

Families in Positive: A collaborative and translational initiative for adoption of Evidence-Based Practices in Spain



María José Rodrigo, Victoria Hidalgo, Enrique Arranz, María Àngels Balsells, María Luisa Máiquez, Juan Carlos Martín, Raquel-Amaya Martínez, Esperanza Ochaíta & Javier de Frutos

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 Council of Europe's Recommendation (Rec 2006/19) emphasized the co-responsibility of the Member States to promote the positive parenting, aimed at fostering child development and protecting child rights. Since 2009, there has been a clear recognition in Spain of the importance of adopting a preventive focus to support taking into account the diversity of the families, the need to strengthen parental capacities and empower communities, and the adoption of codes of professional best practices to improve the quality of professional work with families. We showcase the collaborative and translational initiative followed in Spain to foster the adoption of evidence-based practices (EBP) in the child and family services and NGOs.

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 national adoption of EBP requires a process of systemic transformation given the Spanish vertebration in autonomous regions, diversity of intervention approaches directed at universal, selective and indicated populations, different modes of provision of parenting and family support, and the variety of evaluation cultures among professionals of different sectors. The initiative is guided by three driving forces:

- ▶ A *collaborative schema* between the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and the Spanish Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 and the group of experts from seven Spanish Universities. A representative steering committee set dissemination and training goals each year through documents, conferences, and professional training cascading from seed groups of coordinators to local frontline providers from different sectors.
- ▶ A *transactional model* from research to practice and vice versa to achieve a consensual adoption of EBP adjusted to services and professional work with child and families through collaborative research with professionals. Two main outputs are the "Best Practice Guide for Positive Parenting" and the "Guide of Interprofessional Competences in Positive Parenting".
- ▶ An *official website*: familiasenpositivo.org operating since 2015 that includes an extranet with news, monographs and materials for the general public with 420.000 visitors and 60% of return, and an intranet for politicians, professionals, researchers and students with programmes, evaluation tools, research synthesis, exchange of experiences, among others, with 2.500 entries.

Implications

Policy implications: Legal and policy actions at the Autonomous Community level

- ▶ Child protection laws and social services laws in the 17 autonomous regions and two autonomous cities: Ceuta and Melilla.
- ▶ Plans and Strategies for child and family support based on the Families in Positive initiative in 14 autonomous regions.
- ▶ Positive Parenting as a reference framework in Plans and Strategies for child and family support in the social, educational, health, and judicial sectors.

Practical implications

- ▶ Collaborative research with professionals to generate consensus for the “Best Practice Guide for Positive Parenting” and for the “Guide of Interprofessional Competences in Positive Parenting”.
- ▶ Quality assurance: National recognition of programmes, services and NGOs based on an online protocol of EBP (intranet familiasenpositivo.org) and a Plan of Improvement (33 awardees).
- ▶ Implementation and evaluation of EBP programmes (54) in home-based, group-based, community-based, and online & hybrid modalities, fully manualized, most of them in collaboration with universities and delivered by professionals in child and family services, schools, health centers, and NGOs.

Challenges

- ▶ Multi-agency working safeguarding (national, autonomous, local agencies and NGOs) to ensure a joined-up local response to child and families in their diversity and according to their needs.
- ▶ Intersectoral adoption of the EBP guidelines proposed in the “Best Practice Guide for Positive Parenting” and professional training based on the “Guide of Interprofessional Competences in Positive Parenting” to carry out preventive actions that promote child development, strengthening wellbeing in families and communities.
- ▶ Ensure the sustainability of EBP practices in the preventive and protective system of child and family services and social entities, especially in times of economical and sanitary crisis, to guarantee the child and family wellbeing.





Additional Resources



Rodrigo, M.J., Amorós, P., Arranz, E., Hidalgo, M.V., Máiquez, M.L., Martín, J.C., Martínez, R.A., Ochaíta, E. (2015). *Best Practices Guide for Positive Parenting: A resource for practitioners working with families*. Ministerio de Sanidad, Consumo y Bienestar Social. Gobierno de España.

Rodrigo, M. J., Arranz, E., Balsells, M.A., Hidalgo, M. V., Máiquez, M. L., Martín, J. C., Martínez, R. A. & Ochaíta, E., Manzano, A. (2021). *Guide of Interprofessional Competences in Positive Parenting: A resource for enhancing and consolidating best practices in services for children and families*. Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias (FEMP). Web: famiiasenpositivo.org
Webinar: <https://youtu.be/LWHINCwbzHw>



More information

 **Email of the main author:** mjrodri@ull.es
 <https://www.facebook.com/Eurofamnet/>

 <https://eurofamnet.eu/contact>
 [@eurofamnet](https://twitter.com/eurofamnet)

Any citation of this document should use the following reference:

Rodrigo, M. J., Hidalgo, V., Arranz, E., Balsells, M. À., Máiquez, M. L., Martín, J. C., Martínez, R-A., Ochaíta, E., & de Frutos, J. (2021). *Families in Positive: A collaborative and translational initiative for adoption of Evidence-Based Practices in Spain*. [Policy brief]. EurofamNet.