



## About the Network

The European Family Support Network (EurofamNet) is a bottom-up, evidence-based, multidisciplinary network that aims to inform family policies and practices towards the ultimate goal of ensuring children's rights and families' well-being by building collaborations between researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, children and families, public and private agencies, and general society.

The network is operating as a COST Innovators Grant (IG18123) entitled QA[4]EuroFam until October 2024 and formerly has operated as a COST Action (CA18123) under the COST program from 2019 to 2023.

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.

[Visit Cost](#)

## EuroFamNet in numbers

The EurofamNet COST Action finished on 13th September 2023.

**35**  
Countries

Building bridges within Europe and beyond

**173**  
Participans  
144 full members  
+29 Associated members

From academia, front-line practice and policy sphere involved in EurofamNet activity

**13**  
European  
organizations

Representing relevant European institutions in Family Support arena

**5**  
Working Groups  
+1 Policy and Practice Group  
+1 Young Researchers Group

Working together with one group dedicated to coordination and one to dissemination

More details about the EurofamNet's map of the participants is available at:

[Eurofamnet structure](#)



EurofamNet has been granted with a [COST Innovators Grant](#), entitled "A quality assurance implementation protocol for family support services in Europe. An evidence-based and culturally informed model for professional practice". There are 21 countries involved and the one-year project has started in November 2023 with the aim of:

- Guaranteeing quality in family support services by implementing a quality assurance system addressing inequalities in access, experience, and outcomes at country level and across Europe.
- Applying agreed principles, quality standards and measurable indicators aimed at improving outcomes in wellbeing and quality of life in children, youth, and families across Europe..
- Creating a national and local led collaborative scenario to identify challenges, strengths, and need for improvements in the family support services at the country level.
- Developing recommendations at the European policy level to ensure high quality, evidence-based, and culturally sensitive family support provision.

Two groups have been established, one at the national level to create and design the Quality Assurance Protocol, and one at the international level to develop the Quality Assurance European Guidelines.

You can find more information about EurofamNet as a network and the [QA\[4\]EuroFam project](#) as well as the next steps in the post published on the [COST Action Blog](#).

## Forthcoming events

### Training School on quality family support and research for social impact. 4-5 July 2024 in Faro

The CIG IG18123 will carry out its Training School (TS), which is the third one carried out by EurofamNet, to develop skills and capacities and contribute to a high-quality training of future generations of European researchers in the field of family support from an evidence-based and pluralistic approach.

The topic of the TS is quality family support and research for social impact and location and duration will be Faro, Portugal, 4-5 July 2024. In this edition, 16 young researchers from 6 different countries and 7 lecturers will participate.

## 11th Biennial International Conference on Promoting Equality through Family Support

The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre of University of Galway is going to hold the **11th Biennial International Conference** with the theme of "Promoting Equality Through Family Support", that will be held on 13-14 June 2024 in Galway, Ireland. EurofamNet colleagues from the group of "**Developing the European conceptual framework on family support**" will present a keynote entitled "Family Support Policy and Practice: a Multi-dimensional Conceptual and Developmental Approach to Promoting Equality".

## International Conference on Policies and Parental Support

The York Business School in association with the Institute for Social Justice are organising the third **International Conference on Policies and Parental Support** in York, England, that will be held on 11-12 July 2024. EurofamNet colleagues from the group of "**Developing the European conceptual framework on family support**" will present the paper entitled "Conceptualising family support in Europe".

## QA[4]EuroFam. Quality Assurance European Guidelines Meeting

The second face-to-face meeting of the project will be held in Brussels on 30 September and 1 October 2024 and will be dedicated mainly for the closing of the CIG project, disseminating, and presenting the results analysed by that time and discussing the practical implications at both national and European level. At this meeting, which will involve, in addition to WP2 members, EurofamNet participants with transversal functions and members of the advisory group, guidelines for the next steps at European level will also be developed and agreed upon thinking about the sustainability of the network.

## EurofamNet recent achievements

The WP1 of the new project, group focused on the national level to create and design the Quality Assurance Protocol, and the WP2, focused on the international level to develop the Quality Assurance European Guidelines, are working and advancing on their specific areas. More information about them is available at <https://eurofamnet.eu/content/qa4eurofam>

### WP1 [QA Protocol]

WP1 members have developed a Quality Assurance Protocol (QAP), that is currently being implemented in 21 countries, with the aim to assess quality family support at the national level. A Delphi study was carried out to assess the relevance, clarity, coherence and acceptability of the items on the QAP. The QAP is filled in online based on the consensus reached by the National Working Group of each participating country. When the Protocol of a country is submitted, an automatic report is created, presenting the scores obtained on the Quality Standards, as well as a list of strengths and areas for improvement.

WP1 has also designed the output entitled Strengths and recommendations for improvement in family support at the national level document, consisting of a national report based on the results obtained in the QAP. These reports will be completed by the coordinators of the participating countries, with the collaboration of the members of their national working groups.

### WP2 [European Guidelines]

WP2 members are working on the production of an evidence-informed report in a Policy Brief version focused on successful experiences and areas for improvement and key messages to families and children, practitioners, policy makers and academics. WP2 is finalising their design and other particular aspects after having discussed it with WP1 members and the Policy Brief template will soon be handed over to the national coordinators for completion and will be posted on the EurofamNet platform.

The next step in which they are involved is the organisation of the analysis of policy briefs and the elaboration of the European Guidelines to distill lessons learned and establish the next steps, and draw a European Roadmap, that will be freely accessible on the interactive platform. Some preliminary results from WP2 work will be presented at the Training School.

## Past events

### QA[4]EuroFam. Quality Assurance Protocol Meeting

The first face-to-face meeting of members of the Network and representatives of the participating countries took place on Thursday 8 February 2024 in Brussels. The progress of both the Quality Assurance Protocol and the design of the Strengths and recommendations for improvement in family support at the national level document were presented and discussed. These steps are crucial to further the implementation of the protocol in the 21 participating countries, marking a significant step forward in EurofamNet's mission to improve and standardise family support services across Europe.



### CREAN Conference 2024

On 25th and 26th April 2024 the **Children's Rights European Academic Network (CREAN) Conference** was held in Geneva, Switzerland, aimed to further enhance the academic field of children's rights as an interdisciplinary field of studies. During this event took place plenary sessions, poster sessions on "Children's Rights in Higher Education" and parallel sessions dedicated to "Current Children's Rights Research". EurofamNet participated with a plenary presentation entitled "Collaborative Children's Rights Research" and the conference "The European Family Support Network (EurofamNet) as a Collaborative Research Process".



### COST training on "How to create a business plan"

This event, organised by COST for this year's COST Innovators Grants on February 21 and 22, was targeted at training the CIG participants to develop a business plan, which, in the case of QA[4]EuroFam, was intended to facilitate the sustainability of the EurofamNet network.



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## COST Connect on Mental Health Research

On 29th April, members from EurofamNet participated in the second COST Connect on Mental Health Research meeting, which brought together circa 10 COST Actions, in addition to some relevant stakeholders, who are focused on research in mental health and related areas. The meeting was aimed at drafting a policy paper to advocate for the importance of addressing research gaps and priorities in mental health and allocating more funding toward these fundamental issues in the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The work is ongoing, with the policy paper scheduled to be presented to relevant European policy makers in September.



## COST training on "How to pitch to investors and stakeholders"

On 15-16 May 2024, EurofamNet participated in the COST training on "How to pitch to investors and stakeholders". The event was organised by COST targeted to bring together CIGs to address business plan and elevator pitch to make the CIGs more successful and sustainable influencing investors and stakeholders.



## European Event "Improving the mental health and well-being of parents and children"

The final Conference of [the project "Europe's Parents Stand Up - We learn everywhere"](#) organised by Make Mothers Matter on January 23, 2024, that was held at European Economic and Social Committee of the European Union (Brussels, Belgium) and followed also in hybrid format, was focused on presenting and introduce the results of this EU-funded project aimed at improving the mental health and well-being of parents and children. Our Chair was presenting a keynote entitled "Quality family support for challenging parenting. Promoting parenting competences".

## Networking tools

The new QA[4]EuroFam period with the CIG18123 has already approved the following COST networking tools:

### 2 Virtual Mobility Grants (VMG)

To foster the establishment of existing networks through virtual collaborations.

More information at:

[View](#)

### 1 Virtual Networking Support Grant (VNS)

Aimed at promoting virtual collaboration through a virtual networking strategy. See more at:

[View](#)

## Calls for grants

QA[4]EuroFam, EurofamNet is going to launch its third and fourth Virtual Mobility Grants (VMG) calls, two targeted to WP1 and one foreseen for WP2 work.

To see more general information as well as other specific information such as their aims and the guidelines and other documents needed, please visit the following link for the VMG grant call (<https://eurofamnet.eu/activities/virtual-mobility-grants>).