

POLAND

NATIONAL POLICY BRIEF

The objective of this policy brief is to present the current situation and progress made in family support on behalf of the children's rights in Poland towards achieving quality standards using the quality assurance protocol for family support services developed by the 19 countries participating in the COST Innovators Grant IG18123, QA[4]EuroFam. The aim is to provide key messages on current strengths as well as recommendations to key audiences, bringing relevant views and appraisals from the group of interdisciplinary experts, representatives of various sectors in the field at national level.

National Working Group

Consensual responses were provided by members of Polish National Working Group made up of 3 researchers and coordinators of services and social entities at national, regional and local levels in social, education, health, and community sectors.



1. Contextualization and characterization of family support in Poland



Q Definition and understanding of family support: Family support is a set of (service and other) activities oriented to improving family functioning and grounding child-rearing and other familial activities in a system of supportive relationships and resources (both formal and informal) (Daly et al., 2015, p. 12).

Q Family support services in context:

Q Political perspective on family support:

2. Key messages from the National Strengths and Recommendations Report



Families and Children

STRENGTHS

1. The services take into account the best interest of the child and respect the rights and developmental needs of children and youth (and their families) when taking action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increasing awareness that evaluation is crucial to ensuring adequate family support.



Professionals

STRENGTHS

1. The services implement programmes that comply with the criteria of evidence-based approaches, i.e., that have structured contents and/or a manual, evaluation protocols, materials for families, and/or materials to evaluate the quality of the implementation in the social sector.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.



Policymakers

STRENGTHS

1. At the national level, the family is protected as the most important social unit, legal regulations provide protection for the family but also for its individual members. There is a lot of freedom in deciding about upbringing and all rights are guaranteed to parents. Moreover, procedures are also being implemented to protect family members against domestic violence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increasing awareness that evaluation is crucial to ensuring adequate family support.



Academics

STRENGTHS

1. Existence of collaboration between policy makers, researchers, and practitioners to promote and ensure the quality of family support.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To ensure quality assessment and communication of results to services and society in general.

3. Insights and lessons learned regarding the quality of family support



1 It is difficult to encourage people interested in family support to participate in such an initiative as assessing the quality of family assistance.

2 In Poland, the family support depends on the type of institution and the location, i.e. city, town, village.

3 In Poland, family is protected as the most important social unit, legal regulations provide protection for the family but also for its individual members.

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