

ROMANIA

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 Romania 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 Romanian National Working Group made up of 4 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 Romania



Q Definition and understanding of family support: Based on the National Strategy of Parent Education, family support involves:

- Emotional Support: Creating a nurturing environment through love, understanding, and empathy.
- Educational Support: Encouraging learning and development, helping with homework, and fostering a positive attitude towards education.
- Social Support: Facilitating social integration and participation in community activities.
- Practical Support: Assisting with daily tasks and responsibilities to ensure a stable household.household.

For more detailed information, you can refer to the full document [here](#).

Q Family support services in context: The provision of family support in the law project National Strategy of Parent Education is done through several key components:

- Policy Framework: Establishing national policies and strategies to support parental education and family involvement in children's development.
- Programs and Services: Implementing programs and services aimed at enhancing parenting skills, providing educational resources, and offering support networks.
- Training and Education: Offering training for parents, educators, and professionals to improve understanding and practices related to family support.
- Community Engagement: Encouraging community involvement and collaboration to create a supportive environment for families.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Establishing systems to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of family support initiatives.



Political perspective on family support: The National Strategy for Parental Education, outlined in the 2022 document by the Romanian Ministry of Education, is structured around several key principles and approaches aimed at supporting families. The strategy emphasizes a holistic approach to parental education, recognizing the fundamental role of the family in child development and the necessity for a collaborative effort between educational institutions and families.

Principles:

- Inclusivity and Equity: Ensuring all parents, regardless of their socio-economic status, have access to parental education programs.
- Lifelong Learning: Encouraging parents to engage in continuous learning to improve their parenting skills.
- Collaboration and Trust: Promoting cooperation between schools, families, and communities to support the educational journey of children.
- Child-Centered Approach: Focusing on the best interests of the child in all educational activities and parental guidance.

As approach, the strategy is to be implemented in three phases from 2022 to 2030:

Initial Phase (2022-2024), comprising the following:

- Development of a national action plan for parental education.
- Creation of integrated curricula for specialists and parental educators.
- Training programs for human resources and pilot programs for parental education.
- Launching information campaigns and evaluating initial activities.

Second Phase (2024-2025), focusing on:

- Continuation and expansion of programs initiated in the first phase.
- Ensuring the sustainability of policies and results achieved.
- Further organization of extensive parental education programs and information campaigns.

Final Phase (2025-2030), focused on:

- National expansion of parental education activities.
- Development of parental skills among young people as future parents.
- Continued information campaigns and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of the programs.

The strategy also highlights the need for decentralized and individualized approaches to parental education, involving various ministries, local authorities, NGOs, and international organizations to create a robust support system for families.

2. Key messages from the National Strengths and Recommendations Report



Families and Children

STRENGTHS

1. Planning to provide access to parental education programs based on a national action plan for parental education.
2. Encouraging parents to engage in continuous learning to improve their parenting skills.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enhance parental abilities using evidence-based curricula that have been proven to be effective in providing parental support.
2. Offer quality support that is systematically implemented and not paper reported activities.



Professionals

STRENGTHS

1. Development of the parental educator occupation.
2. Creation of integrated curricula for specialists and parental educators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Selecting well implemented occupational training and assuring the occupational standards are covered.
2. Considering the state of the art know-how in the research field regarding validated curricula for Romanian populations and adequate delivery formats.



Policymakers

STRENGTHS

1. Development of a national action plan for parental education.
2. Ensuring the sustainability of policies and results achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Making sure international best-practices are well considered and integrated. Make sure there are ways for accountability for real implementation and paper-based or low quality support is not the result.
2. Implementation Gaps: Despite robust policies, implementation at the local level can be inconsistent. Challenges include ensuring that all children, especially those in rural and marginalized communities, benefit equally from these services. E.g., Quality campaigns organized and there are relevant impact QPIs and measures used.



Academics

STRENGTHS

1. Creation of integrated curricula for specialists and parental educators.
2. Well-tested support curricula have been developed and tested in the academia.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Involvement in the organizing, supervising of training implementation and of certification.
2. Involvement in the dissemination of these curricula.

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



1 Romania has made significant strides in developing holistic support systems for children and families, particularly through the adoption of the National Strategy for Parent Education "Educated Parents, Happy Children" 2022-2030.

2 **Resource Constraints:** There are ongoing struggles with resource allocation and funding. Effective implementation of these strategies requires sustained financial investment and human resources, which can be challenging to maintain.

3 **Implementation Gaps:** Despite robust policies, implementation at the local level can be inconsistent. Challenges include ensuring that all children, especially those in rural and marginalized communities, benefit equally from these services.

4 **Increase Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Foster greater collaboration between various sectors, including education, health, and social services, to create a more integrated approach to family support.

5 **Focus on Data-Driven Policy Making:** Utilize data and evidence-based approaches to continually assess and improve the effectiveness of family support programs.

The authors of this document are Oana David & Romanian National Working Group. With the collaboration of the following people, members of the Spanish National Working Group:

This document is based upon work from COST Innovators Grant IG18123 A quality assurance protocol for family support services in Europe. An evidence-based and culturally informed model for professional practice, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. COST Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation. www.cost.eu

Any citation of this document should use the following reference:

David, O., & Romanian National Working Group. (2024). *Romanian National Policy Brief*. EurofamNet.



European Family Support Network (EurofamNet) © 2024

ISBN 978-84-09-65802-2