



**European
Family**
NETWORK
municipalities®

FIRST CONVENTION OF EUROPEAN FAMILY FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITIES

FINAL DECLARATION

Brussels, 19 November 2019

Foreword

Europe is facing the challenge of one of the most severe demographic changes in human history. Several territories are experiencing growing depopulation, aging of population, low birth rates, economic stagnation, migration and all the social issues connected.

Considering:

- 72% of the total European population live in urban areas,
- municipalities represent the governance level closest to people and families,
- demography, inclusive community building and social cohesion, housing, environment, education, budget, economic development are the main topics concerning municipalities,
- cities are sustainable when they meet the needs of their inhabitants providing services and well-being,
- measures in the interest of families are not cost for the municipality but investment in the future,
- a family-friendly environment is family oriented,
- a family-friendly municipality is an inclusive community that prioritizes its most vulnerable components, children, disabled, elderly, persons in vulnerable situations.

Considering also that the aim of the European Network of Family Friendly Municipalities is:

- to reach social, human and economic development focusing on the well-being of families and their components, the future of the territory,
- to spread in Europe a family-oriented culture,
- to empower families in a subsidiarity relationship with local administration and civil society,
- to give families the opportunities to live their life projects and have the number of children they desire in the most welcoming environment,
- to monitor and study the demographic trends and dynamics impacting families.

We, representatives of European Municipalities and Civil Society Organizations participating in the First Convention of Family-friendly Municipalities on 19 November 2019,

- *Acknowledging* that family is the fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state, as indicated in Article (16.3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and fundamental resource of economical, human and social development,
- *considering* target 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”,



AGREE to

1. call for greater attention towards investing in families with children, especially for large families, through incentives to municipalities which do so with special allowances,
 2. call for better measures for a cleaner, safer and more liveable environment,
 3. call for a special attention to national and European Networks in order to prioritize children and families as fundamental stakeholders of a municipality,
 4. encourage active participation of young people in the life of the municipality,
 5. look for ways of supporting families with no additional cost,
 6. create forums for families where they can express their wishes in matters of the community,
 7. collaborate with family associations, as well as private and public companies, local, regional and national governments in order to develop a family-friendly culture that will enable to build more human, sustainable, resilient municipalities.
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