

VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY



www.viennafamilycommittee.org
www.10yearsIYF.org
www.20yearsIYF.org
www.civilsocietynetworks.org



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ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Projects of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family have been supported since its inception in 1985 by:

- ❖ Austrian Federal Government
- ❖ Bank Austria Creditanstalt
- ❖ Berndorf Gruppe
- ❖ Country Womens Association in Lower Austria
- ❖ E.F.T. Transportagentur GmbH
- ❖ European Commission
- ❖ Government of Germany
- ❖ Government of Liechtenstein
- ❖ Government of Luxembourg
- ❖ Government of Spain, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands
- ❖ INGOs
- ❖ Lower Austrian State Government
- ❖ Niederösterreichische Versicherungs AG
- ❖ OMV
- ❖ Rotary International
- ❖ Schoeller-Bleckmann Oilfield Equipment AG
- ❖ Shell Austria AG
- ❖ Siemens
- ❖ United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities



Vienna NGO Committee on the Family



The following quotation from the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the General Assembly on November 21st 2017 (A/73/61-E/2018/4) documents the appreciation of the highest office of the United Nations for the endeavours of our Committee, and the Member Organisations and their representatives, for the well-being of families worldwide. “The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family continues to raise awareness of challenges faced by families and focuses on sharing good practices and innovative solutions at the national and community level. Recently, the Committee has focused on a number of issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal 4, including parenting interventions, adolescent well-being and engaging families in literacy and learning.”

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 2017

In a Full Committee Meeting representatives of the 41 International Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), who are members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, and 22 associate member organisations, discussed various institution-building projects and activities and approved the Plan of Action for 2017. The Board of the Committee worked out a schedule for its implementation, which was realised in co-operation with the support of the member organisations of the Committee and their representatives. The worldwide network of civil society organisations, research and university institutes, government agencies and individuals, continues to be, not only a beneficiary of interactive exchange, but is in many cases, directly involved in the work of the Committee. The Committee understands itself as a bridge between families-oriented Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), The United Nations, Governments of Member States of the United Nations and Academia, as well as between CSOs themselves, through the various networks set up and maintained by the Committee.

The following projects were realised in 2017

1. Families International

Issues, Nos. 101 - 104 of the Quarterly Bulletin of the Committee were published online at www.viennafamilycommittee.org Special features included: ‘Issues relating to families at the 55th United Nations Commission for Social Development 2017’; The proceedings of an International Forum organized by the Committee held on June 12th 2017 at the United Nations Vienna International Centre entitled: ‘Internet Use and Domestic Communication Cultures’; ‘Knowledge Resources Relevant for Families from the United Nations’; ‘United Nations Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Family Policies and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda’. Each issue of Families International also included texts submitted by member organizations of the Committee as well as relevant texts from international agencies.

Over three hundred and thirty readers of ‘Families International’ are informed by the Secretariat of the Committee by e-mail, when the latest issue is available to download.

2. International Forum: Internet Use and Domestic Communication Cultures

The Committee organised an International Forum, which was held during a Full Committee Meeting, at the United Nations Vienna International Centre on June 12th 2017, with the theme: Internet Use and Domestic Communication Cultures, including a presentation by Dr. Corinna Peil from the University of Salzburg, in Austria. This International Forum was specially organised by the Committee to observe the International Day of Families (IDF) set each year by the United Nations for May 15th. The text of the presentation by Dr. Peil, has also been published in ‘Families International’ Issue No. 102.

3. Co-operation with the United Nations Organisation

Further to the opening quotation above, the Board of the Committee keeps its various networks informed with documents of United Nations Resolutions and Reports of the United Nations Secretary-General pertaining to family issues.

A background note prepared by the Focal Point on the Family, Division for Social Policy and Development, (DSPD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat entitled: 'Families, education & well-being, which was the theme chosen by the United Nations for IDF 2017, of a panel discussion on the theme, held at the United Nations in New York, was also included in Families International Issue No. 101

The Committee forwarded to the Focal Point on the Family of the United Nations a fifteen page synopsis of a study update, as an input to background material for the above mentioned note for IDF 2017. The full 80 page report, of the study update, on which the synopsis was based, entitled: 'Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisation to the Well-Being of Families' by Dr. Peter Crowley, then Secretary of the Committee, in cooperation with the United Nations Focal Point on the Family, is available to download on the United Nations website at:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/international-day-of-families/2014-3.html>

4. Websites of the Committee

www.viennafamilycommittee.org

The homepage of the Committee had 30.691 visitors in 2017. This website is, amongst others, the main vehicle to publish our quarterly bulletin 'Families International'. Issues Nos.101 to 104, which were published in 2017, may be downloaded from our website without cost to the reader.

www.10yearsIYF.org

This website continues to experience interest and was visited 27.941 times in 2017. www.10yearsIYF.org is a resource archive for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2004, with many relevant links to other sources, and resulted out of the participation of the then Chairperson of the Committee in a consultative meeting of international and regional Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) set up by the United Nations Secretariat in New York, in 2002, to implement a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to observe the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2004. It was agreed to prepare a study, under the chairmanship of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family on: 'Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families' since 1994. The original study, was published in book form with the financial support of the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities in 1994, under the title: 'Documenting Contributions of Civil Society Organisations to the Well-Being of Families' and was edited by P. Crowley, and submitted to the members of the special session of the 59th General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 6th 2004, in order to officially observe the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

The United Nations Secretary General referred to the above publication in his Report to the 59th Session of the General Assembly (A/59/176, 2004). The contents of the book, which also includes a comparative perspective of international, national, and local families-oriented civil society organisations enhancing social justice, are also available to download at: www.10yearsIYF.org

www.20yearsIYF.org

To facilitate the implementation of an update of the study originally carried out at www.10yearsIYF.org a further website was set up at www.20yearsIYF.org to gather data entered by the participating CSOs in the study-update, from seventeen countries in four continents. The website further offers a knowledge resource on family issues for visitors to the website, by creating a so-called 'Cyber Street' of websites of families-oriented CSOs which deal with eight categories relevant for families: 'Children; Economic-Financial; Education; Gender; Health Issues; Organisation; Parents; and Subsistence-Services.' This website, which was visited 15.151 times in 2017, also includes a series of links, inter alia, to the United Nations Focal Point on the Family.

www.civilsocietynetworks.org

An Interactive-Internet-Forum for civil society organisations world-wide, including local, national and international CSOs, as well as academic and research institutions, was set up at the request of many organisations from around the globe, and went online in August 2004 at www.civilsocietynetworks.org. This Forum had 143 member organisations from 25 countries in 2017. The network originally incorporated the Interactive-Forums the Committee had already set up with civil society organisations in Eastern African and in Central and Easter European Countries, and which was then extended and opened to a world-wide membership. Civil Society Organisations can join this Forum, free of cost, by contacting the Committee at: contact@viennafamilycommittee.org

Each organisation receives an individual User-Identity and Password and is able to enter and change data as necessary. The Forum also includes a discussion board, internal e-mail and online conference facilities, as well as a newsletter function, for each individual member organisation of the forum. The website was visited 5.722 times in 2017.

5. Total Number of Visitors to the four Websites maintained by the Committee

The four websites maintained by the Committee had a total of 79.505 visitors in 2017. That corresponds to an average of over 217 visitors per day in 2017 to one of the above four websites.

These figures reflect perhaps the continuing momentum created by the observance of the 20th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family in 2014, as well as the ever-increasing interest generated by issues relating to families. These figures also speak for themselves, with regard to the continued interest worldwide in the endeavours of the Committee, which observed in 2017, the 32th Anniversary of its inception in 1985.

6. The Present Members of the Board of the Committee for 2016 - 2019

Board Officers:

Chairperson: Mag. Wolfgang Engelmaier, Kolping International,
Deputy Secretary: Dr. Peter Crowley, International Council of Psychologists,
Treasurer: Ceja Gregor-Hu, International Inner Wheel,

Board Members:

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Mazal, University of Vienna,
Dr. Maria Riehl, Women's Federation for World Peace,
Dr. Eleonora Teixeira Da Costa Rossoll, Federation of Catholic Family Associations.

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January 2018

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