Eurofam

Final Event 2023

EUROPEAN FORUM ON FAMILY SUPPORT
"CREATING AN AGENDA FOR 2030"

Challenges and innovations in the conceptualisation and delivery of family support in Europe
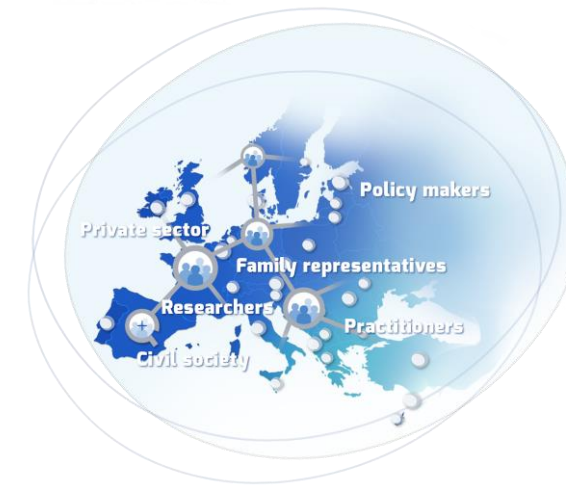
Chairperson: Helen Dunn
Presenters: Carmel Devaney, Harriet Churchill & Angela Abela
Respondent: Agata D'Addato

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by
the European Union

Policy makers
Private sector
Family representatives
Researchers
Practitioners
Civil society

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES Y AGENDA 2030
SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE DIVERSIDAD FAMILIAR Y SERVICIOS SOCIALES

FEMP
FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

ESAFAM
ASOCIACIÓN PARA EL ESTUDIO Y APOYO A LAS FAMILIAS
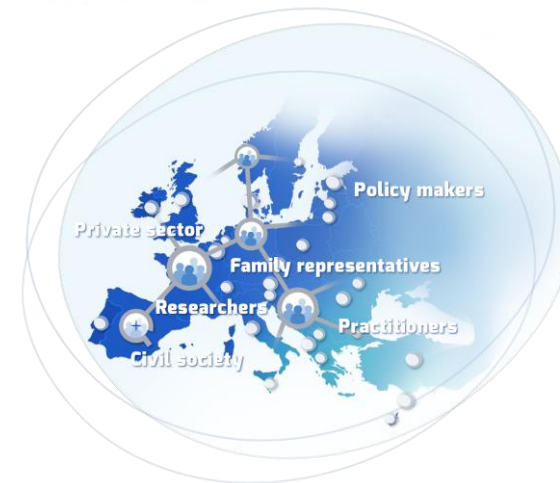
La Rueca asociación

Cruz Roja

eurofamnet.eu

EUROPEAN FORUM ON FAMILY SUPPORT
"CREATING AN AGENDA FOR 2030"

▶ **WG2 Developing a conceptual framework for family support**

Introductory Video

Carmel Devaney
in behalf of WG2

EUROPEAN FORUM ON FAMILY SUPPORT
"CREATING AN AGENDA FOR 2030"

Eurofam
Final Event 2023

▶ **WG2 Family support in Europe: policy frameworks**

Harriet Churchill
in behalf of WG2

COST EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the European Union

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA — MINISTERIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES Y AGENDA 2030 — SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES — DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE DIVERSIDAD FAMILIAR Y SERVICIOS SOCIALES

FEMP — FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE — UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

ESAFAM — ASOCIACIÓN PARA EL ESTUDIO Y APOYO A LAS FAMILIAS

La Rueca asociación

Cruz Roja

eurofamnet.eu

Focal WG2 aim: Critical review of 'national policy frameworks for family support rights and provisions'

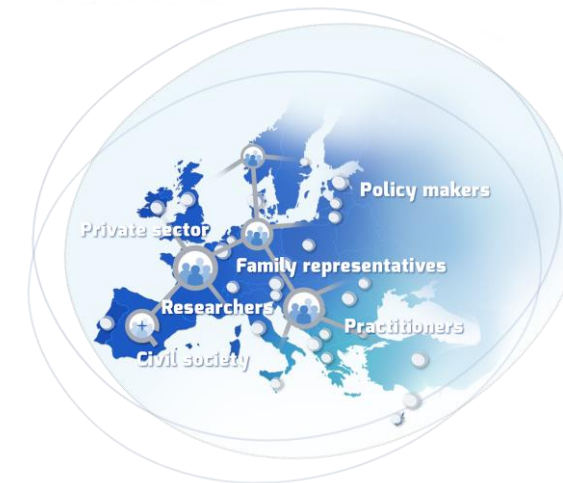| UN, CoE and EU policies related to family support (Churchill et al 2021) | ➤ Significant inter-governmental agreements to ensure rights to family and parenting support although also limitations |
	➤ National engagement and implementation challenges + FS often marginal discourse
Conceptualisation and delivery of family and parenting support services (Devaney et al 2021)	➤ Well developed concepts and theories for FS in some areas
	➤ Significant consensus for holistic frameworks, partnership ethos, prevention-orientation and strengths-based approaches
	➤ However FS often poorly defined and narrowly conceived
Child & family support policies: 27 national reports (Abela et al, 2021)	➤ Rich diversity of contexts and provision; Significant progressive developments
	➤ Patchy developments in many countries + FS provision often inadequate and fragmented
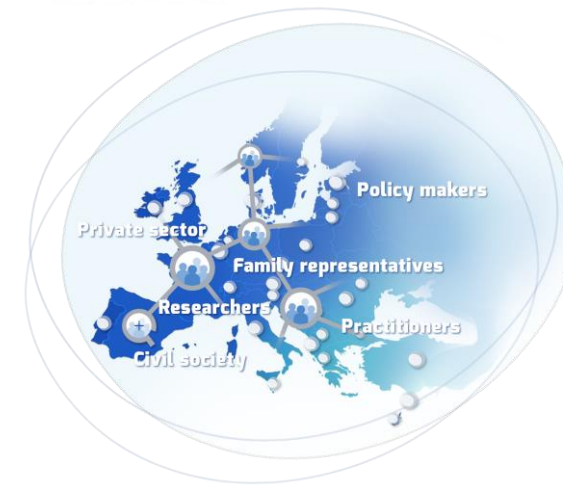
Eurofam

Final Event 2023

eurofamnet.eu

Advancing a comprehensive holistic conceptualisation

Eurofam

Final Event 2023

eurofamnet.eu

Family support is the mobilisation and provision of resources and support for sustaining and enhancing family roles and assets; and promoting the well-being and capabilities of family members including children/youth and parents.

Family support includes resources and support provided by 'informal' networks, 'semi-formal' roles and groups, and 'formal' provision and services. Formal services should seek to provide timely and enabling support for children, parents and families based, as much as possible, on an ethos of participation, and promoting inclusive and supportive communities (Churchill, Devaney and Abela, Journal Article currently under review)

COST — EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the European Union

Policy makers
Private sector
Family representatives
Researchers
Practitioners
Civil society

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA — MINISTERIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES Y AGENDA 2030 — SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES — DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE DIVERSIDAD FAMILIAR Y SERVICIOS SOCIALES

FEMP — FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE — UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

ESAFAM — ASOCIACIÓN PARA EL ESTUDIO Y APOYO A LAS FAMILIAS

La Rueca asociación

Cruz Roja

Building the evidence-base and collaborations for national systems of family support

Eurofam

Final Event 2023

eurofamnet.eu

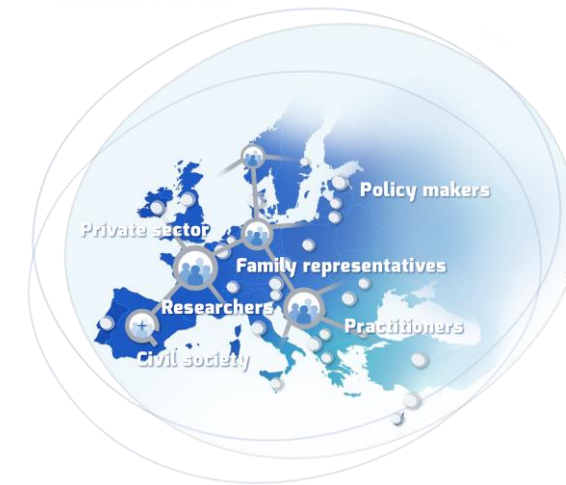| Comprehensive national policy frameworks for family support rights, provision and (coordinated and quality) delivery	
1. Better integrate, develop and implement progressive rights-based and European policy starting points	**1989 UNCRC** = Family & Parental Support key for children's rights to equality, welfare and family life ***Investing in Children Rec (EC 2013)*** = Three pillars: Access to resources + Access to services + Children's Participation ***Work-Life Directive (EU 2019)*** = Improved flexible working, paternity leave and parental leave rights ***Child Guarantee Rec (EC 2021)*** = Guarantee children in need access to essential services ***Policy to Support Positive Parenting Rec (CoE 2006)*** = Three Pillars + Nurture peer and community support + Spectrum of universal and targeted FS services + Positive parenting campaigns + Community participation in decision-making

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by
the European Union

Policy makers
Private sector
Family representatives
Researchers
Practitioners
Civil society

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES Y AGENDA 2030
SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE DIVERSIDAD FAMILIAR Y SERVICIOS SOCIALES

FEMP
FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

ESAFAM
ASOCIACIÓN PARA EL ESTUDIO Y APOYO A LAS FAMILIAS

La Rueca asociación

Cruz Roja

Building the evidence-base and collaborations for national systems of family support

Eurofam

Final Event 2023

eurofamnet.eu

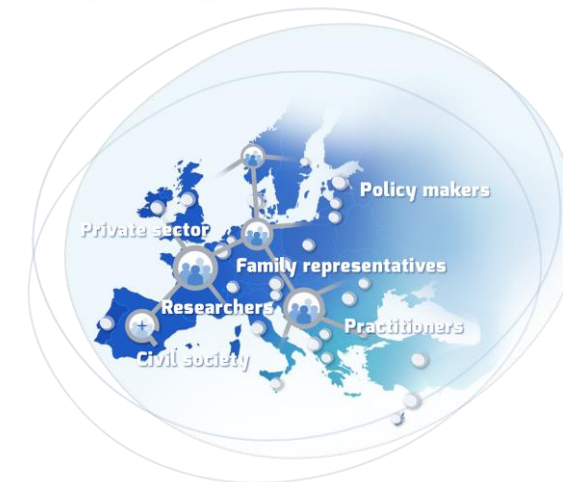| Comprehensive national policy frameworks for family support rights, provision and (coordinated and quality) delivery	
2. Comprehensive strategic policy development, evaluation and funding	Routine cross-government national policy strategies with explicit & comprehensive focus on, & conception of, family and parenting support
	Comprehensive policy & systemic coordination across areas & levels of government & involving the state, NGOs, professional groups and communities
	Evidence-informed policy decision-making and policy/programme evaluation
	Embedded approach to research & development & stakeholder consultation
	Sustainable funding strategies
	Workforce and professional development strategies

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by
the European Union

FEMP
FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE
MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES Y AGENDA 2030
SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE DIVERSIDAD FAMILIAR Y SERVICIOS SOCIALES

ESAFAM
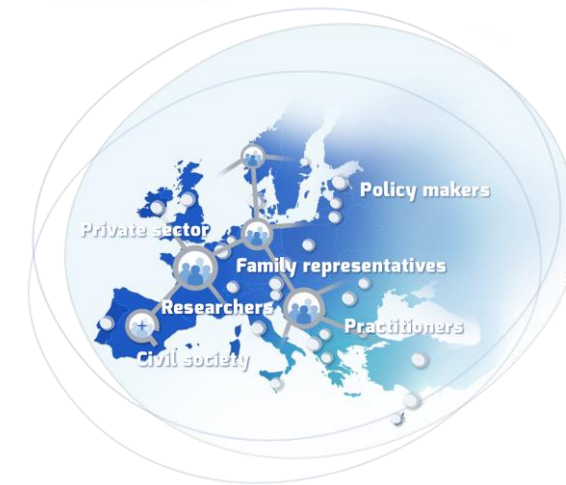ASOCIACIÓN PARA EL ESTUDIO Y APOYO A LAS FAMILIAS

La Rueca
asociación

Cruz Roja

EUROPEAN FORUM ON FAMILY SUPPORT
"CREATING AN AGENDA FOR 2030"

▶ **WG2 Family support provision and practice in Europe**

Eurofam

Final Event 2023

eurofamnet.eu

Angela Abela
in behalf of WG2
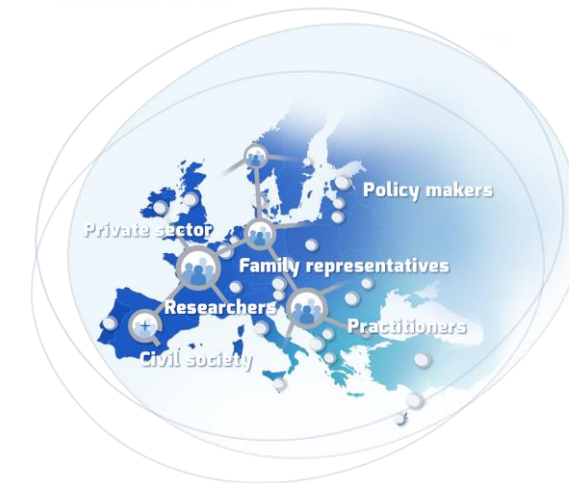
What do we mean by provisions?

Here we are referring to a wide range of 'resource-based and service-based' provisions (UNICEF 2019; EC 2013; CoE 2006) which include:

- *Family and parenting support services (targeted at children, young people, parents, families, communities)*

- *Economic support*

- *Employment*

- *Early Childhood Education and Care*

Opportunities, tensions and dilemmas with regards to family support provision across Europe

Our cross-national country reports gave us an opportunity to see how different countries are developing their services and how we can learn from one another

However, it was not always clear what such strategies were meant to achieve e.g.

- highlighting the principles underlying such support(s)

- how anti-poverty and anti-inequality measures are linked

- how resource constraints are managed and

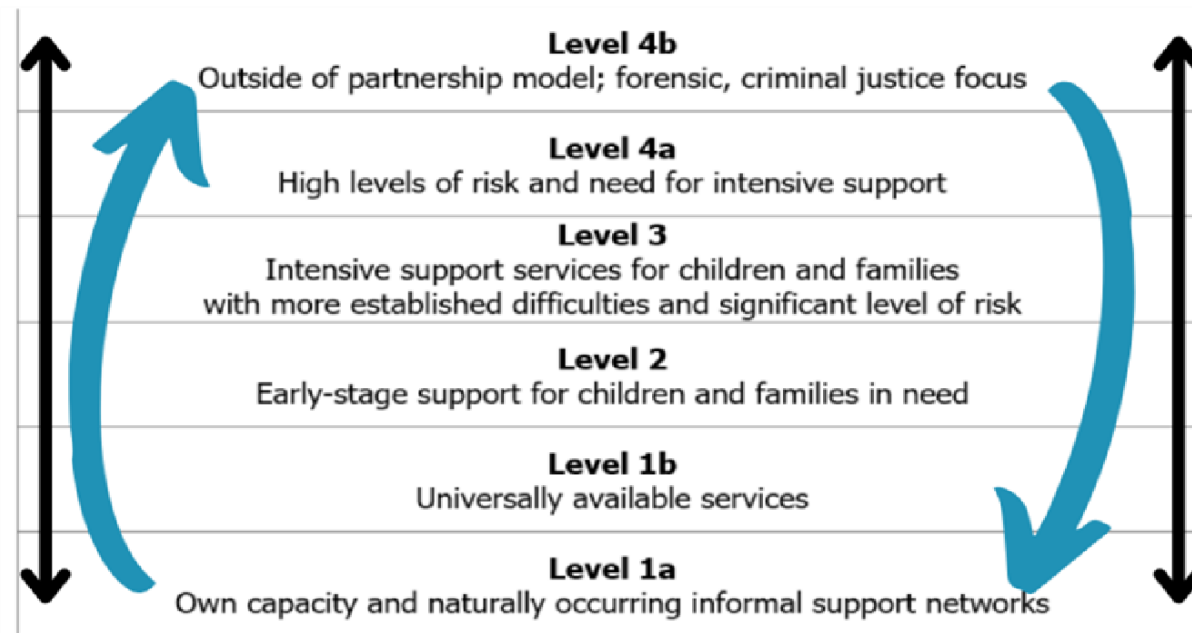*- how collaboration, coordination and interprofessional support are optimised*
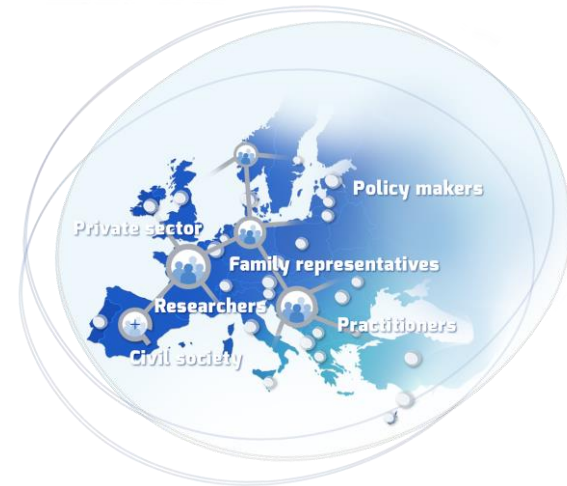
Eurofam

Final Event 2023

eurofamnet.eu
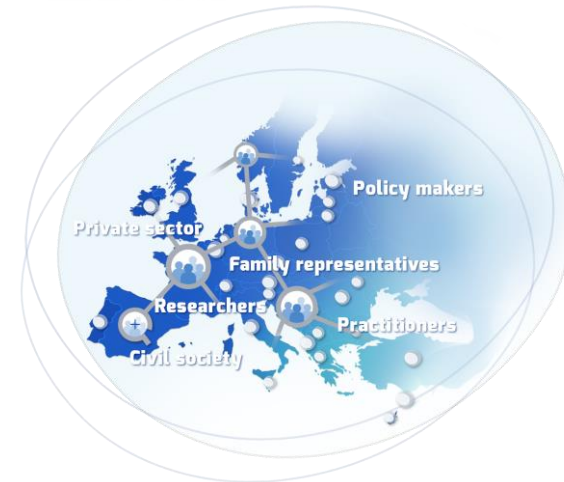
There is widely implemented support targeted to vulnerable groups but there is often a gap in the continuum between support and protection

Protective Support and Supportive Protection
(Mc Gregor & Devaney, 2022)
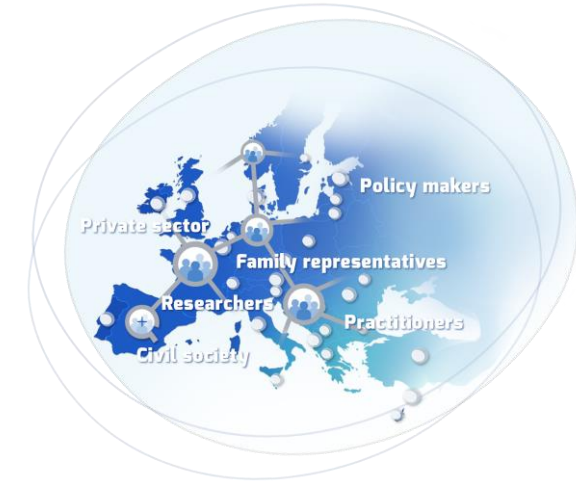
Practitioners are the frontliners offering family support!

- Practitioners working with children and families are expected to work in a **transdisciplinary** *collaborative, empowering and nonjudgemental* way and come from various disciplines including educators, social workers, youth work, social care, child carers, family therapists, midwives, doctors and others. All are expected to have developed a way of working that is value based, engaging, effective and evidence-based.

- The relationship with children and families is meant to be ***collaborative, empowering and nonjudgemental*** (Abela, 2009).

- The **self-reflexivity** of the professional is an important hallmark of every professional

Eurofam

Final Event 2023

eurofamnet.eu

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by
the European Union

Policy makers
Private sector
Family representatives
Researchers
Practitioners
Civil society

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES Y AGENDA 2030
SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE DIVERSIDAD FAMILIAR Y SERVICIOS SOCIALES

FEMP
FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

ESAFAM
ASOCIACIÓN PARA EL ESTUDIO Y APOYO A LAS FAMILIAS

La Rueca asociación

Cruz Roja

Current tensions and dilemmas faced by practitioners...

Final Event 2023

- Are social justice and equity core values informing family support?

- Is Family support evidence based ?

- How do practitioners reconcile children's rights with the rights of parents?

- How is gender equality addressed in the context of family support?

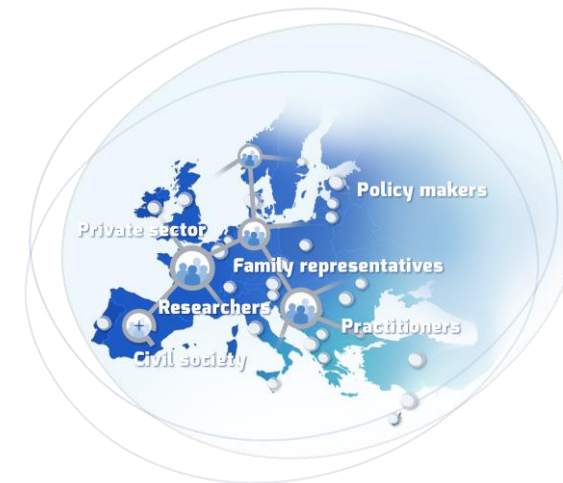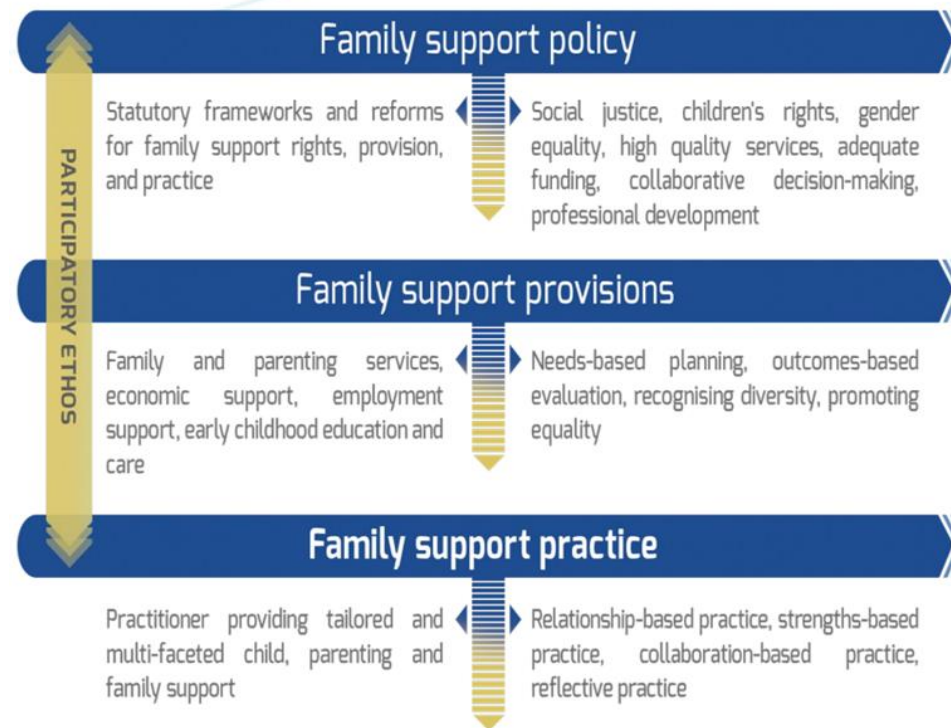- How to navigate political agendas; blame vs support/ investment vs under resourcing?

eurofamnet.eu
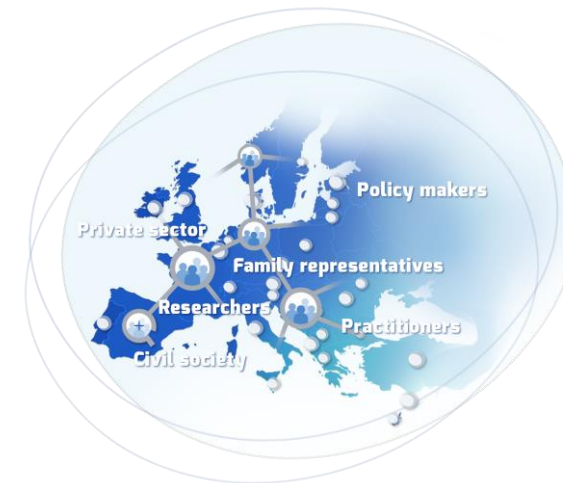
A multi-dimensional and multi-level conceptualisation of family support in Europe

Eurofam

Final Event 2023

eurofamnet.eu

FS Policy

Participatory Ethos

FS Practice

FS Provision

Family support policy

PARTICIPATORY ETHOS

Statutory frameworks and reforms for family support rights, provision, and practice

Social justice, children's rights, gender equality, high quality services, adequate funding, collaborative decision-making, professional development

Family support provisions

Family and parenting services, economic support, employment support, early childhood education and care

Needs-based planning, outcomes-based evaluation, recognising diversity, promoting equality

Family support practice

Practitioner providing tailored and multi-faceted child, parenting and family support

Relationship-based practice, strengths-based practice, collaboration-based practice, reflective practice

(Churchill, Devaney, Abela under review)

cost — EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the European Union

Policy makers

Private sector

Family representatives

Researchers

Practitioners

Civil society

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA — MINISTERIO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES Y AGENDA 2030 — SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DE DERECHOS SOCIALES — DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE DIVERSIDAD FAMILIAR Y SERVICIOS SOCIALES

FEMP — FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE MUNICIPIOS Y PROVINCIAS

UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

ESAFAM — ASOCIACIÓN PARA EL ESTUDIO Y APOYO A LAS FAMILIAS

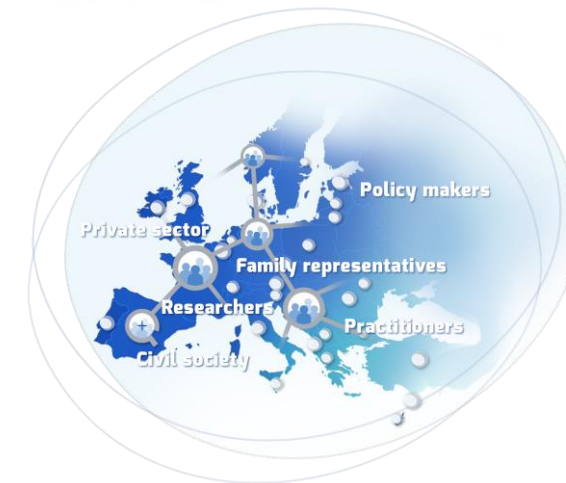La Rueca asociación

Cruz Roja

EUROPEAN FORUM ON FAMILY SUPPORT
"CREATING AN AGENDA FOR 2030"

▶ **Challenges and innovations in the conceptualisation and delivery of family support in Europe**

Final Event 2023

eurofamnet.eu

Agata D'Addato,
Eurochild, Head of Programme

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by
the European Union

EUROPEAN FORUM ON FAMILY SUPPORT
"CREATING AN AGENDA FOR 2030"

Final Event 2023

▶ **Challenges and innovations in the conceptualisation and delivery of family support in Europe**
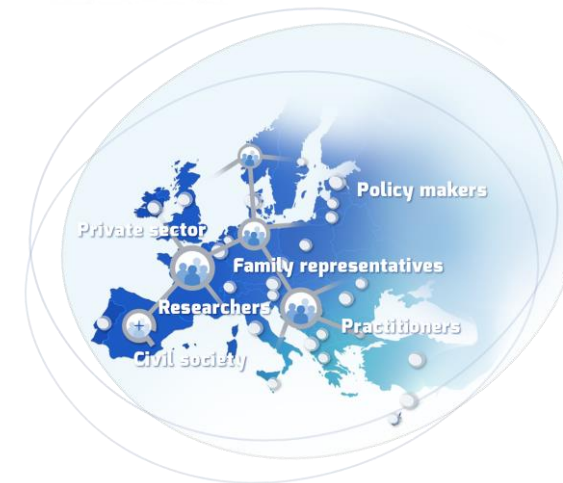
Session performance
PONTE Association
Mercedes García & Pepa Torvisco

eurofamnet.eu