

Grundtvig Learning Partnership

‘Self-assessment of their Needs by Family Carers : The Pathway to Support’

Partnership Recommendations to the European Union



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

Partnership Recommendations to the European Union

The recommendations are based on the cumulative work of the Grundtvig Learning Partnership 'Self-assessment of their needs by family carers: The pathway to support'. They point out measures and initiatives which are needed at European level in order to establish, across the EU, social and policy environments supportive of self-assessment and expression of their needs by family carers.

1. Fostering EU wide recognition of the role of family carers and of the support they need

The role and issues of family carers are not recognised to the same extent across the European Union. In some Member States, the lack of recognition is such that no or few policies or programmes are developed for family carers, and family carers themselves are not well aware of their role – let alone empowered in any way.

The European Union should foster EU wide recognition of the role of family carers, their contribution, their difficulties and the support they need. This should be done through:

- **Awareness raising** in the framework of the 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between generations, and of the designation of 2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life¹;
- **Awareness raising** through the establishment of a European Day of Family Carers, based on National Days/Weeks existing in some Members States;
- **Policy coordination and exchange of good practices** between Member States on the issue of support to family carers, including on the official status of family carers and carers national strategies. To do so, the EU should use the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy, of the European Platform Against Poverty, of the Social Protection Committee, and of the European Alliance for Families (including National Reform Programmes and National Social Reports submitted yearly by Member States);

¹ Further information: <http://www.coface-eu.org/en/News/European-Year-2014/>

- **Mainstreaming** of the issue across all European disability, ageing, health, and gender equality strategies / initiatives (including when implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities);
- Adoption of an **EU directive** introducing a leave to care for a dependent relative;
- **Collection of statistics and data** concerning family carers in the European Union, including with the support of Eurostat.

2. Encouraging the development of holistic support services for family carers

Holistic support services for family carers are instrumental for self-assessment and expression of their needs by family carers. They reach out to family carers, raise their awareness, provide them self-assessment tools and encourage the expression of their needs, thus contributing in an essential way to their empowerment. They also provide the necessary follow-up to self-assessment of needs: access to concrete support (ranging from information and training to psychological support and delivery of respite services). Such support services are still very little developed across the European Union. Lack of funding is an issue.

The European Union should encourage the development of holistic support services for family carers. This should be done through:

- **Exchange and promotion of good practices**, using the current PROGRESS programme and the future EU Programmes for Social Change and Innovation, and for Rights and Citizenship;
- **Use of the EU structural funds** to finance holistic support services for family carers, in the framework of the 2014-2020 priorities (transition from institutional to community-based care, reconciliation between work and private life, and enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality social services).

3. Encouraging the development of learning and training provision for family carers and professionals

Education and training has a key role to play to enhance the perception of their role, and self-assessment and expression of their needs by family carers. Learning provision for family carers and training provision for relevant professionals of the health, social and

education sectors should be developed and implemented to create awareness of family carers among professionals, empower family carers, and promote partnership between family carers and professionals.

The European Union should encourage the development of such learning and training provision. This should be done through:

- **Exchange and promotion of good practices**, in the framework of the renewed European Agenda for Adult Learning, and using the current Lifelong Learning Programme and the future Erasmus for All Programme;
- **Use of the European Social Fund.**

List of Partners

Partner Organisations

Belgium



Association de parents et professionnels autour de la personne polyhandicapée (AP³)
www.ap3.be

Bulgaria



Center of Women's Studies and Policies (CWSP)
www.cwsp.bg

Cyprus



Pancyprian Organisation of Large Families (POP)
www.pop.org.cy

France



Association des Paralysés de France (APF)
www.apf.asso.fr

France



Union nationale des associations de parents, de personnes handicapées mentales et de leurs amis (Unapei)
www.unapei.org

Ireland



The Carers Association
www.carersireland.com

Italy



Il Coordinamento dei familiari assistenti "Clelia" (Co.Fa.As "Clelia")
www.cofaasclelia.it

Luxembourg



Association des parents d'enfants mentalement handicapés (APEMH)
www.apemh.lu

Slovakia



Club of Large Families
www.kmr.sk

Spain



Confederación española de familiares de enfermos de alzheimer y otras demencias (CEAFA)
www.ceafa.es

With the support of

Belgium



Aidants Proches ASBL
www.aidants-proches.be

France



Alliance Maladies Rares
www.alliance-maladies-rares.org

France



Association nationale Spina Bifida et Handicaps Associés (ASBH)
www.spina-bifida.org

France



Union nationale des associations de familles de traumatisés crâniens et cérébro-lésés (UNAFTC)
www.unaftc.org

European Networks



Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE)
www.coface-eu.org



EUROCARERS
www.eurocarers.org

Further information

Further information about this Grundtvig Learning Partnership is available on the COFACE and Eurocarers websites:

- COFACE: www.coface-eu.org/en/Projects/Carers-Project/
- EUROCARERS:
www.eurocarers.org/research_qualityframework.php

For any query, please feel free to contact Céline Simonin, International Projects Officer, Unapei (c.simonin@unapei.org).

Picture cover: César and his mother Muriel - © AP3



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