

Family policies matter!



National policies against poverty and social exclusion of families

Brussels, 22nd and 23rd of January 2014
Symposium on family policies from four
EU Member States

„Enhance mutual exchange and learning in order to promote more effective approaches to tackling child poverty at EU and Member State level. Caritas Europa supports the establishment of an appropriate structure at EU level to foster the scaling up, transfer and dissemination of best practices in relation to tackling child and family poverty and promoting child well-being. This would assist in capturing the richness of knowledge and practice that exists at Member State level in relation to addressing child poverty.“

(Position of CARITAS EUROPA)

The German Caritas Association supports socially deprived parents and children. Services like prenatal consultancy, educational advices, debt counselling or domestic organisation training help these people in difficult situations through coaching and consulting. But we also ask ourselves which political strategies are effective against poverty and social exclusion of families.

This symposium on family policies wants to get closer to a comprehensible answer to the following question: *Which social and family policies effectively improve the situation of families, especially of the most deprived parents and children like single parents (mostly mothers), families with more than two children and families with a migration background?* Four different states and their family policies will be presented: Germany, France, Denmark and Slovenia. The aim of the conference is the exchange of good practices and the improvement of own concepts.

Target groups of the symposium are experts on family policies of social welfare organisations on the European and national level, politicians and political scientists.

The Caritas
Initiative for
Solidarity  

22nd of January 2014

12:30 h	Arrival and snacks
13:30 h	Welcome speech by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) Johanna Kotschi, Head of unit „International family affairs“
13:45 h	Welcome speech by the Chair of the European Parliament’s working group on family policies Anna Záborská, MEP
14:00 h	Context and aims of the symposium Prof. Georg Cremer, Secretary-General of the German Caritas Association
14:30 h	Living conditions of families in Europe Prof. Beat Fux, University of Salzburg
15:30 – 16:00 h	Coffee break
16:00 h	Country Input Germany Johanna Kotschi, Head of unit „International family affairs“, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)
16:30 h	Objectives and effects of family policies in Germany Dr. Karin Jurczyk, Head of department, German Youth Institute Good practice example Germany: Early Childhood Prevention in Germany and the contribution of Caritas Georg Kaesehagen-Schwehn, German Caritas Association Q&A session and discussion
17:45 h	End of day review
18:30 h	Buffet

23rd of January 2014

9:00 h	Welcome
9:15 h	Advantages of a universal and generous family policy: the case of Denmark Professor Peter Abrahamson, University of Copenhagen Good practice example Denmark: Familiens Hus Sissel Garval, National Board of Social Services (“Socialstyrelsen”)
10:00 h	Country Input France Brigitte Alsberge, Secours catholique, France Good practice example France La maison des familles à Auchel (Nord-Pas-de-Calais) Francine Guilbert, Secours catholique, France
10:45 h	Q&A session and discussion on Denmark and France
11:15 h	Coffee break
11:45 h	Family life as the cornerstone of Europe's future Slovenia Father Tadej Strehovec Good practice example Slovenia Programs of assistance for families in need provided by Diocesan and Parish Caritas Ljubljana Alenka Petek, Caritas Ljubljana Q&A session and discussion
12:45 h	Lunch
13:45 h	Closing session
14:45 h	Closure of the symposium Jorge Nuño Mayer, Secretary General of Caritas Europa
15:00 h	End of the symposium

Registration

Please register by filling in the attached registration form and sending it to Carmen.perez@caritas.de by **15th of December 2013** at the latest. The conference fee is 30€ and includes drinks and food for both days. Prior to the event you will receive an invoice which will also serve as registration confirmation. Please note that cancellations must be sent in writing and are free of charge until 20th of December 2013. Afterwards a cancellation fee of 50 % of the Conference fee will be charged.

For further questions please contact Carmen Perez:

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Location

The Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union

Rue Jacques de Lalaing 8 – 14
1040 Brussels
Belgium

How to get there?

http://www.bruessel-eu.diplo.de/Vertretung/bruessel_eu/de/01/Seite_Lageplan.html

Organiser

Deutscher Caritasverband e. V.
Karlstraße 40
79104 Freiburg
Germany

Accommodation

A contingency of 40 single rooms has been reserved for the night from 22nd -to 23rd of January 2014. Under the name “Caritas”, single rooms can be booked until 21th of November 2013 for 121€ per night (breakfast buffet, City tax, etc. included). **Please make your booking with the attached form.**

Atlas Hotel Brussels ***

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