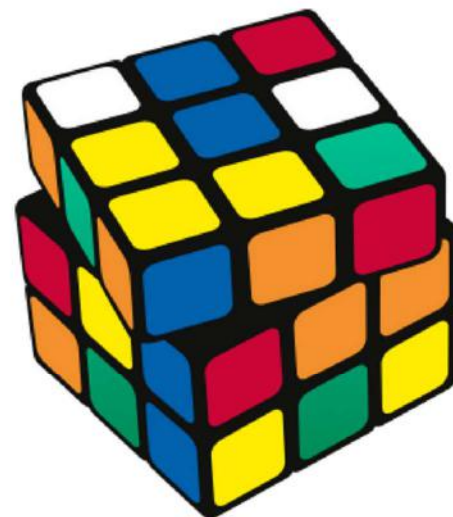


# BUILDING SUSTAINABLE AND FUTURE-PROOF EDUCATION SYSTEMS

How can families contribute to a paradigm shift?

Graz, Austria  
4-5 October 2018

## SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



## **Barbara Eibinger-Miedl**

### **Provincial Minister for Europe and Economics, Province of Styria, Austria**

Barbara Eibinger-Miedl (born January 30, 1980) has been regional Minister for Economic affairs, Tourism, Europe, Science and Research in the Styrian Government since 2017. Before that, she led the People's Party parliamentary group in the regional parliament. Since 2017 she has also been Deputy Chairwoman of the Austrian People's Party. Eibinger-Miedl is married and has a daughter.

## **Elisabeth Potzinger**

### **President of Styrian Catholic Family Association, COFACE Families Europe Administrator**

She has been President of the Catholic Family Association of the Austrian Province of Styria since 1994 and she also is the Austrian full member of the Administrative Council of COFACE Families Europe. She has been engaged in family politics for more than 25 years and has been a member of the City Council of Graz since 1997. Due to her initiative in the Graz City Council the City of Graz officially applied for the Audit „Family-friendly community“ at the Ministry for Family Affairs. After an auditing process of two years, finally Graz got the award „Family friendly Community“ in 2013. Of course this title is a big challenge for the future for the City of Graz – having 260.000 inhabitants is the biggest family-friendly community in Austria!

## **Siegfried Nagl**

### **Mayor of the City of Graz, Austria**

Born in Graz on 18 April 1963 he graduated from the Commercial College (Handelsakademie Graz) in 1982 and became M.A. in Social Sciences and Economics (Business Management) in 1988. Since 1992 he has been Managing Partner of the family business (Klammerth, Graz). Since 2002 he has been Chairman of the Kommunalpolitische Vereinigung Österreichs (Austrian Local Politics Association). He has been Mayor of the Styrian Provincial Capital of Graz since March 2003 and was reelected 3 times: in 2008, 2012 and 2017. Since 2008 he has been Chairman of the „Ökosoziales Forum Steiermark“ (Eco-social forum Styria). He is married and father of four children.

## **Juliane Bogner-Strauss**

### **Federal Minister for Families, Women and Youth, Austria**

Born in Wagna (Steiermark) on 3 November 1971 she heads the Austrian Ministry of Women, Family and Youth. She was Associate Professor at the Institute of Biochemistry at the Technical University (TU) of Graz from 2014-2017, Vice Head of Department at this Institute from 2016-2017. From 2010-2013 she was Associate Professor and Vice Head of Department in the fields of Genomics and Bioinformation Technology at the TU Graz. Furthermore she was Assistant Professor in the field of Bioinformation Technology at the TU Graz from 2005-2010. From 2003-2005 she was „Postdoctoral Fellow“ in the field of Biochemistry at the University of Graz. She is married and mother of three children and lives with her family in Graz.

## **Alfred Trendl**

### **President of the Austrian Catholic Family Association, KFÖ**

Alfred Trendl, born in Vienna in 1961, is the president of the Catholic Family Association of Austria since October 2011. He studied law and heads a tax consultant office, which was elected woman- and family-friendliest company in 2004. The father of two also acts as an auditor and business consultant as well as a mediator. He is also a member of the foundation board of the Austrian broadcasting.

## **Annemie Drieskens**

### **COFACE Families Europe President**

Annemie Drieskens holds a Masters degree in Law. She is the President of COFACE Families Europe since 2012. Under her presidency, COFACE worked on the topic of Reconciling Work and Family Life, organized a European Employers Forum, published the European Reconciliation Package and focused on Families in vulnerable situations. In 2014 COFACE gained the UN consultative status. Annemie Drieskens represents COFACE at numerous conferences and meetings advocating for family policy and defending the interest of families in their diversity in Europe.

## **Marianne Thyssen**

### **European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility**

Marianne Thyssen is Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. Her portfolio includes overseeing European Union policy on employment, social affairs, vocational training, skills, labour market reforms and social inclusion, including workplace equality legislation. She is also responsible for the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat). She studied Law at the Catholic University of Leuven where she had her first job at the Law Faculty. Prior to her political career, she was working for UNIZO for more than 10 years (SME representative organisation). After that, she served as a Member of the European Parliament (1991-2014) and as Vice-Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee. Marianne Thyssen was also the party leader of the Flemish Christian-Democratic Party (CD&V) and the First Vice-President of the EPP Group in the European Parliament. She was elected Vice-President of the European People's Party in October 2015.

## **Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger**

### **Psychotherapist, Doctor of Medicine (General Practitioner, Gynaecologist), Head of Education Advice Institute „Fitforkids“**

Prof. Dr. Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger works as GP, gynaecologist, doctor for psychosomatics and as a psychotherapist she owns the European Certificate of Psychotherapy. She heads the „ARGE Erziehungsberatung und Fortbildung GmbH“ ein Ausbildungs-,Beratungs-, und Forschungsinstitut mit sozialpsychologischem Fokus auf Jugend und Familie. ([www.fitforkids.at](http://www.fitforkids.at)). Among other publications she published the best-seller „Der Tyrannenkinder Erziehungsplan –Warum wir für die Erziehung ein neues Menschenbild brauchen und warum Tyrannenkinder zu den Besten gehören können“ (Educating tyrant kids, why we need education for a new image of man, and why tyrant kids are able to belong to the best ones). Moreover she wrote numerous scientific specialist papers and is very much in demand as a speaker and lecturer.

## **Irmeli Halinen**

### **Director for Educational Innovations, Metodix Oy. Former Head of National Curriculum Development, Finland**

Irmeli Halinen has an extensive career in education. She has worked at the school level as a teacher and a school principal, at the local level as the head of school improvement in Helsinki City Education Department, at the national level as a counselor of education and the head of national curriculum development in the Finnish National Agency of Education and internationally as a curriculum expert for UNESCO and OECD. She has been lecturing and consulting in several countries and published articles and books. She was coordinating the latest national curriculum reform in Finland in 2012 - 2016. After her retirement in 2016 she has been working as the Director of Educational Innovations in Metodix Oy.

## **Irene Bertana**

### **Policy and Advocacy Officer, COFACE**

Irene Bertana holds a Master's Degree in International Relations and Human Rights from the University of Turin (Italy), where she has been active in civil society organisations promoting intercultural communication and anti-discrimination with participatory methodologies. She worked three years in Brussels advocating for EU policy and legislation on disability and quality of social services. After that, she travelled through Latin America developing her own research on economy of solidarity and social movements. For COFACE Families Europe she is in charge of the policy and advocacy on disability and social inclusion.

## **Michèle Racké**

### **General Director of APEMH, Luxemburg**

Michèle Racké graduated at the University of Köln (Germany) in special pedagogy, and where she got additional trainings in mototherapy and motopedagogy. In 1998 she joined the Early Intervention Service SIPO Asbl, where she worked first as therapist and pedagogue with children with special needs, then as pedagogical and therapeutic coordinator and finally as head of the service. She is General Director of the APEMH, a Foundation providing social services to people with intellectual disabilities and to their families, which she joined in 2012 as manager of the Resource Center Inclusivo, a specialized service promoting and supporting inclusive pedagogy.

## **Gaetano Santonocito**

### **Managing Director of A.I.A.S. Città di Monza Onlus, Italy**

Gaetano Santonocito is Managing Director of A.I.A.S. Città di Monza ONLUS (local association of persons with disabilities), and is national councillor for the A.I.A.S. national which is based in Rome. He is member of the Administrative Council of COFACE Families Europe, and Vice-President of COFACE Disability representing the interests of families of persons with disabilities. He is very much involved in actions in the region on Lombardy and Liguria regions, and is an effective member of the National Observatory of the condition of persons with disabilities (Italy).

## **Isabel Amaro**

### **Psychologist, Fundação Liga, Portugal**

Isabel Amaro has been Psychologist at Fundação LIGA since 1991, with several responsibilities including coordination of the Occupational Center Activities Program and the Resource Center for Special Education Inclusion in School, Programs of Fundação LIGA. She has a Master Degree in Educational Psychology. She has contributed to the publication of different handbooks about School and Social Inclusion. Experience with inclusive education in Training for families, professionals, educators and teachers in special needs areas, promoting the development of educational strategies in a school context.

## **Maria José Lorena**

### **Occupational Therapist, Fundação Liga, Portugal**

Maria José Lorena has been an Occupational Therapist at Fundação LIGA since 1985, with varying responsibilities including coordination of the Functional Therapy Program of the Fundação LIGA in the scope of therapeutic intervention - rehabilitation and functional habilitation (1991 to 2011), coordination of the Autonomous Life Program of Fundação LIGA. She has contributed to the publication of different handbooks to promote accessibility of persons with disability in mainstream services (e.g. schools, housing, transport, libraries). She has a specialization in Supporting Technologies for Mobility and postgraduate degree in "Design for Diversity" from the Portuguese Design Center (Centro Português de Design). Experience with inclusive education in assisted technologies for mobility, communication for children with motor pathology; Consultancy for the improvement of the accessibility conditions in schools; Training for families, educators and teachers in special needs (Motor and Cognitive) area.

## **Martin Schmalzried**

### **Policy and Advocacy Manager, COFACE**

Martin Schmalzried holds a Master's Degree from the ULB (Brussels) in Political Science and is a licensed sociology teacher in upper secondary education. He has been working at COFACE Families Europe as a Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer for over eight years, in charge of child online safety and digitization. He was responsible for the content of the #DeleteCyberbullying project and provides expertise to various actors and institutions among which the OECD and the Council of Europe.

## **Claire Morvan**

### **Communication Manager, eTwinning, Europe**

Communication Manager for the eTwinning project, the biggest community for teachers in Europe. Claire holds Master Degrees in Law and Journalism from the Paul Cézanne University (France). She has 15 years of experience in strategic public relations and European Affairs with significant expertise in education, non-profit, and information technology. She has managed all aspects of strategy, public and media relations, community outreach, branding and events, from development to implementation. Claire works with Ministries of education, European Commission to develop a plan that fits their needs, whether that is a high-level communications plan or grassroots community relations.

## **Julien Léonard**

### **Expert, Union Nationale des Associations Familiales, UNAF, France**

Ex-consultant in IT and statistics, and deputy secretary general of the « Conseil National des Associations Familiales Laïques » (secular families in France), administrator in various social security bodies of France, he is also member of the board of l'Union Nationale des Associations Familiales Françaises (UNAF – the national association of french family organisations) in charge of digitalisation. He is an expert on French education matters having worked as a teacher, and stays in touch with educational institutions as well as being passionate about everything education-related. He is provincial delegate for education in the Oise département, close to the Parisian region.

## **Paola Panzeri**

### **Policy and Advocacy Manager, COFACE**

Paola Panzeri joined COFACE Families Europe in 2011 and she is in charge of policy and advocacy in the areas of gender equality, employment and reconciliation of work, family and private life and migration. She coordinates two EU wide advocacy campaigns: #ToysAndDiversity on stereotypes in children's advertisements and #IwantWorkLifeBalance to promote work-life balance legislation, including leave schemes for parents and carers. She sits in the Advisory Board of two research projects on Work-Life Balance (University of Kent) and Female Breadwinners Families (University of Southampton). Before joining COFACE Families Europe, Paola worked on child protection and non-discrimination projects in Kenya, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France and Italy. Paola holds a Master's degree in European Studies and Law from the Institute of High European Studies (IHEE) of Strasbourg, France.

## **Kurt Hohensinner**

### **City Councillor for Families, Youth, Education, childcare and social affairs, Member of the City Government, Graz, Austria**

MBA Kurt Hohensinner has been member of the City Government of Graz since 2014.

Since 2017 he has been heading an extensive Department consisting of Education, Integration, Sports, Social Affairs, Youth, and Family. Before that he was politically active as Municipal Councillor and Chairman of the People's Party Club of Graz. The trained teacher for disabled persons is married and father of a son. The support of children's talents, the creation of attractive general set-ups for honorary commitment, but above all the support of families have always been special requests for him.

## **Sven Iversen**

### **Director of the Association of German Family Organisations (AGF), Germany**

Sven Iversen (Germany) is General Manager of the Association of German Family Organisations (AGF). AGF promotes dialogue between organisations and individuals that deal with or are responsible for family policy and among other players on a national and international level. Through its publications, conferences and discussions with players in politics, science and civil social organisations, AGF constructs and disseminates its positions on current developments in family politics and legislation. Sven Iversen represents the family organisations in committees on national and international level, and here particularly at COFACE Families Europe and the International Commission on Couple and Family Relations (ICCFR). He is a political scientist, holds an MBA and has previously held positions in a parliamentary group, an agency for sustainability and participation, in cultural management and the prevention childhood obesity. He joined AGF as general manager in 2010.

## **Liz Gosme**

### **COFACE Families Europe Director**

Mother of two rebel girls (3 and 7), Liz Gosme is Director of COFACE Families Europe [www.coface-eu.org](http://www.coface-eu.org). She is an EU social policy analyst with fifteen years of experience in EU affairs representing the interests of civil society organizations. She has worked extensively with various EU institutions contributing to building a social policy architecture for Europe, monitoring key frameworks such as the EU social open method of coordination, the EU Semester, the European Structural and Investment Funds, EU public procurement legislation, the EU urban agenda, EU-SILC monitoring in preparation of the 2011 population and housing census, taking part in key stakeholder consultative groups for these different frameworks.

## **Astrid Ebenberger**

### **KFÖ-Vice-President**

Astrid Ebenberger, born in Lower Austria in 1960, is the vice president of the Catholic Family Association of Austria since 2014, responsible for the topics education and school. She is a trained teacher as well as an educational scientist. Currently she is teaching at the pedagogical university run by the church in Krems. The mother of three is also involved in the local family association work, in her parish and works with refugees.

## **Livia Járóka**

### **Member of European Parliament, Hungary**

Born in 1974. Komárom-Esztergom and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg. PhD in Social Anthropology, 2004- University College of London, Wenner Gren Scholar. MA in Society and Politics, 1998-2001 University College of London, Department of Anthropology, M.Phil., BA in English, Berzsenyi Dániel College, Szombathely, Hungary, 1995-1998. Ethnographic field research on assimilation tendencies of Roma in Hungary 2000-2002, Sociological research among Roma students of Gandhi Gimnázium, Hungary 1998-2001. Member of Young Global Leaders (Forum of Young Global Leaders and the World Economic Forum), Board Member of Roma Education Fund, Member of High Level Group of Roma Diplomacy Program, Board Member of European Roma Information Office. 2006 MEP award, Justice and Fundamental Rights category, 2010 Romanian Foreign Ministry's Excellency Award for the Social Integration of Minorities, 2011 Presidential Order of Merit of Hungary. MEP from 2004 to 2014 and again since 2017.

## **Antonia Torrens**

### **Director of KMOP (Family and Childcare Centre), Greece**

Dr. Antonia Torrens has been closely involved in the deinstitutionalisation of the mental health system in Greece that was reformed in 2004. Education, employability promotion and design of active employment measures for vulnerable groups (i.e. unemployed youth, people living below poverty line, long term unemployed, immigrants, persons with low typical skills, Roma populations, persons with mental disorders etc.) is one of the main areas of Dr Torrens' expertise, having designed and supervised the implementation of integrated Action Plans not only at national but also at international level, combining traditional with pioneer tools. In addition, Dr Torrens has also significant expertise in the provision of support services to the elderly and mentally-ill persons, both in residential care (design of Day Care Centres in Greece and transfer of this know-how to third countries via international projects) and in independent living (design of integrated services based on innovating ICT applications installed in the houses of the final beneficiary). Dr. Torrens has an excellent knowledge of National and EU funded projects and is an experienced Project Director and Project Manager.

## **Elisabeth Meixner**

### **Head of Educational Directory of Styria, Austria**

Born in Feldbach on April 18<sup>th</sup> 1963. Completed successfully the exam of teachers for secondary education at the Academy of Pedagogical Studies in Graz and the management training for heads of school. Attended numerous trainings in the pedagogical area and completed the academy of women's political affairs (=Frauenpolitikakademie). Worked as a teacher at the secondary modern school in Riegersburg and Graz, Styria. Consultant for the new curriculum of secondary modern schools in 2000. From 2001 to 2005 member of the employee representation for compulsory schools. From 2005 to 2013 Vicepresident of the regional school board in Styria. From May 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 executive president of the regional school board. Director for Education for the Province of Styria since January 2018.