

## National survey on adoption of Evidence-Based Standards in a sample of COST Action countries



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**EuroFamNet** is a pan-European family support network currently funded as a COST Action by the COST Association aimed to inform family policies and practices towards the ultimate goal of ensuring children's rights and families' well-being. EurofamNet is doing so by building collaborations between researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, children and families, public and private agencies, and general society.

The European policy is placing a strong emphasis on adopting an evidence-based practice (EBP) approach for investment, informed decision-making, and transferability of best professional practices. This study examines the degree of adoption at national, service and professional levels of the EBP approach in a sample of 18 member countries of the EuroFamNet. Responses to the survey (18 questions) were provided on consensual basis by members of EurofamNet National Supportive Networks made up of entities at the national, regional and local level (e.g., services, NGO) in social, education, and health sectors.

This document is collected within the work of EurofamNet **WG3 "Quality Standards and evidence-based programmes"**.

For further information visit: <https://eurofamnet.eu/working-groups/wg3>

### Key messages

The actual incorporation of EBP into services, social entities and professional practice are irregular among the sampled countries (alphabetical order): Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia and Spain. The following pattern of results depicts the progression from initial to more advanced levels of EBP adoption, showing a drastic reduction in % of countries for advanced levels:

- ▶ **Most of countries** had Legal and Policy national frameworks (80%) and had endorsed International Recommendations on the promotion of child rights and child and family support (88%).
- ▶ **Half of countries** had elaborated Guidelines of EBP based on the consensual use among professionals (48%); had an official national recognition of EBP based on the consensual use among professionals (53%); and had built up a bilateral collaboration between two of these actors: policymakers, researchers and professionals (53%). Situation is relatively better for those countries with a more articulated child and family field covered by national, regional and local services and by international, national and local NGOs.
- ▶ **Few countries** had performed a planned evaluation of the professional work in child and family services (21%); had an official recognition of professional teams endorsing EBP in the services (16%); and had built a stable trilateral collaboration among policymakers, researchers and professionals (11%).

## Implications

### Policy implications

- ▶ A supportive *legal and policy framework* at the national level and the endorsement of international recommendations (UN, EU, Council of Europe and others) for child rights and for family support is a first step but does not guarantee the adoption of EBP.
- ▶ A *rich articulation of services* at national, regional and local levels as well as international and national social entities is associated with a broader adoption of EBP.
- ▶ An *occasional bilateral collaboration* between politicians, researchers and professionals does not provide a solid basis for the adoption of EBP.

### Practical implications

- ▶ *Best practices (EBP) guidelines* based on scientific evidence and professional consensus on how to work collaboratively with child and families should be promoted at national, service and professional levels.
- ▶ *Inclusion of EBP and a culture of evaluation* improve accountability and informed decision-making in the services and social entities to provide the best care for children and families.
- ▶ *Official recognition of professionals and teams* that prove to use EBP should be adopted at both national and service levels to drive and guarantee the quality assurance process in the child and family services.

### Challenges

- ▶ Building of a *stable trilateral collaborative framework* between politicians, researchers and practitioners is necessary to facilitate informed decisions on childhood and family issues and the transfer of research to practice and vice versa.
- ▶ *Dissemination and adoption of EBP guidelines* in social, education, health, justice and community sectors are necessary to facilitate collaborative work for preventive actions in the child and family field.
- ▶ Ensure the *sustainability of EBP practices* in the preventive and protective system, especially in times of economical and sanitary crisis, to guarantee the child and family wellbeing.



#### Additional Resources

<https://eurofamnet.eu/activities/workshops>

[https://eurofamnet.eu/system/files/eurofamnet\\_workshop\\_bridging\\_quality\\_standards\\_for\\_evaluation\\_with\\_professional\\_practice\\_presentation.pdf](https://eurofamnet.eu/system/files/eurofamnet_workshop_bridging_quality_standards_for_evaluation_with_professional_practice_presentation.pdf)



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