



Report on journal articles

Analysis of articles and publications by members of EurofamNet

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Introduction

This report is based on the analysis of the articles/publications by members of the **COST Action CA18123: The European Family Support Network. A bottom-up, evidence-based and multidisciplinary approach.** It includes recent research published by Cost Action members in international academic journals, book chapters and conference proceedings in 2018-2021. These academic outputs reflect the contribution of the Cost Action members to the EuroFam and showcase good practices, theoretical and practical implications of the research being conducted by the network. In 2021, all MC and WG members were asked to submit the relevant data regarding their research publications via the Cost Action Intranet <https://eurofamnet.eu/home>. The report was prepared based on the data submitted. It was discussed during the 6th Management Committee Meeting of the COST Action CA1812, which took place on 16-18 June 2021, online. All the participants had the chance to provide feedback, suggest changes and to add information. The revised version of the report was prepared in September 2021.

Overall, 43 articles published by Cost Action members in peer-reviewed journals have been included in the report. The publications are relevant to the scope of research and aims of the Cost Action. They deal with the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of the family support in Europe, review of the main theories and approaches, the role of wide-ranging social theory, and more specific psycho-social theories, practice and policy; psychological dimensions in family research, parents' perceived social support and children's psychological adjustment, social support and positive parenting, children's well-being, attitudes toward family values and family policy priorities, family and family life rehabilitation; one-child families and partnership trajectories, partnership dissolution, mixed-methods life-course research, level of education, partnership dissatisfaction and work-life balance issues that contribute to non-progression to a second child.

Other topics covered are low fertility, family support and work-life balance policies, factors contributing to lifetime fertility intentions, postponement of childbearing and the mismatch between intended and achieved fertility, such as gender, partner, age, cohort, and the two-child norm, labour market instability and siblings, economic conditions, health, and the absence of a partner.

The authors examined perceptions of parental behaviour: adolescents' academic achievement and social skills, it was found that such parenting behaviour as autonomy granting, warmth, and knowledge can be considered as predictors of academic achievement and social

skills. They also investigated the issues of family functioning and adolescent internalizing and externalizing problems, disentangling between, and within-family association, changes in family functioning due to adolescent maturation and increasing autonomy from parents. Some authors analyzed both parents' and adolescents' perspectives on work-family conflict and enrichment and its crossover to adolescent well-being, via quality of parent-child relationships.

The researchers also looked into the issue of parent's and children's emotion regulation and the work-family interface. It was found that not only is parental work-related exhaustion associated with children's emotion regulation through parent-child relationship quality but also emotion suppression may have a moderating role on family relationships. The relationship between school and family was also the scope of investigation, in particular a critical analysis of the recent legislative reform on children under fourteen leaving school premises.

Another interesting topic is foster care regarding birth families, foster families and social workers, the parents' opinions regarding the contact visits, the input and support from social workers, the contribution of foster families, the contact venue, and the organization of visits and the main areas they felt needed improving. The authors are concerned with enhancement of foster children's psychological wellbeing, children's attachment to their birth family, taking the opinions of foster families and social workers regarding the benefits and problems associated with contact visits into consideration. Two main problems that were revealed are coordination between social workers and foster families, as well as a lack of support and preparation for foster carers, children, and birth families.

Some of the publications were focused on the benefits and risks associated with open adoption and the need for contact arrangements to be decided on a case-by-case basis and to be monitored. They tried to identify situations and behaviors occurring during contact visits that are likely to have an impact on a foster child's well-being, highlighting the need to improve contact visits by developing intervention strategies targeting all those involved. In addition, child adoption, parenthood support, intra-family foster care and protection of vulnerable families were research topics of the articles. Intra-family foster care should be considered as the primary option, because it spares the trauma of being deprived of his or her emotional world and it ensures that the link with the family is not severed.

The impact of COVID-19 lockdown across all levels of society, and in particular on family stress and functioning, was evaluated. Associations were found between stressors, family resources, perception of lockdown, and family adaptation in foster and non-foster families. In the area of workforce skills in family support, the authors conducted a systematic literature review of the peer-reviewed scientific journals in English, from 1995 to 2020. The workforce referred to in the studies were mainly social workers, followed by psychologists. The workforce skills described were the qualities of the professionals, technical skills, and specific knowledge. The

authors identified workforce skills, implications for practice in social work, as well as the gaps to be covered in further research of family support.

The researcher, members of the Cost Action, are also interested cultural diversity, the parent-child relationship. Some authors analyzed both parents' and adolescents' perspectives on work-family conflict and enrichment and its crossover to adolescent well-being, via quality of parent-child relationships. Some authors addressed the relations between child self-control, maternal relational frustration, and teacher-child conflict, contextual factors affecting the quality of caregiving relationships.

Family-based interventions, evidence-based programmes as an effective treatment for adolescents with certain disorders was the research interest of several articles. They provided evidence of the usefulness of structural-strategic family therapy for improving family, dyadic, and individual facets in families with adolescents exhibiting mental health problems as well as of the effectiveness of Psychodramatic Family Therapy intervention for adolescents with behavioural problems, with an emphasis on the importance of fostering emotional intelligence. Another effective evidence-based programme is the scene-based psychodramatic family therapy, which integrates the principles of family therapy, psychodrama, and multiple-family group methodology, with troubled adolescents and parents to improve family relationships and reduce adolescents' problematic behavior.

They also looked into the evidence-based parenting interventions with low-income families, who are often exposed to multiple stressors known to jeopardize children's development. Research indicated that evidence-based parenting interventions mitigate the adverse effects of growing up in low-income families. Behaviour problems, parents' self-efficacy, interparental conflict and parenting styles were assessed, in particular regarding Group Lifestyle Triple P intervention through digital practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Family Training and Support Program was used for enhancement of positive parenting and prevention of child abuse.

Some researchers investigated the parental burnout assessment and evidence-based programmes. High levels of stress in the parenting domain can lead to parental burnout, a condition that has severe consequences for both parents and children. Analyses of cultural values revealed that individualistic cultures, in particular, displayed a noticeably higher prevalence and mean level of parental burnout. The findings showed that cultural values in Western countries may put parents under heightened levels of stress.

A group of researchers has investigated the issues of family education and support for families at psychosocial risk in Europe. An on-line survey was conducted with experts from 19 European countries to gather information regarding how they perceive family education and support initiatives for families at psychosocial risk. The results revealed both similarities and

disparities as regards provider profiles, intervention characteristics, and quality standards. The role of parenting styles on behavior problem profiles of adolescents was examined. Parental behavior is one of the most influential factors on the development of adolescent externalizing and internalizing behavior problems. The results shed light on the need that family interventions are complemented with individualized interventions with adolescents that accumulate stressful life events.

New realities and families' targeted needs were addressed, in particular regarding adolescent perception of maternal practices. The results supported the theory that research and family intervention should recognize cultural aspects in order to grasp the parenting process. Parenting Questionnaire was used for the assessment of parenting practices across different children's age groups. A meta-analysis, the review of the articles on new realities and families' targeted needs: measures of child-to-parent violence was conducted. The issues of child-rearing and development and parenting support programs regarding migrant families, who settle in host cultures and may find themselves in situations of vulnerability which hinder the exercise of their parental responsibilities, were addressed.

The theoretical framework and explanatory factors for child-to-parent violence was proposed based on the scoping review. Child-to-parent violence is a phenomenon with a fairly high prevalence rate and negative consequences at an individual, family and social level. Marital satisfaction in family functioning, new realities and families' targeted needs were investigated in one of the articles, based on the analysis of psychometric properties of the Marital/Relationship Satisfaction Scale, to test the differences in well-being between participants who were married or in a relationship and single participants, and gender differences. It was found that the participants who were married or in a relationship showed higher levels of well-being.

Family division, perceptions of justice and gender were investigated in relevance to new realities and families' targeted needs. Division of family tasks between the members of a couple often reflects gender (in)equality in the family. The results showed that unemployment introduces some changes, for both men and women as individuals when unemployed start performing more family tasks. Another topic relevant to new realities and families' targeted needs examined by the authors was adolescent pregnancy. Adolescent pregnancy is a problem that societies face, regardless of the level of development. The paper analysed the current situation on this topic, through available indicators on birth rates, maternal and children mortality worldwide.

Another article was focused on psychological and health consequences of child abuse and neglect relevant to new realities and families' targeted needs. There is a variety of negative outcomes among those exposed to physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, witnessing domestic violence and multi-type childhood abuse. This variety of difficulties should be taken into account in approaching complex and multidisciplinary assessment and treatment.

A few researchers dealt with the perceived impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the family context of foster and non-foster families. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown have had a far-reaching impact across all levels of society. It is important to ensure that families have access to the psychoeducational resources they need to maintain, as far as possible, a positive family context. In addition, a group of researchers examined the effects of COVID-19 related restrictive measures on parents of children with developmental difficulties.

Another very interesting topic raised by the researchers is children's exposure to digital technologies and the associated risks of the digital world. There is also a publication on multilingualism and multilingual education and literacy development as well as on parental supervision and parental school involvement, which showed that parental behaviors have both direct and indirect effect on adolescents' school achievement.

The research was conducted in various countries such as Portugal (13), Czech Republic (2), Bulgaria (1), Spain (16), Italy (5), Ireland (1), Croatia (3), Republic of North Macedonia (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Cyprus (2).

Both qualitative and quantitative research method for data collection and data analysis have been implemented (e.g., questionnaires, surveys, mixed-methods life-course research, a biographical analysis, problem-centred interviews, semi-structured individual interviews, descriptive and inferential statistics, multi-group analysis, structural equation, longitudinal, pre-registered, and open-science study, self-report questionnaires, Random-Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Models, inductive method by Atlas.ti., meta-analysis and review, a systematic review, including qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method studies, A nested design and dyadic data analyses with SEM, structural equation modelling and path analysis, treatment were interviewed at pre-test and post-test, on-line survey, multivariate analysis, analysis of official state documents and communication with professionals.

Journal (peer-reviewed) articles (43)

Affective Science; Aggression and Violent Behavior; Anales de Psicología; Annali online della didattica e della formazione docente; Anthropological Researches and Studies; Central European Journal of Paediatrics; Child and Family Social Work (2); Child Indicators Research; Children and Youth Services Review; Developmental and Psychopathology; European Journal of Developmental Psychology; European Journal of Psychology of Education; Family Process; Family Relations (2); Health and Social Care in the Community (2); HumaNetten Journal; International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2); International Social

Work; Journal of Child and Family Studies; Journal of Children's Services; Journal of Family Issues (2); Journal of Family Therapy; Journal of General Social Issues; Journal of Marriage and Family; Journal of Social Work (2); Journal of Youth and Adolescence; Nasselenie Review Journal; New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development; Nuovo Diritto Civile; Prizren Social Science Journal (2); Psychology in the Schools; Psychology, Education and Society; Research on Social Work Practice; Revista Psicologia e Educação; Social Work and Social Sciences Review; Sustainability (2).

Among the topics/themes covered in journal publications are:

Psychological dimension in family research

In particular **parents' perceived social support and children's psychological adjustment**, published by **Cristina Nunes** (University of Algarve and Psychology Research Centre (CIP), Portugal) in the *Journal of Social Work*. Perceived social support has often been investigated due to its direct and indirect effects in reducing the impact of several risk factors on physical and psychological well-being. Moreover, many studies have revealed a link between social support and positive parenting, which in turn has an impact on children's well-being. In Portugal, there is a significant lack of studies in this area. The aim of the present study was to analyze the relationship between parents' perceived social support and children's psychological adjustment. The sample consisted of 409 parents (83.13% mothers) living in the region of Algarve (South of Portugal). The Duke-UNC Functional Social Support and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires were used.

One-child families and partnership trajectories

Radka Dudová, Hana Hašková, Jana Klímová Chaloupková (Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic) published their paper **Disentangling the link between having one child and partnership trajectories: A mixed-methods life-course research** in the *Journal of Family Studies*. This article explores the relationships between partnership trajectories and having an only child. Few studies have focused on one-child families, even though in many countries having just one child is the main factor driving sub-replacement fertility levels. Little is known especially about how non-progression to a second child relates to partnership trajectories. This article contributes to filling these gaps by using mixed-methods life-course research. The authors combined sequence and regression analyses of survey data with a biographical analysis of problem-centred interviews with parents of an only child. Based on the Czech Household panel survey, they estimated the probability of having an only child in relation to parents' different partnership trajectories after the birth of the first child. Analysing the problem-

centred interviews, they explored parents' understanding of the processes that lead them not to progress to a second child. Their findings indicate that having an only child is associated with partnership dissolution after the first child's birth and with later entry into parenthood. High levels of education are negatively associated with the probability of having an only child among fathers, but positively among mothers. Partnership dissatisfaction and work-life balance issues contribute to non-progression to a second child.

EuroFam Cost Action: Family Values and Family Policy Priorities

Tatyana Kotzeva (Burgas Free University, Bulgaria) has published her paper **Family Values and Family Policy Priorities in Bulgaria** in the *Nasselenie Review Journal*. This paper aims at presenting national representative survey data on people's attitudes toward family values with a special focus on the data from the 2018 survey "Attitudes toward fertility, family policies and vulnerable communities". The grounds of family policy with a special emphasis on positive parenting support policy are outlined in the second part of the paper. Directions to effective family policy in Bulgaria are discussed; part of them are family and family life rehabilitation against its alternatives: free-of-family-life and free-of-children-life.

Low fertility, family support and work-life balance policies

Hana Hašková and **Kristýna Pospíšilová** (Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic) have published their paper: **Factors contributing to unfulfillment of and changes in fertility intentions in Czechia** in the *Anthropological Researches and Studies Journal*. The objective of this study was to identify the factors that contribute to the unfulfillment of short-term fertility intentions and to changes in the intended number of children to improve our understanding of the mismatch between achieved and intended fertility in Czechia. Binary logistic regression was applied to data on people aged 18-45 from two waves of the Generations and Gender Survey from 2005 and 2008 to explore what factors contribute to the unfulfillment of short-term fertility intentions, and to the Life Course 2010 data on people aged 25-60 from 2010 to identify what factors contribute to changes in the intended number of children. Descriptive statistics show the most cited reasons for the downward or upward changes in fertility intentions. The results show the importance of gender, partner, age, cohort, and the two-child norm for the chance that short-term fertility intentions will be left unfulfilled and the chance that people will change the number of children they plan to have. The results confirm that short-term fertility intentions are predictors of fertility behavior, and labor market instability and siblings are factors that influence the number of children a person intends to have. Economic conditions, health, and the absence of a partner are the main reasons given to explain downward changes

in the number of children people plan to have, while a change of values/new experiences and the influence of one's partner explain upward changes. This study contributes to existing knowledge by testing factors associated with both, the fulfillment of short-term fertility intentions and changes in lifetime fertility intentions. They are rarely analyzed together, although they both contribute to the postponement of childbearing and the mismatch between intended and achieved fertility.

Perceptions of parental behaviour: adolescents' academic achievement and social skills

Orlanda Cruz and **Ana Catarina Canário** (Faculty of Psychology and Education Science at the University of Porto, Portugal) have published their article: **Do adolescents' perceptions of mothers' and fathers' parenting behaviors predict academic achievement and social skills?** In the *Child Indicators Research Journal*. This study examines how adolescents' perceptions of fathers' and mothers' parenting behaviors predict outcomes in the domains of academic achievement and social skills, and whether these outcomes differ according to the adolescents' gender. Participants included 168 students enrolled in the 10th (13.14%) and 11th (86.86%) grade in the only two public schools of a small city in the North of Portugal, male (42.26%) and female (57.74%), aged 16 to 19 ($M = 16.76$; $SD = 0.45$). Measures included the adolescents' perceptions of their fathers' and mothers' parenting behaviors, and the adolescents' academic achievement, and social skills. Structural equation modeling was used for data analysis. The models included the adolescents' perception of their fathers' and mothers' parenting behaviors (autonomy granting, warmth, and knowledge) as predictors of academic achievement and social skills. Regarding the outcome academic achievement, the model also included adolescents' age and parents' years of schooling as covariates. Adolescents' academic achievement was negatively predicted by their perception of fathers' warmth, and positively predicted by their perception of fathers' knowledge, whereas adolescents' social skills were positively predicted by their perceptions of mothers' knowledge. Multi-group analysis revealed that the structural equation paths did not differ according to the adolescents' gender. Further analysis identified that moderate levels of fathers' warmth are more related to better adolescents' academic achievement than do high levels of fathers' warmth. Results point out the differential role of perceived parenting behaviors on adolescents' development, with the adolescents' perceived fathers' parenting behaviors showing greater impact on academic achievement, and the adolescents' perceived mothers' parenting behaviors showing a positive effect on social skills.

Family support: Family Functioning and Adolescent Internalizing and Externalizing Problems

Ana Catarina Canário (Faculty of Psychology and Education Science at the University of Porto, Portugal) has published her article: **Family Functioning and Adolescent Internalizing and Externalizing Problems: Disentangling between, and Within-Family Association** in the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. Adolescence is often a period of onset for internalizing and externalizing problems. At the same time, adolescent maturation and increasing autonomy from parents push for changes in family functioning. Even though theoretically expected links among the changes in family functioning and adolescent internalizing and externalizing problems exist, studies examining this link on the within-family level are lacking. This longitudinal, pre-registered, and open-science study, examined the within-family dynamic longitudinal associations among family functioning, and internalizing and externalizing problems. Greek adolescents (N = 480, Mage = 15.73, 47.9% girls, at Wave 1) completed self-report questionnaires, three times in 12 months. Random-Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Models (RI-CLPM) were applied; such models explicitly disentangle between-family differences from within-family processes, thereby offering a more stringent examination of within-family hypotheses. Results showed that family functioning was not significantly associated with internalizing or externalizing problems, on the within-family level. Also, alternative standard Cross-Lagged Panel Models (CLPM) were applied; such models have been recently criticized for failing to explicitly disentangle between-family variance from within-family variance, but they have been the standard approach to investigating questions of temporal ordering. Results from these analyses offered evidence that adolescents with higher internalizing and externalizing problems compared to their peers, tended to be those who later experienced worse family functioning, but not vice versa. Implications for theory and practice are discussed.

Family support: Foster care - birth families, foster families and social workers

Isabel M. Bernedo (University of Malaga, Spain) has published her article: **The views of birth families regarding access visits in foster care** in the *Journal of Social Work*. This study aims to give voice to parents and gather their views about contact visits in foster care. Participants were 23 birth families who had contact visits with 35 children in non-kinship foster care. Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted in order to explore two key aspects: the parents' opinions regarding the contact visits and the main areas they felt needed improving. The interviews were transcribed and the transcripts were examined using an inductive method by Atlas.ti. The main themes to emerge concerned their general view of contact visits, the input and support from social workers, the contribution of foster families, the contact venue, and the organization of visits. In general, the birth families' comments were positive about the support and treatment received from social workers. However, they also mentioned certain aspects should be improved, such as supervision during visits. The results suggest several ways to improve social work practice. Social workers should aim to involve birth families more in the

process of drawing up contact arrangements and offering birth families adequate preparation prior to visits. Child protection agencies also have a role to play in relation to improving the facilities in which visits are held, as well as their overall organization, such as, the venue should provide a space that enables everyday family relationships to take place, and in the absence of this, attempts should be made to organize visits outside the official meeting place.

Family support: Enhancing foster children's psychological wellbeing

Isabel M. Bernedo (University of Malaga, Spain) has published her article: **What do Foster families and social workers think about children's contact with birth parents? A focus group analysis** in the *International Social Work Journal*. This study analyzes the opinions of foster families and social workers regarding the benefits and problems associated with contact visits. Data were gathered through two focus groups, comprising social workers and foster carers, respectively. Both groups agreed that visits were useful for maintaining foster children's attachment to their birth family, for enhancing their psychological wellbeing and for helping them to understand the real situation of their birth family. Regarding difficulties, the two groups highlighted problems of coordination between social workers and foster families, as well as a lack of support and preparation for foster carers, children, and birth families.

Family support: The benefits and risks associated with open adoption

Isabel M. Bernedo and **Lucía González-Pasarín** (University of Malaga, Spain) have published the article: **Review of benefits and risks for children in open adoption arrangements** in the *Child and Family Social Work Journal*. Following changes to Spain's child protection legislation in 2015, adoptees in Spain have the possibility of post-adoption contact with their birth families. This review aims to provide social workers with a resource to guide their decision-making by evaluating both the benefits and risks associated with open adoption. Of the 26 studies reviewed, 22 reported benefits and 8 discussed risks. Overall, contact with birth families is more commonly associated with positive than with negative outcomes for the adoptee, especially when the adoptive family is capable of communicative openness. The results support current policy on open adoptions, but in line with previous research, we emphasize the need for contact arrangements to be decided on a case-by-case basis and to be monitored.

Family support: Birth families in the context of contact visits

Isabel M. Bernedo (University of Malaga, Spain) has published her article: **Behavioral Observation and Analysis of Participants in Foster Care Visits** in the *Family Relations*

Journal. The objective of the study was to identify situations and behaviors occurring during contact visits that are likely to have an impact on a foster child's well-being. It has been argued that contact visits between foster children and birth parents can help to maintain attachment bonds and support the child's development. However, contact continues to be a subject of controversy, and evidence of both benefits and drawbacks has been reported in the literature. Few studies have examined what actually occurs during such visits, how parents and children interact, and what role is played by those involved. The author conducted an in-depth qualitative observational analysis of the behavior of participants in contact visits (birth parent, child, and social worker), as well as of the characteristics of the venue. Participants were 20 children in non-kinship foster care and their birth parents. Information regarding the characteristics of visits was provided by the child protection services and the fostering agencies involved. The analysis revealed a large number of positive behaviors among parents, children, and social workers, but also the need for improvement in several areas (e.g., family relationships, social/communication skills, and presents). This study highlights the need to improve contact visits by developing intervention strategies targeting all those involved. Notably, the support and supervision provided by social workers was not always adequate.

Family support: intra-family foster care, protection of vulnerable families

Arianna Thiene (University of Ferrara, Italy) has published her paper: **La Cassazione difende con fermezza il diritto dei bambini di crescere nella propria famiglia** in *Nuova Giurisprudenza Civile Commentate Journal*. The article comments an important decision of the Corte di Cassazione. The judges firmly underline the importance within the system of protection of vulnerable families provided by law n. 184/1983 (as modified by the law n. 149/2001) of the right of children to grow up in their family environment. When children need to be removed from their home on the basis of Article 333 of the code civil, intra-family foster care should be considered as the primary option, because it spares the trauma of being deprived of his or her emotional world and it ensures that the link with the family is not severed. As a consequence, grandparents should not be considered unfit for foster care merely because of their old age, and a careful assessment of the quality of their relationship with their grandchildren and of their capacity to care for them should be carried out, before any decision is taken.

Family support: Support parenthood: child adoption

Arianna Thiene (University of Ferrara, Italy) has published her article: **Semiabbandono, adozione mite, identità del minore. I legami familiari narrati con lessico Europe** in the *Famiglia e diritto Journal*. The article comments on an important decision of the Corte di

Cassazione regarding the adoption of children. The rulings of the European Court of Human Rights in the matter of adoption are reconstructed.

Family Support in Europe: Practice and policy

Carmel Devaney (National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland) has published the article: **Understanding contemporary Family Support: Reflections on theoretical and conceptual frameworks** in the *Social Work and Social Sciences Review Journal*. Family Support is a transdisciplinary field made up of practices and knowledge from different areas, theories and approaches. This article strives to contribute to the development of this complex epistemological foundation by undertaking a review of the main theoretical frameworks. The relationship between the practice and theory of Family Support is analysed in the paper. A review of the 'state of the art' is undertaken, exploring both the role of wide-ranging social theory, and more specific psycho-social theories. Practical examples are provided to ground the analysis. Finally, the article proposes an integrated model proposed providing a critical and versatile approach to understanding different realities. Cross-national joint construction is encouraged to advance Family Support as both a theory and to provide a framework which guides both practice and policy.

Family Support in Europe: Impact of COVID-19 lockdown: Impact across all levels of society

Isabel M. Bernedo and **Lucía González-Pasarín** and **Antonio Urbano** (University of Malaga /University of Oviedo, Spain) have published their paper: **Perceived Stress, Resources, and Adaptation in Relation to the COVID-19 Lockdown in Spanish Foster and Non-Foster Families** in the *Child and Family Social Work Journal*. The lockdown imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented stress on families. The family is a key system in relation to child development, and when birth families are unable to meet their child's needs, foster carers become an important source of support in their development. The Double ABC-X Model of family stress and adaptation considers that a family's capacity to cope with stressful situations is influenced by pile-up of stressors, family resources and perception of the situation. Following this model, the study aimed to determine the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on family stress and functioning. The sample comprised 347 Spanish adults (100 with foster families and 247 with non-foster families) who completed a survey during lockdown. The results showed that certain sociodemographic variables (gender, income, working from home, characteristics of the home, children with special educational needs) were associated with stressors during lockdown, perception of the lockdown, and family adaptation to stress during lockdown. Associations were also found between stressors, family resources, perception of lockdown, and

family adaptation in foster and non-foster families, with the former having a more positive perception of the lockdown experience. The relevance of the results and their implications are discussed.

Family Support in Europe: Workforce skills in family support

Ana Antunes (University of Madeira, Portugal) has published her paper: **Workforce skills in family support: A systematic review** in *Research on Social Work Practice Journal*. Skills used in practice of family support workforce are implemented in different settings and frameworks worldwide. The conceptual assumptions and epistemological frameworks of diversity are a challenge. Various paradigms of intervention, different sectors and disciplinary involvement and diversification of services indicate the need to systematize and clarify knowledge in the field. Method: Using PRISMA guidelines, a systematic review was conducted, including qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method studies on skills in the practice of family support. Studies considered were published in peer-reviewed scientific journals in English, from 1995 to 2020. Results: The literature was collected in an exhaustive search of several databases, where a set of 8,489 papers was selected. Forty studies from five countries met the inclusion criteria. Eleven studies were literature reviews, one was a theoretical reflection and 28 were empirical studies. The workforce referred to in the studies were mainly social workers, followed by psychologists. The workforce skills described were the qualities of the professionals, technical skills, and specific knowledge. Discussion: Most of the studies were literature reviews, did not define specific skills, had very small samples and had issues with bias. We discuss the identified workforce skills, implications for practice in social work, as well as the gaps to be covered in further research of family support.

Family Support in Europe: Cultural diversity

Ilaria Garaci (Università Europea di Roma, Italy) has published her paper: **Identità culturale e best interest of the child** in the *Il Diritto di Famiglia e delle Persone Journal*. This paper analyzes some issues, circumscribed to the sphere of parent-child relationships, that emerge from the comparison between the institutions and family structures with strong cultural characterization and which present elements alien to our legal system. In particular, the paper addresses the issue of the recognition within the domestic system of the legal effects of the kafala institution, as well as the relevance of the cultural aspect within the parent-child relationship. In particular, the issues of evaluating the parental behavior will be taken into consideration, both from a criminal point of view as well as to assess the prerequisites to apply suspensory or restrictive measures of parental responsibility; likewise, the issue of the conflict

that arises between parents and children in relation to the latter's request for autonomy and to adhere to Western cultural and educational models, which appear to contrast with those applied by the family.

Parental relationships with adolescent children

Marisa Matias (FPCEUP, Portugal) has published the article: **Links between work-family conflict, enrichment and adolescent wellbeing: Parents and children's perspectives** in the *Family Relations Journal*. The objective of the study was to analyze both parents' and adolescents' perspectives on work–family conflict (WFC) and enrichment (WFE) and its crossover to adolescent well-being, via quality of parent–child relationships. Parents' work and family experiences are associated with parenting and may crossover to adolescent well-being. Adolescents' outcomes and perceptions about parents' work–family balance have been disregarded, despite acknowledgment of adolescence as a crucial developmental period. A convenience sample of 209 dual-earner families including both couple members and their adolescent children (aged 13–18 years) participated. WFC, WFE, and parent–child relationship dimensions (coercion, autonomy support, and warmth) were addressed by both parents' and adolescent perspectives, while adolescent well-being was assessed using children's report. A nested design and dyadic data analyses with SEM were used. Mothers' WFC and both parents' WFE were significantly associated with the quality of the relationships with children, and only mothers' WFC was indirectly linked to the well-being of adolescents. The perceptions of adolescents show that both parents' WFE was linked to the quality of the relationship with children, but only mothers' WFE was indirectly linked to the well-being of adolescents. These findings emphasize adolescents' critical perspective over their parents' work–family interface and highlight the importance of considering multiple informants in research. Practitioners may use these findings to foster a sensible approach on how the work–family interface interferes with parent–adolescent relationship, diminishing strains rooted on parents' perspective. Discussion groups on work–family linkages and vocational programs that allow adolescents to think critically about their parents' work experiences and how it affects them.

Work-family interface with parents' relationship with children

Marisa Matias (FPCEUP, Portugal) has published her article: **Parent's and Children's Emotion Regulation and the Work–Family Interface** in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. This study investigates the mediating role of parent–child relationship quality on the association between parents' work-related exhaustion and children's emotion regulation and lability. The moderating role of parent's emotion suppression is also considered. Work-related exhaustion

has a significant impact in family life. However, few studies have investigated its relationship with both parent–child relationships and children's outcomes. Structural equation modelling and path analysis were used on a sample of 120 dual-earner couples living in Portugal with children aged 2 to 6 years. Analysis revealed that (a) the quality of the father–child relationship mediates the link between father's work-related exhaustion and child's emotion regulation and lability and (b) the quality of mother–child relationship mediates the link between mother's work-related exhaustion and children's lability; (c) mother's work-related exhaustion and emotion suppression negatively relate to mother–child as well as father–child relationship quality; (d) father's work-related exhaustion and emotion suppression were only negatively associated with father–child (but not mother–child) relationship quality. Moreover, the indirect effect of mother's work-related exhaustion on children's emotion regulation and lability through father–child relationship quality was only significant when mother's emotion suppression was low. Not only is parental work-related exhaustion associated with children's emotion regulation through parent–child relationship quality but also emotion suppression may have a moderating role on family relationships.

Relationship between school and family

Arianna Thiene (University of Ferrara, Italy) has published her paper: **Obblighi di vigilanza della Scuola prima e dopo il suono della campanella** in the *Annali online della didattica e della formazione docente* journal. The paper aims to investigate the civil liability of the school in the Italian legal system in case of damages caused to a pupil by another pupil or in case of damages inflicted by a minor on himself and damages caused to a student by a third party in the school context. Particularly the article proposes a critical analysis of the recent legislative reform on children under fourteen leaving school premises.

Contextual factors affecting the quality of caregiving relationships

Marisa Matias (FPCEUP, Portugal) has published the article: **Relations between child self-control, maternal relational frustration, and teacher-child conflict: A longitudinal study with children** in the *Developmental and Psychopathology*. This longitudinal study follows children from dual-earner families in 4 time-points, covering the early childhood period. We examined the influence of work-family conflict (WFC) on maternal relational frustration (RF) towards the child, and investigated the reciprocal relations among maternal RF, children's self-control (SC), and teacher-child (TC) conflict over time. Participants were 214 children (97 girls; M age = 4.00 years), their mothers, and teachers. Mothers reported their own WFC and RF, whereas teachers reported child SC and T-C conflict. Results from a cross-lagged panel model

indicated the experience of WFC positively predicted maternal RF. Maternal RF and T-C conflict were negatively related to the child later SC abilities. Conversely, children who displayed SC difficulties were more likely to experience later maternal RF and T-C conflict. There was evidence supporting the bidirectional effects of child SC and T-C conflict across time. Moreover, maternal RF and T-C conflict were indirectly linked, via child SC. The findings are consistent with a transactional view of development, stressing the importance of contextual factors to the quality of caregiving relationships and highlighting the complex and reciprocal relations between child regulatory competence and the quality of relationships with distinct caregivers.

Family-based interventions, evidence-based programmes as an effective treatment for adolescents with certain disorders

Lucía Jiménez, Victoria Hidalgo, Sofía Baena and Bárbara Lorence (University of Sevilla, Spain) have published their paper: **Effectiveness of structural–strategic family therapy in the treatment of adolescents with mental health problems** in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. Mental health problems during adolescence constitute a major public health concern today for both families and stakeholders. Accordingly, different family-based interventions have emerged as an effective treatment for adolescents with certain disorders. Specifically, there is evidence of the effectiveness of concrete approaches of systemic family therapy on the symptoms of adolescents and family functioning in general. However, few studies have examined the effectiveness of other relevant approaches, such as structural and strategic family therapy, incorporating parent–child or parental dyadic measurement. The purpose of this study was to test the effectiveness of a structural–strategic family therapy with adolescents involved in mental health services and their families. For this purpose, 41 parents and adolescents who participated in this treatment were interviewed at pre-test and post-test, providing information on adolescent behavior problems, parental sense of competence, parental practices, parenting alliance, and family functioning. Regardless of participants' gender, adolescents exhibited fewer internalizing and externalizing problems after the treatment. Parents reported higher family cohesion, higher satisfaction and perceived efficacy as a parent, and healthier parental practices (less authoritarian and permissive practices, as well as more authoritative ones). An interaction effect between parenting alliance and gender was found, with more favorable results for the mothers. In conclusion, this paper provides evidence of the usefulness of structural–strategic family therapy for improving family, dyadic, and individual facets in families with adolescents exhibiting mental health problems.

Evidence-based programmes: Scene-Based Psychodramatic Family Therapy

Jesús Maya, Victoria Hidalgo, Lucía Jiménez and Bárbara Lorence (University of Sevilla and Loyola University of Andalucía, Spain) have published their paper: **Effectiveness of Scene-Based Psychodramatic Family Therapy (SB-PFT) in adolescents with behavioural problems** in the *Health and Social Care in the Community*. Scene-Based Psychodramatic Family Therapy (SB-PFT) is a multiple-family intervention for adolescents with behavioural problems implemented by Child Welfare Services in Spain. This intervention is aimed at promoting adolescent well-being. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of SB-PFT in 17 trials, measuring its impact on the emotional intelligence, parental attachment, peer attachment and antisocial behaviour of 216 adolescents (109 participating in the intervention and 107 in the control group). Repeated measures ANOVAs for pre-test/post-test differences and long-term growth models were estimated. In the short term, the intervention had a positive impact on emotional intelligence and had a stabilising effect on parental attachment, whereas the long-term results showed significant logarithmic growth in emotional intelligence and exponential growth in parental attachment and a decrease in antisocial behaviour. However, no changes in peer attachment were shown. This study demonstrates SB-PFT to be a potentially effective intervention for adolescents with behavioural problems and emphasises the importance of fostering emotional intelligence.

Evidence-based programmes: Scene-Based Psychodramatic Family Therapy

Jesús Maya, Lucía Jiménez, Bárbara Lorence and Victoria Hidalgo (University of Sevilla and Loyola University of Andalucía, Spain) have published their paper: **Scene-Based Psychodramatic Family Therapy with troubled adolescents and parents. A pilot study** in the *Family Process Journal*. Scene-Based Psychodramatic Family Therapy (SB-PFT) is an innovative treatment used with troubled adolescents and their parents to improve family relationships and reduce adolescents' problematic behavior. It integrates the principles of family therapy, psychodrama, and multiple-family group methodology. This research is a pilot study to obtain empirical evidence on the SB-PFT therapeutic process by gauging the perception of change of troubled adolescents and their parents, and assess the perceived helpfulness of its methodology and techniques. Ten multiple-family intervention groups were drawn up, with 110 participants (63 adolescents and 47 parents), and we adopted a qualitative methodology with focus groups, using an inductive analysis of 290 active constructions of participant narratives. Concerning perception of change, the adolescents reported mainly gaining in social support, prosocial attitudes, keys to problem solving, and expression of emotions due to the treatment. The parents perceived improvement in social support, keys for educational practices, emotional well-being, and expression of emotions due to the treatment. Regarding the perceived helpfulness of methodology and techniques, both adolescents and parents highlighted the usefulness of the group methodology for gaining social support, relativizing the problem, and

expressing emotions. Additionally, participants referred to role-playing and mirror techniques as the most useful techniques. In conclusion, this first study on SB-PFT presents and describes its treatment for troubled adolescents and their parents. The participants' positive perception of their personal and relational change after treatment should serve to promote further studies with quantitative methodology in order to verify the effectiveness of SB-PFT treatment.

Evidence-based programmes: Low-income families, evidence-based parenting interventions

Orlanda Cruz and **Ana Catarina Canário** (Faculty of Psychology and Education Science at the University of Porto, Portugal) have published their paper: **Group Triple P - A randomized controlled trial with low-income mothers** in the *Children and Youth Services Review Journal*. Parenting is a challenging endeavor, particularly for low-income families, who are often exposed to multiple stressors known to jeopardize children's development. Research indicates that evidence-based parenting interventions mitigate the adverse effects of growing up in low-income families. The purpose of the current study is to evaluate the efficacy of Group Triple P – Positive Parenting Program in a sample of Portuguese low-income families assisted by social welfare services. A randomized control trial to evaluate the effects of the Group Triple P program was implemented in a community setting. Low-income families were randomly assigned to one of two conditions: Group Triple P intervention or Care-As-Usual intervention. Outcome measures included child behavior problems, parental practices, parental sense of competence, parental adjustment, parental stress levels, and family social support network. Data were collected at baseline (before the intervention), immediately after the intervention (3-months after baseline), 6-, and 12-months after the intervention. After the intervention, Group Triple P participants reported less children behavior problems, improvements in parenting practices, and in parental sense of competence, as well as an increase in family social support network. These effects remained stable six- and 12-months after the intervention. Group Triple P was found to be an effective intervention when delivered in a community setting to low-income families, demonstrating enduring positive effects in all outcomes.

Evidence-based programmes: Behaviour problems, parents' self-efficacy, interparental conflict and parenting styles assessed

Ana Catarina Canário and **Orlanda Cruz** (Faculty of Psychology and Education Science at the University of Porto, Portugal) have published their paper: **Delivering Group Lifestyle Triple P through digital practice: A case study with Portuguese parents** in the *Journal of Family Therapy*. The purpose of the current study was to explore the delivery of the Group Lifestyle Triple P (GLTP) parent group programme through digital practice. Eight mothers of obese

children aged 6–11 were recruited from a university hospital. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study sought to characterise the perceived changes throughout the intervention and explore the outcome measures on children’s BMI z-score, weight-related behaviour problems, parents’ self-efficacy, interparental conflict and parenting styles assessed pre- and post-intervention. Participants identified changes in themselves, in positive parenting, and in their ability to manage children’s nutrition and physical activity, contributing to improve children’s lifestyle behaviours. The clinical results were similar to the findings of studies in which GLTP was delivered in-person. Delivering GLTP through digital practice seems to be a possible way of implementing the intervention, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Evidence-based programmes: Parenting Questionnaire: Assessment of parenting practices

Orlanda Cruz and **Ana Catarina Canário** (Faculty of Psychology and Education Science at the University of Porto, Portugal) have published their article: **Psychometric properties of the Portuguese version of the Alabama Parenting Questionnaire parent form** in the *European Journal of Developmental Psychology Journal*. The Alabama Parenting Questionnaire parent form (APQ-P) is one of the most commonly used measures to assess parenting practices. The current study evaluated the psychometric properties of the APQ-P using a community sample of 499 Portuguese mothers of children and adolescents aged 10 to 17 years. Confirmatory factor analysis revealed adequate psychometric properties of a three-factor model (positive parenting, ineffective parenting, and poor monitoring) in a solution of 20-items. After comparing the three-factor model across children’s age groups (≤ 13 vs. ≥ 14), partial metric and partial scalar invariance were found. Items loadings were similar between groups for ineffective parenting and poor monitoring, and factor scores were similar between groups for positive parenting. The 20-item version can be an appropriate measure of parenting, relevant for research and intervention purposes. Future studies should validate the current findings in independent samples, and devote particular attention to different parenting practices across different children’s age groups.

The Family Training and Support Program: Positive parenting and prevention of child abuse

Cristina Nunes (University of Algarve, Portugal) has published her article: **Formação e apoio familiar em cabo verde. O relato da experiência dos técnicos e dos participantes/ Training and family support** in the *Revista Psicologia e Educação On-Line Journal*. The Family Training and Support Program (FAF) is an intervention program with families at psychosocial risk, designed to be integrated into preventive and formative actions, with the purpose of. This program uses an experiential and participatory methodology. In this application, 12 group sessions were held, with a weekly periodicity, for four months. The participants were 66 Cape

Verdean families, with the support of the Boavista City Hall and the Cape Verdean Children's Institute. In this paper we present some aspects of the implementation of the program in this context, highlighting some acquired experiences to be considered in promoting positive parenting with families in developing countries.

Evidence-based programmes: Parental Burnout Assessment (PBA)

Marisa Matias (FPCEUP, Portugal) has published her article: **The Brazilian-Portuguese version of the Parental Burnout Assessment: Transcultural adaptation and initial validity evidence** in the *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development Journal*. This study aimed to examine the validity of the Brazilian–Portuguese version of the Parental Burnout Assessment (PBA), the current gold-standard measure of parental burnout (PB). We surveyed parents in Portugal (N = 407) and Brazil (N = 301). We (a) compared the factor structure of the Brazilian–Portuguese version with the original structure of the PBA, (b) tested the adequacy of a second-order factor structure, (c) evaluated invariance across gender and countries, (d) examined reliability, and (e) evaluated whether PB levels are related to gender, satisfaction with life, and parental self-efficacy (PSE). Results provided evidence for the validity of the Brazilian–Portuguese PBA and its four facets. Factor models supported the use of both individual facet scores and a global PB score. The structures tested were invariant across countries and gender, and all factors had good reliability. Relations with PSE, life satisfaction, and gender provided initial evidence for validity, and suggested a possible influence of intensive motherhood models.

Evidence-based programmes: Parental Burnout

Marisa Matias (FPCEUP, Portugal) has published her article: **Parental Burnout Around the Globe: A 42-Country Study** in the *Affective Science Journal*. High levels of stress in the parenting domain can lead to parental burnout, a condition that has severe consequences for both parents and children. It is not yet clear, however, whether parental burnout varies by culture, and if so, why it might do so. In this study, we examined the prevalence of parental burnout in 42 countries (17,409 parents; 71% mothers; Mage = 39.20) and showed that the prevalence of parental burnout varies dramatically across countries. Analyses of cultural values revealed that individualistic cultures, in particular, displayed a noticeably higher prevalence and mean level of parental burnout. Indeed, individualism plays a larger role in parental burnout than either economic inequalities across countries, or any other individual and family characteristic examined so far, including the number and age of children and the number of hours spent with them. These results suggest that cultural values in Western countries may put parents under heightened levels of stress.

Family education and support for families at psychosocial risk in Europe

Lucía Jiménez, Victoria Hidalgo and Bárbara Lorence (University of Sevilla, Spain) have published their paper **Family education and support for families at psychosocial risk in Europe: Evidence from a survey of international experts** in the *Health and Social Care in the Community Journal*. There is overwhelming consensus among policy makers, academics, and professionals about the need to support families in their childrearing tasks. Consequently, European countries have been encouraged to develop family support interventions aimed at guaranteeing children's rights, targeting particularly those children in situations of psychosocial risk. While a certain amount of evidence exists regarding how family support is generally delivered in certain European countries, with a particular focus on parenting initiatives, this paper aims to take existing evidence one step further by providing an updated review focusing on two core components of the Council of Europe's Recommendation on Positive Parenting: families at psychosocial risk as the target population, and family education and support initiatives as the delivery format. The scope of the study was therefore broad, in both geographical and conceptual terms. An on-line survey was conducted with experts from 19 European countries to gather information regarding how they perceive family education and support initiatives for families at psychosocial risk. Both quantitative and qualitative data were analysed by computing frequencies/percentages and by following a thematic synthesis method, respectively. The results revealed both similarities and disparities as regards provider profiles, intervention characteristics, and quality standards. Practical implications are discussed, such as the need to diversify initiatives for at-risk families in accordance with the tenets of progressive universalism, the ongoing need for an evidence-based, pluralistic approach to programmes, and the skills and qualifications required in the family support workforce. This study constitutes a first step towards building a common family support framework at a European level, which would encompass family support and parenting policies aimed at families at psychosocial risk.

New realities and families' targeted needs, parenting styles, behavior problem of adolescents

Bárbara Lorence, Victoria Hidalgo and Javier Pérez Padilla (University of Sevilla and University of Jaén, Spain) published their paper: **The role of parenting styles on behavior problem profiles of adolescents** in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. Parental behavior is one of the most influential factors on the development of adolescent externalizing and internalizing behavior problems. These behavioral problems are closely related and often co-occur. The objectives of this work were: (i) to identify adolescents' profiles according to their behavior problems; (ii) to explore individual, family, and social characteristics associated with these profiles; and (iii) to analyze the potential role of parenting

styles in belonging to adolescents' profiles. A total of 449 Spanish adolescents (223 from families declared at-risk and enrolled in Child Welfare Services and 226 from families from the general population) participated in this study. The analyses revealed three profiles of adolescents based on external and internal behavior problems (adjusted, external maladjustment, and internal maladjustment). Parenting styles explained the adolescents' belonging to different profiles, in which the indulgent style was the most favorable in general terms. The distinctive role of parenting styles on two types of maladjustment profiles was confirmed. The relationship between parenting styles and adolescent adjustment is a key component that should be included in interventions according to adolescents' behavior problem profiles. Furthermore, the results shed light on the need that family interventions are complemented with individualized interventions with adolescents that accumulate stressful life events.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Measures of child-to-parent violence

Bárbara Lorence and **Victoria Hidalgo** (University of Sevilla, Spain) have published their paper: **A scoping study on measures of child-to-parent violence** in the *Aggression and Violent Behavior Journal*. The assessment of child-to-parent violence (CPV) is one of the remaining challenges to making progress in the understanding and treatment of this phenomenon. The aim was to map research relating to CPV assessment, in order to get a picture about the current status of available instruments to measure this phenomenon. It has been made a scoping study and analyzed the methodological quality of identified instruments in accordance with COSMIN standards. Two reviews were undertaken in this research covering peer-review articles published in English and Spanish from 2000 to 2018: (1) a scoping review through searches of databases (Web of Science, PsycINFO, Scopus, ERIC, Dialnet Plus) to identify the instruments that are currently used for the assessment of CPV; (2) and a second review (using Web of Science and PsycINFO) used to summarize the methodological characteristics on these instruments. Six instruments were identified, but only two instruments specifically assess it. With respect to methodology quality of the instruments, we found psychometric studies for three instruments, focused on their internal consistency. More instruments that measure CPV need to be developed and rigorously validated. It is questionable whether existing measures focused on interpersonal conflict or violence can be used for the assessment of CPV.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Adolescent perception of maternal practices

Bárbara Lorence, **Victoria Hidalgo**, **Cristina Nunes** and **Javier Pérez-Padilla** (University of Sevilla, University of Jaén and University of Algarve, Spain and Portugal) have published their paper: **Adolescent perception of maternal practices in Portugal and Spain: similarities and**

differences in the *Sustainability Journal*. The aim of this study was to compare parenting in two southern European countries, Spain and Portugal, according to adolescent perceptions from a situated perspective. A total of 445 Portuguese (58.88%) and Spanish (41.12%) adolescents completed a questionnaire about maternal practices and provided socio-demographic information. Portuguese and Spanish mothers were more responsive than coercive in controlling adolescents' compliance and non-compliance situations. Spanish mothers scolded, revoked privileges, and punished physically more often than Portuguese mothers, who used dialogue more often. Multivariate analysis showed three groups of parenting practices. Portuguese mothers were represented mainly in the Indulgent group (81.70%), and Spanish mothers in the Authoritative group (74.40%), whereas the third group (Neglectful) was independent of the country of origin. These results support the theory that research and family intervention should recognize cultural aspects in order to grasp the parenting process.

New realities and families' targeted needs: child-rearing and development, parenting support programs

Victoria Hidalgo, Isabel López and **Lucía Jiménez** (University of Sevilla, Spain) have published their paper: **Beliefs about child-rearing and development in Spain and Peru. A comparative analysis for adapting parenting support programs** in the *Sustainability Journal*. Migrant families who settle in host cultures may find themselves in situations of vulnerability which hinder the exercise of their parental responsibilities. While there are many support programs targeted at these families, they are not always sensitive to the acculturation process. This article compares beliefs about child-rearing and development in Spain and Peru, with the aim of enabling interventions to be adapted to the cultural characteristics of Peruvian families living in Spain. To this end, 43 Spanish and 39 Peruvian professionals and parents participated in a Delphi process, in which they ranked issues corresponding to four topics: child and adolescent needs, functions of the family context, functions of the school context, and the value of childhood and adolescence for society. The results revealed many similarities and some differences between the cultural parenting knowledge of Spanish and Peruvian families. The implications of these results for adapting parenting support programs to migrant Peruvian families are discussed. Specifically, the article concludes that Peruvian families require special support in two areas: establishing rules and limits for children and parental involvement in the school, both of which are key aspects for promoting parenting practices which are better adapted to the families' new cultural context.

New realities and families' targeted needs: child-to-parent violence

Victoria Hidalgo (University of Sevilla, Spain) has published her article: **Theoretical framework and explanatory factors for child-to-parent violence. A scoping review** in the *Anales de Psicología Journal*. Child-to-parent violence is a phenomenon with a fairly high prevalence rate and negative consequences at an individual, family and social level. The aim of this scoping review was to identify the theoretical frameworks and explanatory factors for this phenomenon. The review comprised studies written in English and Spanish since the year 2000, from the following databases: Web of Science, Scopus, PsycINFO, ERIC and Dialnet Plus. A total of 57 relevant studies were identified. The recurrent explanatory factors were: single parenthood, cohesion, stress, family discipline, history of violence, problems at school, clinical disorders and violent peer relationships. The concurrence of school, sibling and dating violence was particularly noteworthy. The theoretical frameworks referred to can be grouped into psychological, communicational, criminological, sociological and broader integrative models (Ecosystemic, Phenomenological and Constructivist). No data was found on interaction patterns, coping strategies or social perceptions of CPV which may influence families immersed in these kinds of situations.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Marital satisfaction in family functioning

Ljiljana Kaliterna Lipovcan (Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Croatia) has published her article: **A brief scale to measure marital/relationship satisfaction by domains: metrics, correlates, gender and relationship status. Drustvena istrazivanja** in the *Journal of General Social Issues*. The aim of the study was to analyse psychometric properties of the Marital/Relationship Satisfaction Scale (MRS) developed for the purpose of this research, and its association with other well-being indicators. Additionally, differences in well-being between participants who were married or in a relationship and single participants, and gender differences were tested. The sample consisted of 1087 adult internet users from Croatia. We assessed general well-being, satisfaction with specific life domains, marital/relationship satisfaction and demographic variables. MRS proved to be a reliable single factor instrument which correlated moderately with all well-being indices, but highest with satisfaction with love life and family relations. Men and women did not differ regarding MRS. Participants who were married or in a relationship showed higher levels of well-being.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Family division, perceptions of justice and gender

Marisa Matias (FPCEUP, Portugal) has published her article: **Gender and Perception of Justice in Housework Division between Unemployed Spouses** in the *Journal of Family Issues*. Division of family tasks between the members of a couple often reflects gender

(in)equality in the family. Identifying how couples with different unemployment configurations divide family tasks may contribute to a better understanding of the process. In this study, the author evaluated how unemployed couples (only husbands, only wives, and both; n = 291) distributed different types of family tasks (domestic, maintenance/repair, and childcare), the effects of this division on the perception of justice, and the influence of attitudes towards gender roles in their perception of justice. The author verified that unemployment introduces some changes, for both men and women. Namely, individuals when unemployed start performing more family tasks. However, division is still unequal, with wives performing more domestic and childcare tasks than their husbands. Nevertheless, men and women have a greater perception of justice towards a more equal division, even after we control the effect of traditional gender attitudes.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Adolescent pregnancy

Makedonka Radulovic (Faculty of philosophy, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia) has written her article: **Occurrence and Consequences** in *Prizren Social Science Journal*. Adolescent pregnancy is a problem that societies face, regardless of the level of development. Despite the availability of information and the availability of contraception, as well as the right to an abortion that is guaranteed in most of the modern societies, countries face many cases of adolescent pregnancies. Pregnancy in the period of adolescence irreversibly changes the lives of minors. It has influence on their health, their education, social life and their future as adults. Also, the families of the under-aged parents are directly affected by the consequences, disrupting the functionality of the family. In a wider sense, the health system and social functioning are burdened in their entirety. Therefore, it's important to prevent adolescent pregnancies. Contraception is the primary protection against unwanted pregnancy and insufficient and inconsistent application of contraception, as well as the lack of information among young people about the available methods of contraception can be one of the main causes of adolescent pregnancies. Integrated sexuality education for adolescents can be great benefit to educate adolescents about risk factors of pregnancy in early life. The influence of parents is crucial in the prevention of adolescent pregnancy. This paper intention is to analyses current situation on this topic, through available indicators on birth rates, maternal and children mortality worldwide. Qualitative research conducted between the student (18-22), should give more information about use of contraception between young people, their opinion about importance of contraception... Important questions are: Are they well informed about contraception; are the contraception products available; Are they feel free enough to talk with their parents on those topics.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Adolescent pregnancy

Irena Avirovic Bundalevska (Faculty of Philosophy, University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, North Macedonia) have published the paper: **Adolescent Pregnancy: Occurrence and Consequence**. In the *Prizren Social Science Journal*. Adolescent pregnancy is a problem that societies face, regardless of the level of development. Despite the availability of information and the availability of contraception, as well as the right to an abortion that is guaranteed in most of the modern societies, countries face many cases of adolescent pregnancies. Pregnancy in the period of adolescence irreversibly changes the lives of minors. It has influence on their health, their education, social life and their future as adults. Also, the families of the under-aged parents are directly affected by the consequences, disrupting the functionality of the family. In a wider sense, the health system and social functioning are burdened in their entirety. Therefore, it's important to prevent adolescent pregnancies. Contraception is the primary protection against unwanted pregnancy and insufficient and inconsistent application of contraception, as well as the lack of information among young people about the available methods of contraception can be one of the main causes of adolescent pregnancies. Integrated sexuality education for adolescents can be great benefit to educate adolescents about risk factors of pregnancy in early life. The influence of parents is crucial in the prevention of adolescent pregnancy. This paper intention is to analyses current situation on this topic, through available indicators on birth rates, maternal and children mortality worldwide. Qualitative research conducted between the student (18-22), should give more information about use of contraception between young people, their opinion about importance of contraception... Important questions are: Are they well informed about contraception; are the contraception products available; Are they feel free enough to talk with their parents on those topics...etc.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Psychological and health consequences of child abuse and neglect

Kristina Sesar (University of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina) has published her paper: **Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect** in the *Central European Journal of Paediatrics*. The aim of this article is to present a review of the research surrounding the short-term and long-term psychological and health consequences of child abuse and neglect. Research papers related to the consequences of child abuse and neglect and published in leading academic journals were identified and reviewed. We found that most of the available research suggests that there is a variety of negative outcomes among those exposed to physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, witnessing domestic violence and multi-type childhood abuse. Specifically, there was evidence of significant short-term and long-term consequences encompassing physical and mental health difficulties, subsequent perpetrations, social and

cognitive difficulties, and attachment. Conclusion– The results of this review confirm that there is a wide range of short-term and long-term difficulties that are associated with child abuse and neglect. This variety of difficulties should be taken into account in approaching complex and multidisciplinary assessment and treatment.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Perceived impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the family context of foster and non-foster Families

Lucía González-Pasarín, Isabel M. Bernedo and **Antonio Urbano** (University of Malaga/ University of Oviedo, Spain) have published the paper: **Perceived impact of the COVID-19 Lockdown on the Family Context of Foster and Non-Foster Families in the *Journal of Child and Family Studies***. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown have had a far-reaching impact across all levels of society. Lockdown in Spain meant the restriction of mobility and the impossibility of leaving one's home, except in special situations. Given the importance of the family microsystem as the primary context of development, socialization, and life support for its members, there is a need to understand how the current crisis is affecting different types of families. In this study we analyze the impact of lockdown on the family context of foster and non-foster families, focusing particularly on their levels of cohesion, adaptability, and perceived stress. We also examine a series of variables that may have influenced foster families' perceptions of their family context during lockdown. Data were gathered through an online questionnaire in Spain that was completed by 347 individuals from different regions, corresponding to 100 foster families and 247 non-foster families. The results suggest that lockdown has had a greater impact on the family context of non-foster families. With respect to foster families' experiences of lockdown, variables such as loss of employment and having a child with special educational needs appear to be important. For both types of families, lockdown has provided an opportunity to improve certain aspects of their family context. Given that further lockdowns of some degree may be necessary in the future, it is important to ensure that families have access to the psychoeducational resources they need to maintain, as far as possible, a positive family context.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Perceived impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the family context of foster and non-foster families

Lucía González-Pasarín, Isabel M. Bernedo, Antonio Urbano (University of Malaga / University of Oviedo, Spain) have published their paper: **Families' main concerns, conflicts and coping strategies during the COVID-19 lockdown** in *Psychology, Education and Society Journal*. The lockdown for the COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted all areas of society. Family

microsystems are vital for their members, as they are the main contexts for their development and socialisation, where they also find much-needed support. Understanding how this crisis has affected families is therefore of the utmost importance. This study analyses the main concerns and sources of conflict during the lockdown, as well as the coping strategies and support perceived as necessary by both foster and non-foster families, and by families with and without children. An online questionnaire was used for the data collection. It contained questions concerning socio-demographic variables and three open-ended questions. The total sample consisted of 513 people from Spain, of whom 462 provided qualitative information. The results show that being a member of a foster or non-foster family and having or not having children affected the concerns, sources of conflict, and strategies perceived to be necessary by families. While the different types of families considered point out different concerns, in general, the participant families reported that the most important issues for them were health concerns, conflicts over the management and organisation of their daily routine, psychological and emotional support, and the strategies and support available to balance work and family life. These results could be used to support those professionals, businesses and politicians responsible for devising and implementing health, economic, social and educational plans that are suited to the needs of families.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Children's exposure to digital technologies and the associated risks of the digital world

Ilaria Garaci (Università Europea di Roma, Italy) has published her article: **La “capacità digitale” del minore nella società. Riflessioni sul corretto esercizio della responsabilità genitoriale fra esigenze** in *Nuovo Diritto Civile Journal*. The essay analyses the recent Privacy Law reforms regarding the minimum age to express a valid consent to the processing of personal data. The Italian legislator set the minimum age to express a valid consent at the age of 14, that is much lower than the one fixed by the UE 2016/679 regulation by far. The Author outlines the subtle balance between minors' right to self-determination and their legal protection, with specific regard to both national and international regulation about minors ability and capacity to express a valid and informed “digital” consent”.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Multilingual education

Sviatlana Karpava (University of Cyprus, Cyprus) has co-authored paper: **Teaching and learning in a multilingual Europe: Findings from a cross-national study**. *European Journal of Psychology of Education*. School classrooms within the EU are multilingual learning environments. The diversity of pupils in classrooms raises significant challenges for teachers,

but to date, there are no data from large-scale surveys that compare views within and across European countries. A bespoke questionnaire was designed to examine views of current classroom learning environments with respect to the multilingualism. The questionnaire was piloted and subsequently completed by 2792 teachers across different European countries. Eleven countries provided sufficient data for analyses. Results from structural equation modelling showed that teachers' attitudes could be reliably measured across Europe with the use of carefully devised questionnaire, whose loading and factor structure remained invariant across countries. Teachers' views about multilingualism were most challenged by the numbers of children in their classes, not the percentage of multilingual pupils in the class. Countries differed in how they perceived multilingualism, with their differences leading to distinctive country clusters. Gender and education level (elementary vs. secondary) differences were also observed irrespective of country. These findings enhance our understanding of the role that the characteristics of teachers and their classrooms play in a multilingual setting across diverse European settings. The practical relevance of the results and new opportunities for teacher training are discussed.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Home Language and Multilingual Literacy Development

Sviatlana Karpava (University of Cyprus, Cyprus) has co-authored the paper: **Translanguaging as Home Language and Multilingual Literacy Development: Evidence from Cyprus, Estonia and Sweden** with Natalia Ringblom and Anastassia Zabrodska in the *HumaNetten Journal*. This paper investigates family language policies which lead to multilingual HLEs, based on the example of Russian- and majority-language speaking families in Cyprus, Estonia and Sweden. The main aim of the investigation is to determine differences and similarities, and whether, most importantly, translanguaging and various extralinguistic and sociolinguistic factors, such as heritage language use, maintenance and transmission, linguistic and cultural identities, heritage language attitudes, heritage language status, and quality and quantity of input, affect the development of home language literacies among children in immigrant and minority settings.

New realities and families' targeted needs: Effects of COVID-19 related restrictive measures on parents of children with developmental difficulties

Andreja Brajša-Žganec (Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Croatia) has published her article: **Effects of COVID-19 related restrictive measures on parents of children with developmental difficulties** in the *Journal of Children's Services*. Purpose – Social distancing

and school closures have changed the lives of many parents around the globe. In addition to these problems, parents of children with developmental difficulties (DD) have faced additional stressors that make them even more susceptible to higher stress levels and the onset or worsening of anxiety or depression. Consequentially, these stressors may have an indirect effect on parental functioning and children with DD owing to the spill over effect.

Design/methodology/approach – The purpose of this paper is to draw attention to parents of children with DD through an overview of possible additional stressors that have appeared during the coronavirus pandemic in Croatia. In writing this viewpoint paper, three sources were consulted: official state documents, communication with professionals (e.g. speech therapists) and online support groups for parents of children with DD.

Findings – Restrictive measures during the lockdown led to a lack of both formal and informal support for parents of children with DD. Moreover, the possibility of infection led to higher levels of fear among these parents; children with DD also encountered problems coping with both the restrictive measures and the demands of distance learning.

Practical implications – This paper may present a good starting point for both governments and NGOs when discussing and planning further advancement in the quality of response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a “recovery” response after the crisis. This overview may provide better insight into COVID-19–related consequences among parents of children with DD, which is vital to increasing the effectiveness of future measures and actions.

Originality/value – Although some negative effects of the pandemic on children have already been discussed by several authors, little attention has been paid to parents, and even less so to parents of children with DD. This paper may even represent a pioneering work in exploring the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on this population group.

New realities and families’ targeted needs: Parental supervision, parental school involvement

Andreja Brajsa Zganec (Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Croatia) has published the paper: **The relations of parental supervision, parental school involvement and child’s social competence with school achievement in prim** in the *Psychology in the Schools Journal*. The aim of this study was to examine the relation of parental supervision, parental involvement at school and child’s social competence with school achievement in primary school. A theoretical model was postulated that predicts direct and indirect effects of parental behaviors on adolescents’ school achievement. Participants were 1024 adolescents attending grades 5 through 8 in 20 primary schools in Croatia and one of their parents or guardians. Adolescents completed a scale assessing their self-perceived social competence and data on their grade point average were collected. Parents completed scales measuring parental supervision and parental involvement at school and they rated their child’s social competence. The results of model testing showed that parental behaviors have both direct and indirect effect on adolescents’ school achievement. Greater parental supervision and school involvement have a direct and an

indirect, through their effects on child's social competence, positive effects on adolescents' school achievement.

Conference proceedings (1)

Some important topics that have been covered in conference proceedings include:

Standards for skills in family support, in particular, **Standards for skills in family support: mapping the international organizations. Economic and social implications of the COVID-19 pandemic: analysis, forecasts and consequences mitigation strategies**, published by **Buciuceanu-Vrabie Mariana** (co-author) (National Institute for Economic Research, Moldova) in Conference Proceedings: *International Scientific Conference Economic and Social Implications of The Covid-19 Pandemic: Analysis, Forecasts and Consequences Mitigation Strategies*. Preliminary results of the analytical study conducted to identify the international agencies on skills' qualification are presented in the paper. The resented study is part of a comprehensive research project launched in the framework COST Action CA18123 - The European Family Support Network, and aims to map the international organizations working in the field and to identify, describe and catalogue available evidence on basic professional competencies of family support workforces.

Conference proceedings

(1) International Scientific Conference Economic and Social Implications of The Covid-19 Pandemic: Analysis, Forecasts and Consequences Mitigation Strategies.

Book chapters (2)

Some important topics that have been covered in book chapters include:

Non-resident father-child relationships after a parental union dissolution

Ausra Maslauskaitė and Arturas Tereškinas have published a chapter: **Quality of Non-resident Father-Child Relationships: Between “Caring for” and “Caring About”**. In the book: *Divorce in Europe: New Insights in Trends, Causes and Consequences of Relation Break-ups*. ed. Dimitri Mortelmans (2020). Cham, Switzerland: Springer Open. Using the cross-sectional Fathering after Union Dissolution in Lithuania survey data (2016), this chapter analyzes the quality of non-resident father-child relationships after a parental union dissolution. We assess the relationship quality perceived by fathers and focus on both positive elements such as intimacy and approval and negative ones such as conflict and child’s dominance in relationships. The influence of fathers’ resources such as their personal well-being, socio-economic resources, parenting practices and a family situation on relationship quality is also examined in the chapter. Following Smart (J Law Soc 18(4):485–500, 1991) we use the concepts of “caring for” and “caring about” specifically developed to describe the post-divorce father-child relationship quality. We make the hypotheses that fathers’ higher personal, socio-economic resources and involved parenting practices contribute positively to the “caring for” type of relationship, while limited resources contribute to the “caring about” type of relationships. Our findings demonstrate that the father-child relationship quality is associated with personal and parenting resources, while the effect of men’s socio-economic resources is not relevant if child-related characteristics are controlled. We also find the positive association between fathers’ re-partnering and new children and the quality of the relationships (less conflict and more paternal authority) with non-resident children.

Communication as an important factor of family functioning

Ljiljana Kaliterna Lipovcan (Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Croatia) has written a book chapter: **Virtual Happiness: ICT, FtF Communication, and Wellbeing** in the book *Returning o Interpersonal Dialogue and Understanding Human Communication in the Digital Age*. IGI Global, Hershey PA, USA. This chapter examines characteristics of information and communication technology (ICT) and face-to-face communication and their associations with subjective wellbeing among students. The participants were N=500 students who reported average time they spent in face- to-face (FtF) and ICT communications. They also reported dominant communication in two types of communication contexts (communication purpose and persons involved in communication) and estimated their happiness and life satisfaction. Students spent more time in FtF communication than in ICT. Those who spent more time in FtF communication with friends were happier and more satisfied with their lives. FtF communication was dominant when meeting new people, for personal talk, and for flirting, while ICT communication was dominant for casual and informative chat. Students most frequently communicated with close persons FtF. Students who use dominantly FtF communication for personal talk and with people from their private lives (i.e., parents, friends, partners) were happier and more satisfied with their lives.

Book chapters

(1) *Divorce in Europe: New Insights in Trends, Causes and Consequences of Relation Break-ups*// ed. Dimitri Mortelmans (2020). Cham, Switzerland: Springer Open.

(2) *Returning Interpersonal Dialogue and Understanding Human Communication in the Digital Age*. (2020) IGI Global, Hershey PA, USA

Website publications (9)

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter, Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2021). UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTREME POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS SAYS “GOOD INTENTIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH, Policy brief, MMM Website.

<https://makemothersmatter.org/un-special-rapporteur-on-extreme-poverty-and-human-rights-says-good-intentions-are-not-enough/> "MMM and other members of the Social Platform presented their demands and common concerns in an exchange with Mr De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. The UN special rapporteur on poverty published a statement on 05.03.21. The exchange gave us an opportunity to present the specific challenges and opportunities for mothers and their families. MMM reported that women are more at risk of poverty and social exclusion than men (22.8 % of women compared to 20, 8 of men 2018) and single mothers are particularly vulnerable. As the Special Rapporteur states, “these poverty figures, however, hide the faces of the people behind them: lone mothers for whom juggling care and work responsibilities is virtually impossible...” In fact, “Women are also disproportionately represented among lone-parent families (85%), 40.3% of which have children and are at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter, Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2021). MMM’s Answer to the public EU Commission consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights. Policy paper MMM Website

<https://makemothersmatter.org/mmm-responds-to-eu-commissions-public-consultation/>

The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) sets a framework for a socially just and fair society based on 20 key principles. Several of these principles are vital to the economic empowerment and social protection of mothers. They include: Education, training, and life-long learning, Gender equality, Active support to employment, Work-life balance, Childcare and support to children, Old age income and pensions, Housing and assistance for the homeless. For each of these principles our paper provides background information on how they affect mothers (context), describe the guiding principles behind our recommendations (what we call for) and finally describe how they could be implemented (recommendations).

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter, Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2020). MMM's Answer public EU Commission consultation on Pay Transparency. Policy paper, MMM Website. <https://makemothersmatter.org/mmm-responds-to-eu-commissions-public-consultation-on-gender-pay/> We at MMM highlighted that it is necessary to tackle the gender pay gap (GPG) from a « chain reaction » perspective encompassing not only the immediate effects but also the root causes of the problem. To do so, it is crucial to promote pay transparency measures but also, to address the unequal share of unpaid care work between men and women. This work is mostly done by women, in particular mothers, and has a negative impact on their professional career and leads to the motherhood penalty. We at MMM highlighted that it is necessary to tackle the gender pay gap (GPG) from a « chain reaction » perspective encompassing not only the immediate effects but also the root causes of the problem. To do so, it is crucial to promote pay transparency measures but also, to address the unequal share of unpaid care work between men and women. This work is mostly done by women, in particular mothers, and has a negative impact on their professional career and leads to the motherhood penalty.

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter, Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2020). Joint statement on support to children and families at risk of poverty during COVID-19. MMM Website, statement. <https://makemothersmatter.org/joint-statement-on-support-for-children-and-families-at-risk-of-poverty-covid-19/>

Make Mothers Matter, together with 20 other partners of the EU Alliance for Investing in Children, added its voice in a joint statement calling for EU Member States and the European Commission to support children and families at risk of poverty during COVID-19. The statement underlines the fact that the actual pandemic further exposes vulnerable children and their families to poverty and exacerbates pre-existing inequalities. The EU must adopt measures that supports the most

affected children and their families and also, in the long term, to bolster all those families living in vulnerable situations.

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter, Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2020). **The need to better research the impact of Covid on maternal mental health.** Statement MMM's Website. <https://makemothersmatter.org/mmm-participates-in-covid-19-statement-on-maternal-mental-health/> Statement from the Cost Action on maternal perinatal mental health (to which MMM is a member). In celebration of International health Day, the multidisciplinary EU-funded network of researchers and professionals on perinatal mental health, COST Action Riseup-PPD, raised awareness of the impact of COVID-19 and on the need to better research this impact on maternal mental health. Make Mothers Matter as member of this research network helped draft this statement. In light of the unprecedented crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, protocols for prenatal care and childbirth have been changing all over Europe. In the interests of safety, new practices are being adopted by perinatal health care services that seem to contrast with respectful and supported birth and postpartum period, negatively impacting new mothers' mental health and consequently their newborn. For instance, some countries are banning partners from accompanying women to the hospital and being present during labour, imposing restrictions on postnatal visits and separating women from their newborns.

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter (MMM), Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2020). **Response to the Road map on Gender Equality (2020-2024).** Policy paper, MMM's website. <https://makemothersmatter.org/make-mothers-matter-responded-on-february-2020-to-the-road-map-of-the-european-commission-on-gende>

Response to the Road map on Gender Equality, (2020-2024) we advocated that gender equality is achievable if unpaid care work, greatly responsible for the pay and pension gaps, is recognised as a category of work.

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter (MMM), Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2019). Disability by proxy: Not been disabled themselves, mothers with disabled children are disabled by «proxy». Statement MMM's Website. Non applicable <https://makemothersmatter.org/a-mothers-call-for-an-end-to-disability-by-proxy/> Statement from MMM member, Union des Mamans d'Enfants Handicapés – UMEH on the EU Child Guarantee

workshop on children with disabilities. Not been disabled themselves, mothers with disabled children are disabled by «proxy». They are frontline to face many obstacles and problems daily. They go from job loss, loss of financial autonomy or total financial dependence on the spouse – to loss of social rights (unemployment, retirement, sickness) with the precarious social minima that this implies. There has to be some solutions, inclusive of their family environment. Families are the major support of children with disabilities and we must listen to what they have to say.

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter, MMM, Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2020). Statement "Informal education must be recognized, parents better supported", MMM Website

<https://makemothersmatter.org/informal-education-must-be-recognized-parents-better-supported/>

At the meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, MMM drew attention to how, in the context of the pandemic and imposed lockdown, the demand for unpaid care work and informal education has increased and reinforced pre-existing gender inequalities in sharing this essential work.

Before the lockdowns, parents, in particular mothers, were already facing difficulties raising their children under proper conditions, often juggling between their educational responsibilities and their need to make a living. With widespread school closures, added unpaid childcare provision has disproportionately fallen on mothers. A British sociologist from Kent University even refers to a “return of the 1950’s housewife”. Home schooling has also put an additional strain on mothers.

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter (MMM), Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2021). **Building back better by transforming our economic system to prioritize wellbeing – with care and education at its heart.** Statement, MMM Website

<https://makemothersmatter.org/building-back-better-by-transforming-our-economic-system-to-prioritize-wellbeing-with-care-and-edu> UN Geneva, HRC intersessional meeting - MMM's contribution to the discussion on “Building Back Better: Integrating Human Rights in Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic’. The Covid-19 crisis and its cascade of consequences has shown what really matters: It has all been about care and education, and the people performing these duties, whether paid or unpaid. It has laid bare the critical role of care, not only healthcare, but also unpaid care work, i.e. the work that is carried out on a daily basis

within families to raise and educate children and take care of each family member, each dependent relative.

Johanna Schima (Make Mothers Matter (MMM), Belgium)

Johanna Schima (2020). **Mother's health and socio-economic circumstances greatly impact child development.** Statement, MMM website. <https://makemothersmatter.org/mothers-health-and-socio-economic-circumstances-greatly-impact-child-development/> UN Geneva, Human Rights Council - MMM drew attention to the impact that a mother's own mental health and socio-economic status, including her level of education, can have on her children's mental health and their future.

Website publications

- (1) Policy brief, Make Mothers Matter, Belgium
 - (2) Policy paper MMM Website
 - (3) Policy paper MMM Website
 - (4) Policy paper MMM Website
 - (5) Statement MMM's Website
 - (6) Policy paper, MMM's website.
 - (7) Statement MMM's Website
 - (8) Statement MMM's Website
 - (9) Statement MMM's Website
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