

## Please do get in touch !

The friendly staff at the **coface** Secretariat are available:

- › for general enquiries about family policies in the EU;
- › for enquiries about how to join **coface** and become Member;
- › for cooperation on events and projects;

For more information, please call us or go to our website.

The logo for coface, featuring the word 'coface' in a stylized, rounded, lowercase font. The letters are white with a thin black outline, set against a yellow background. A horizontal line is positioned below the text.

CONFEDERATION OF FAMILY ORGANISATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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*Better families, better society*

CONFÉDÉRATION DES ORGANISATIONS FAMILIALES DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE  
CONFEDERATION OF FAMILY ORGANISATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## Our mission

- › **Family Mainstreaming** – **coface** advocates the interest of families to be taken into account in all European Union policies.
- › **Equal Opportunities** – between women and men is a cornerstone for the reconciliation of family and professional life.
- › **Social Inclusion** – **coface** advocates for the shaping of European policies to tackle poverty and social exclusion of families and their members.
- › **Empowerment** – **coface** aims at giving a voice to all family members as consumers and important actors for sustainable development.

**coface** was originally founded in 1958. Since then, it has been linking together family organisations from all over Europe to discuss and work on issues such as balancing work and family life, children's wellbeing, solidarity between generations, migrant families, disabled and dependent persons, gender equality, education, parenting, health issues, consumer affairs, etc.

With more than 50 member organisations in the Member States of the European Union, **coface** gives a voice to many millions of families at EU level.

## Our structure

**coface**'s structure are organised in such a way as to guarantee real representativeness:

- The **General Assembly** is open to the representatives of all member organisations and lays down general policy each year.
- The **Administrative Council** is **coface**'s most important decision-making body.
- The **Executive Bureau** carries out the Administrative Council's decisions.
- The **Secretariat** in Brussels ensures the smooth functioning of **coface**.

In addition, the Policy work of **coface** is structured in **5 Working Groups** of experts from the member organisations focusing on a range of issues.

- Family and Social policies
- Inclusive policies for disabled, other dependent persons and their families (**coface-disability**).
- Consumer protection, Services, Public Health and Sustainable development policies.
- Education and Information and Communication Technologies policies.
- Exchange of Information and Experiences: Mutual Learning & Capacity Building.

## Our actions

**coface** liaises with the European institutions in all sectors relating to the rights and interests of families.

**coface** informs national organisations of developments in the European Union, and encourages greater awareness of the Community dimension.

**coface** organises exchanges of ideas and experiences as well as mutual aid between family organisations in different countries, e.g. via projects.

**coface** is a founding member of the European Social Platform and the European Disability Forum.

**coface** collaborates regularly with other important stakeholders at EU level such as the social partners and other European NGOs.

## Our values

- › **Non-discrimination**  
**coface** recognises all family forms.
- › **Pluralism**  
**coface** respects and accepts the different views and approaches to family life of its members.
- › **Democracy**  
**coface** takes decisions and formulates positions by involving as many stakeholders as possible from its membership via working groups and the larger network.

## Our vision

**coface** works towards a family friendly environment, enabling families and their members to benefit from sufficient financial resources, available quality services and adequate time arrangements in order to live and enjoy their family life in dignity and harmony.

The European Union has a strong influence on the wellbeing of families living in Europe: the European Institutions must therefore give proper consideration to the family dimension of EU policies and initiatives.

