



Better families, better society

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

Caring for elderly and other dependants

Key messages from COFACE

Bratislava, 21st September 2016

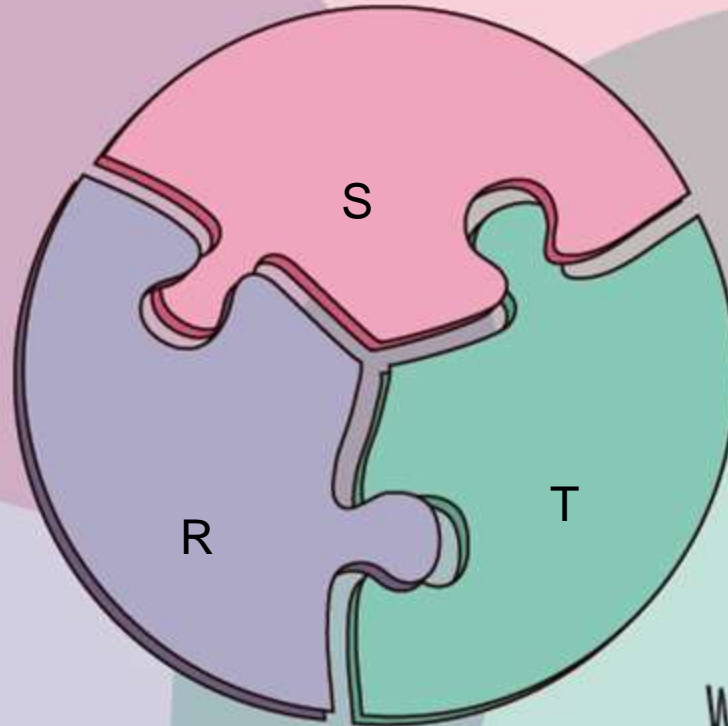
Liz Gosme
COFACE Director

COFACE - Families Europe

- European network of family organisations representing the interest of all families
- Founded in 1958
- 59 organisations in 23 countries
- 25 million families



ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY AND
AFFORDABLE CARE SERVICES



ADEQUATE
RESOURCES

WORKING TIME
ARRANGEMENTS

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European Reconciliation Package

The 2014 Alliance is a diverse group of civil society networks, local authorities, academia and work-life balance professionals. The 2014 Alliance consists of the following organisations:



- Reconciling for carers
- Women at work
- Reconciling at the workplace
- Childcare, education and parenting



Definition of family/informal carer

- Non-professional person
- Provides primary assistance towards dependent person in his/her immediate circle
- Regular care provided on a permanent/non-permanent basis
- Various forms of care: nursing, assistance in education/social life, administrative formalities, psychological support, domestic activities, etc, etc

Gender and age dimensions of family care

- Gender distribution of care still unequal
- Impact on women's employment
- Sandwich generation 50+ : emerging challenge
- EU mobility + transnational families

Needs of family carers

- Adequate leave schemes
- Accessible/affordable services
- Flexible working arrangements
- Recognition of family carer role

1. Leave schemes - carers leave

- Maternity, paternity, parental and carers leave
- Supplement to professional care
- Offer carer social protection/remuneration
- Different models
- Needs careful examination

- **Recommendation:** Call for EU carers directive

2. Accessible, affordable services

- Plurality of services
 - Community-based support
 - Continuum of services - light to heavy support
 - Lack of services prohibitive for labour market inclusion
 - Respect principles of Deinstitutionalisation
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- **Recommendation:** Introduce care targets like Barcelona targets

3. Flexible working arrangements

- Hand in hand with leave schemes
 - Lower leave uptake if workplace flexibility?
 - Challenge to reconcile work and care responsibilities
 - Smart working opportunities (and threats)
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- **Recommendation:** Promotion of technology at work to support flexibility

4. Recognition of carers

- Rights, social benefits
- European Charter of Family Carers
- Informed choice of family carer and person with care needs
- **Recommendation:** legal instruments should be adopted to recognise the status of family and informal carers

Finally..

- People with care needs should have the option to choose the care or support they need
- In line with human rights laid down in international treaties
- Flexibility and choice to use combination of family and formal support

Thank you for your attention!

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