

“Preparations for an observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family”

In response to the note verbale of 16 May, 2022, reference number: DESA-22/00994 on the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family please find below the following information on the activities of Polish authorities undertaken to support this anniversary.

Family-oriented efforts in support of managing the use of new technologies, including harnessing new technologies to improve work-family balance and promote parenting education:

1. Amendments to the Polish Labour Code through: increasing the availability of flexible forms of work for parents: remote working, working reduced hours, working with individual work schedules;
2. The annual "Family First!" programme, which is addressed to non-governmental organisations that carry out activities supporting marriages as the best care-giving environment for children, prepare young people to cope with the challenges of family life, and create a particularly family-friendly environment. The organizations support information, education and training projects serving social change by placing the welfare of families at the centre of community action at all levels of its functioning. The third edition of the programme is currently underway. The results achieved after the first two years of the programme being in place testify to the high interest of third sector organisations in creating new activities for families. To date, 71 projects have been implemented for a total of PLN 17 050 000. This has resulted in a series of workshops, training sessions, social campaigns, research projects and many other activities which have significantly contributed to the creation of a positive image of the family, as well as having a real impact on strengthening family ties. Content deepening family relationships has collectively received tens of millions of views in social media and on the Internet. Videos published on YouTube were played almost 2.2 million times. More than 50,000 participants took part in numerous events both online and in person.

Family-oriented policies in response to current demographic trends including ageing, such as support for all generations in the family, including older persons:

1. Poland has prepared a document named Demographic Strategy 2040. It is focused on fertility, because in the long term it is the best way to restore the favourable demographic structure of Polish society. The strategic goal is to get out of the low fertility trap and approach the fertility level guaranteeing replacement of generations.

Additionally, we identified areas influencing the decision to have children and increase fertility, so we proposed 12 lines of intervention under 3 specific objectives. These are:

- Specific purpose 1 - Strengthening the family:
 - financial security for families,
 - support in meeting families' housing needs,
 - support for the sustainability of families,
 - dissemination of family-friendly culture,
 - strengthening cooperation with the third sector and other entities working for the benefit of the family,

- Specific purpose 2 - Removing barriers for parents who want to have children:
 - development of a family-friendly labour market development of childcare facilities,
 - development of health care,
 - improving the quality and organisation of education,
 - development of infrastructure and services needed by families,
- Specific purpose 3 - Improving the quality of governance and policy implementation:
 - Increasing the quality of management and policy implementation at the central level,
 - increasing the quality of management and policy implementation at the local government level.