



# What COFACE Families Europe stands for

## Easy-to-read text

'Easy-to-read' is information that is written in a simple and clear way so that people with intellectual disabilities and all people can understand it. You can find more information about easy-to-read at [www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read](http://www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read).



## Who we are

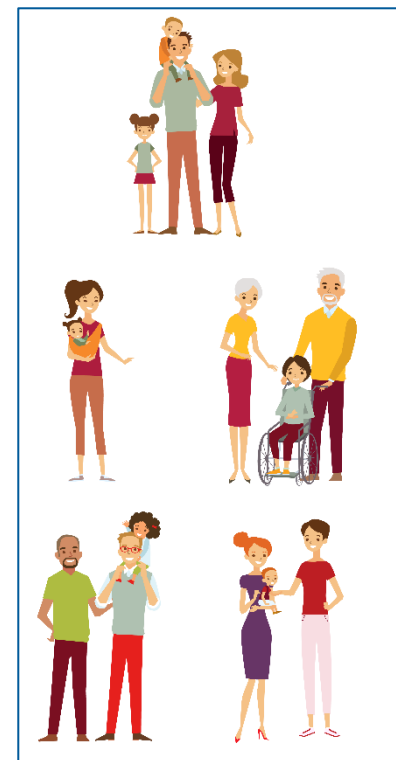
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We are 'COFACE Families Europe'.  
We are an organisation that works for the rights of all families in Europe since 1958.  
In short, we are called 'COFACE'.



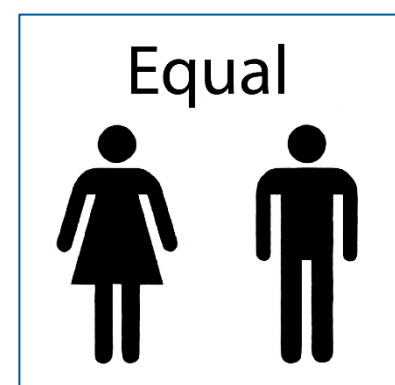
At COFACE, we want to make sure that all families can enjoy a good, healthy and safe life.

We often think of families as parents and children.  
But families can have many forms.  
For example,  
there are children who grow up only with one parent or with their grandparents.  
There are also children who grow up with two fathers or two mothers.



At COFACE, we believe that:

- All forms of families are important and they have the same rights. No family should be left out just because it has a different form.
- Men and women are equal and they have the same rights and duties when they become parents.
- All families have the right to enjoy a good life.
- All families have the right to speak up for themselves.



- Countries should give support to families in need so they can have a good life and take part in the community.
- It is important that family members of different ages can learn from each other.

## Our members

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COFACE has more than 50 members in 23 countries in Europe.

Our members are organisations which work to help families to have a good and safe life and especially those in higher risk of being left out. For example:

- Families who are very poor.
- Single parents who raise their child alone.
- Families with children with disabilities.
- Families who live in places away from the community and do not have easy access to hospitals and other important things.

[You can check the list of our members per country by clicking here](#)

## How we work

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Once per year, we organise a big meeting with all our members. This way we can talk about important topics for families in Europe and plan our work to make things better. We call this meeting **'General Assembly'**.

We also have:

- The **'Administrative Council'**.  
This is a group of people who make decisions for COFACE.
- The **'Executive Bureau'**  
This is a group of people who work to make sure these decisions are put into practice.
- The **'Secretariat'**  
This is a group of people who work in our office in Brussels and do the every-day work of COFACE.



In 1998, we made the **'COFACE Disability Platform'**. This is a group of more than 20 organisations that came together to make things better for people with disabilities and their families. For example, they push countries to:

- Listen to the needs of people with disabilities and their families and respect their rights.
- Give them the right support to enjoy their lives and make their own choices.



## What we work for

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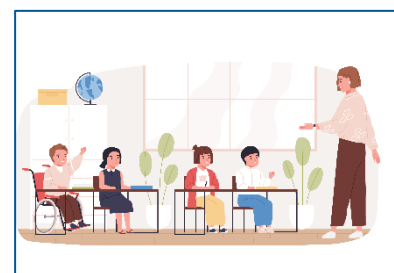
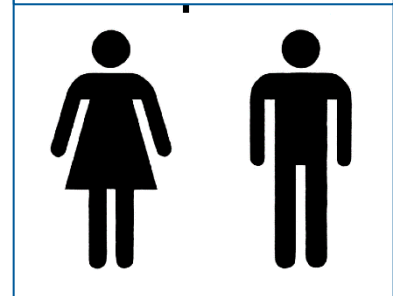
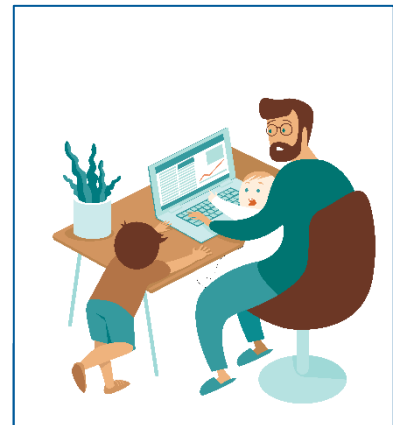
At COFACE, we work to make sure that countries:

- Understand the needs of all families,
- Respect their rights,
- Support them to have a good life.

We want to have a society in which all families can take part and enjoy their rights.

We want to make sure that:

- Parents who work get the right support to be able to take care of their families. For example, they should be able to take time off work when their children are sick.
- Women and men who are parents have the same rights and duties. It should not be expected only from one of them to care for their child.
- People with disabilities and their families get the support they need to be independent and make their own choices in life.
- All children have the chance to go to school and take part in activities with other children. They should not be left out if they have a disability, they are poor or anything else.



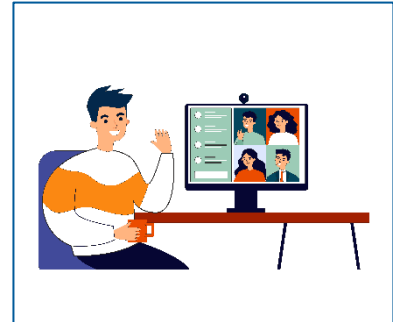
- Children have the right to grow in a safe and healthy family and society.
- Countries spend their money to make things better for their people and the planet.
- Countries help families in need like those who are very poor or left out.
- All families have access to technology like computers or tablets. Using technology can help them to work, study, learn new skills and stay in contact with other people.



## Join us!

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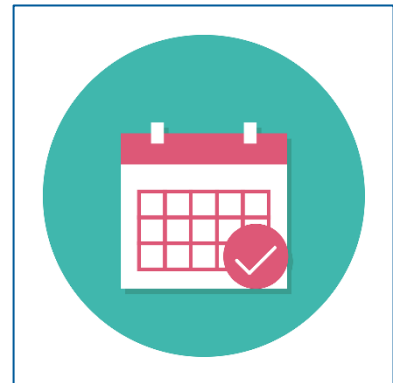
At COFACE, we think it is important to come together, share our experiences and learn from each other. That is why in January 2021 we started organising the 'Breakfast Bytes Webinars'. These are meetings that happen online every month.



People working with families and children talk in these meetings about their experience and explain why it is important for families to get the right support.

Everyone who is interested in these topics can take part in these meetings.

[You can find more information about these online meetings here](#)



## More information

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If you want to know more about our work or if you have any questions, you can send us an email at [secretariat@coface-eu.org](mailto:secretariat@coface-eu.org).

