des informations utiles aux soins, au développement et à l'éducation des enfants. Ils couvrent la période allant de la naissance jusqu'à l'âge de 7 ans.

Il existe par ailleurs de nombreux groupes d'entraide, associations de parents et associations de parents d'élèves, écoles de parents, qui peuvent apporter une aide précieuse en cas de difficultés. Leur nature informelle et souvent régionale voire locale rend toutefois un listage exhaustif impossible.

Les écoles organisent des réunions régulières avec les parents, sans que celles-ci portent toujours sur un thème particulier. Il est souvent considéré que, bien que l'école puisse avoir un rôle de prévention de nombre de problèmes, elle ne doit pas imposer une vision éducative aux parents. Les réunions de parents peuvent donc aborder des thèmes précis, à la demande des parents plutôt que sur convocation des enseignants. C'est pourquoi les associations de parents d'élèves ont un rôle prépondérant pour les sujets sensibles tels que gestion de conflits, violence, négligence, sévices sexuels. Elles organisent régulièrement des informations sur ces thèmes, en y conviant les parents d'élèves.

Différents programmes existent aussi pour soutenir les familles migrantes. Dans certains cantons une consultation est proposée pour mères et pères avec pour objectif d'atteindre les parents qui n'ont que peu ou pas de connaissance de la langue officielle et de les soutenir dans leurs tâches de soins et d'éducation. Il s'agit également de leur indiquer comment accéder aux institutions de santé et aux possibilités d'intégration existantes. Le projet s'articule autour de visites à domicile, de cours et de brochures d'information en langues étrangères.

Enfin, le nouveau droit du divorce encourage le partage des responsabilités entre les deux parents et prend en compte les droits des enfants dans les nouveaux contextes familiaux. Il prévoit notamment le droit de l'enfant d'être entendu dans la procédure de divorce de ses parents au moment de la décision d'attribution de l'autorité parentale et de la garde. Il s'agit d'un droit subjectif de l'enfant. On a voulu donner au juge un élément parmi d'autres qui lui permette de prendre sa décision, sans pour autant être obligé de suivre l'avis de l'enfant. L'autorité parentale conjointe, les points-rencontres, le droit d'être informé et d'être entendu, l'harmonisation des avances et contributions d'entretien sont tous des moyens d'améliorer le partage des responsabilités entre parents séparés.

Turkey

Ministry of education has the main responsibility of supporting the development of children in many respects via providing the families which have low socio-economic status with family education within the context of policy of family education. The main aim of these family educations are providing the families especially living under difficult conditions, with knowledge, skill and approach via institutionalized family education programmes aiming child care, development and education. Also ME shares this responsibility with General Directorate of Family and Social Researches (ASAGEM) which has the obligation to assist the formation of a national policy for family on account of its legislation. In this context also municipalities, General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection (SHÇEK) are of the responsibility of the provision of family services to support parents in their upbringing tasks. These services presented by the said institutions as seminars of education of parent's school educators in our country and abroad,

Council of Europe Family Policy Database

www.coe.int/familypolicy/database



seminars of parent's school with local administration's collaboration.

Ukraine

State Centre for Family, Children and Youth Support with the network in all Oblast and District level Centers can to support parents in their upbringing tasks (consultations, trainings etc. All free for any member of family (without payment).

United Kingdom

The government does not itself run parenting programmes. Local authorities, Sure Start Children's Centres, schools and voluntary organisations run a wide range of parenting programmes, mostly using core funding provided by government. There has been particular interest in contribution of parenting programmes to help families and children who may be drifting into antisocial behaviour. The youth justice system, locally administered, is increasingly investing in such programmes; it expects to spend more than £4 million on them in 2006-07.

Each local authority is now required to have a commissioner of parenting support and a parenting support strategy in place. Funding has been announced for two expert parenting practitioners to be employed by every local authority (300 in total across England).

The Parenting Fund provided £16.4 million to improving infrastructure and improving helpline services, with £8.6 million going to 134 projects between 2004 and 2006 and £14 million to 131 projects from 2006 to 2008.

The National Academy for Parenting Practitioners (NAPP) was launched in autumn 2007. It seeks to improve the quality of services for parents by raising the standard and consistency of practice and disseminating the evidence from research. The academy will train practitioners working with parents in schools, health services, children's services and beyond and support innovation and knowledge sharing.

The website includes a database of replicable parenting programmes to enable Commissioners of Parenting Support across England to locate support programmes that can be replicated for use in their local areas.

A Parent Know How programme was launched in May 2008, with a range of services funded to provide advice and support through telephone helplines, the internet and text messages.

A range of initiatives have been introduced as pilots in a limited number of areas. These include:

- Nurse Family Partnership – testing a model of intensive, nurse-led home visiting for vulnerable, first time, young parents.
- Parenting early intervention pathfinders – aim to test out 3 parenting programmes for families with 8-13 year olds at risk of anti-social behaviour, £60 million announced to roll out nationally.
- Family Intervention Projects – work with families involved in persistent anti-social behaviour.
- Family pathfinders – delivering an intensive package of co-ordinated services to support the most vulnerable families, encouraging cooperation between adult and children's services.
- Early Learning Partnerships – programmes supporting parental engagement in their young children's learning and development, associated with a national workforce training programme.
- Parent Support Advisers - preventative school- based role to support parents, concentrating on behaviour and attendance, parental engagement with schools and reducing barriers to learning.