4.1 Final publishable summary report

FAMILYPLATFORM provided a research agenda on families and family wellbeing for Europe. As a co-ordination and support action, its purpose was to build up a social platform and involve a wide range of stakeholder representatives and policymakers in the development of the research agenda. By matching different societal groups and their perspectives, major trends and societal challenges as well as key policy questions regarding the wellbeing of families in Europe were identified. Additionally, knowledge gaps and demands for future research were worked out. The research agenda and its results are a possible base for the SSH research Roadmap 2012-2013. FAMILYPLATFORM:

- provided knowledge on family life and family policies in Europe
- worked out important societal trends and explored their possible impact on family life in future scenario workshops and
- promoted an exchange of knowledge and experience between researchers and practitioners. Stakeholders were involved at every stage of the project.

The research agenda strives to highlight the most commonly agreed research issues, built upon a broad and solid societal basis. The agenda has been developed with the overall aim of advancing the wellbeing of all families, irrespective of their form, cultural background, religion and ethnicity. Families are connected to almost every area of society and therefore the range of possible topics had to be compressed in order to spell out a roadmap for future research. Within this agenda the following research areas were highlighted:

Sustainable and inclusive care solutions: Providing care is the most challenging issue for everyday family life. Finding sustainable care solutions may well be the greatest challenge for the wellbeing of families in future Europe. There is a need of comparative research on the characteristics of care solutions for different groups of care receivers. Additionally, more knowledge is needed about the wishes and demands of care givers and care receivers, especially children.

Life course and transitions: FAMILYPLATFORM highlighted the fact that family life changes extensively over the life course of family members. It is a major challenge for families to adapt to changing demands and the socially dynamic context in which they live. There is a need to research different phases of family life, -how families cope with transitions between life phases, - and to explore the effects of social policies on different transitions.

“Doing family”: In short, this means the management of everyday family life and the matching of competing demands – such as employment, education (day care, schools), neighbourhood services and living environments. Satisfying arrangements are important for the stability and quality of family relations. A better understanding of how families deal with demands calls for new and common indicators in Europe and highly differentiated investigations.

Harmonisation and evaluation of family policies: Family policies vary across the EU, and stakeholders frequently call for much more monitoring and evaluation of family policies. In order to achieve this, comparable cross-EU information is badly needed. One solution might be a European observatory on national family policies

Inequalities, migration and mobility: There is a need for a deeper understanding of the social inequalities that exist between families, as well as of the role of families in reproducing social inequalities. A better understanding of how policy can tackle inequalities is also needed. Furthermore, research is needed on specific types of families which may be more vulnerable to poverty.

New media and information technologies: The main question is this research area is how media shape family life and behaviour. Thus we should have a look on the development of communication, it’s frequency between family members (and others) as well as the information flow used by them

and the risks combined with new opportunities. It is also essential to understand which trends in family life influence the development and the demand for (special) media.

Project context and objectives

The overall objective of the FAMILYPLATFORM was to elaborate a focused research agenda that addresses fundamental research issues and key policy questions for future research and family policies in Europe. The activities of the FAMILYPLATFORM were related to all 27 member states. The research agenda and its results could be a possible base for the SSH research Roadmap 2012-2013. Therefore, the platform matched three relevant perspectives: the perspective of the scientific community, of European families as represented by members of civil society and important stakeholders such as family and children's rights associations, and the perspective of policy makers and social partners.

In this context, there are still significant cross-national differences between European societies regarding the living conditions of families. Legal systems, welfare structures, education systems, health-care systems and economic systems vary from country to country. As a consequence, European family structures and family forms, as well as respective trends and developments are quite diverse. Thus, it was crucial to generate a comprehensive overview of various existential fields of family life and family policies in order to derive conclusions for political practice and further research. In the long run, the aim of the social platform was to generate key policy questions and to define fundamental research issues.

Another important topic of the FAMILYPLATFORM was the concept of the "wellbeing of families". The social platform aimed to identify research tasks by reviewing existing research and pointing out knowledge gaps. Special attention has been paid to the continuous critical discussion of scientific findings with a wide range of stakeholder representatives from family associations, children's rights organisations, policy-makers, and social partner representatives. Thus, the generated results are based on an iterative process relying on a broad informational and societal basis.

The activities of FAMILYPLATFORM were focused on four main objectives:

1. Catching up with the current state of family research and elaboration of significant trends, differences between countries, research gaps and methodological problems of existing family research from the point of view of the research community.
2. A critical review of existing research from the perspective of a wide range of stakeholder representatives such as family associations, children's right associations, policy-makers and social partners.
3. Generating key policy questions for future European policy and research issues and tools focused on "wellbeing of families" as key concept in European policy.
4. Working out a research agenda with fundamental research issues, research areas and tasks of long-term studies, methodological tools based on step 1-3.

1: State of the art of existing research on family life and family policies

The state of our knowledge about families, on the one hand, and policies and other non-governmental initiatives, on the other hand, are linked very sparsely. At the same time, there is a great variety of family life in Europe, and its legal and social context conditions. In addition to this overall problem, European policies and research are currently confronted with a situation, in which some aspects of family life are investigated very thoroughly, while other aspects, e.g. rare family types, are still largely unexplored in scientific terms – with great differences between European countries and regions. Thus, a first major objective of the social platform was the establishment of an empirical

foundation for further work: this meant working out the current state of family research and bringing together recent findings. It furthermore included getting an overview of policies and social systems which make up the contextual framework for all aspects of family life. In this respect, the FAMILYPLATFORM took into account a broad range of existential fields of family life and family policy:

1. Family structures and family forms
2. Familial developmental processes (the dynamics of family life and the course of life in general, i.e. developments and changes)
3. State family policies (different welfare systems and different legal frameworks)
4. Family and living environments (regional and environmental contexts of family life)
5. Family management (incl. division of labour and family-related work)
6. Social care and social services (family relationships and care-giving)
7. Social inequality and diversity of families (special challenges to families such as poverty or migration)
8. Family, media, family education and participation

Within the eight existential fields, major trends and research gaps have been be highlighted and have been summed up in a comprehensive report.

2: Focused critical review of existing research

Apart from compiling an overview of existing research, the results of previous research have been critically and creatively reviewed by different groups: (1.) family association representatives, (2.) policy-makers and social partners, as well as (3.) the research community. The critical review was focused on two dimensions.

First, the eight existential fields of family life and family policies have been focus of interest. Stakeholder representatives and scientific experts revised the current state of research. This included assessing the current state of research, pointing out gaps of research and naming expectations towards future research. In this process critical comments and statements from a wide range of experts and stakeholder representatives were encouraged. For this purpose, there have been two forums for discussion: an internet platform and a conference (First conference: “Critical review of the existing research on Family life and Family policies in EU”).

Secondly, the political topics which are relevant to the family (see Renewed social agenda: Opportunities, access and solidarity in 21st century Europe 2008; Europe 2020) were discussed. Here again, the critical examination of existing research became relevant. Furthermore, national or greater frames of reference have been analysed with regard to their appropriateness for an evaluation. In this respect, common measurements, indicators etc. have been examined in order to point out the most appropriate for comparing national findings. In addition, it became part of the concern of the FAMILYPLATFORM to point out current research that adequately reflects the situation of families in Europe and the most recent trends and developments. A number of group discussions have been organised such as workshops and focus groups focused on the following topics: gender equality and family, family life and work (reconciliation of work and family life, parental leave, active aging), family oriented services over the course of life (for example day care for children, health care for families, help for early school leavers), migration and other topics that are relevant in this context. The results of these group discussions (workshops/focus groups) were presented on the conference (First conference: “Critical review of the existing research on Family life and Family policies in EU”) and on the internet platform. The central points of critique and suggestions for future research had been summarised (critical review) and became part of the research agenda.

Subsequently, the results were presented on the internet platform and by this means opened to the public. For this purpose, general guidelines for publishing the statements and for the presentation of the findings of the FAMILYPLATFORM were created.

3: Key policy questions and research issues focused on wellbeing of families as a fundamental concept in EU-policy

A further step was the development of a set of key policy questions with regard to the design of future family policies and research. This was possible on the basis of a prior compilation of existing research and its critical evaluation by stakeholder representatives. In this context, the key question was how to realise the wellbeing of families in Europe. The aim was to work out the concept "wellbeing of families" as a key concept in EU policies and for future research. A central objective of the FAMILYPLATFORM was to find an answer to the following question: how can European policies and the EU member states improve the wellbeing of families in a long term? The FAMILYPLATFORM aimed to shed light on the aspect how wellbeing of families will fit within the wider international "family architecture".

In FAMILYPLATFORM the term wellbeing of families has been used as a multi-dimensional concept. It covered two approaches, the objective and the subjective approach: the objective approach was used in several studies, e.g. the Swedish "level of living approach" (Vogel 2002, the social indicator series of the OECD, and European Quality of Life Survey/European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions). The subjective approach was used mainly by psychologists, sociologists and economists (see Böhnke/Kohler: "Wellbeing and Inequality", Social Science Research Centre Berlin/WZB discussion paper 2008). The core question of the objective approach is to agree upon a list or dimensions of goods that are necessary for a good life. Wellbeing is measurable by significant qualities of living conditions. In this context important dimensions of living conditions and of quality of life are: health, employment, education, income, security, housing, family-relationship, social inclusion and environment. In an overview of conceptualisations of wellbeing, Fathey et. al. conclude that these dimensions are commonly accepted (see "Monitoring Quality of Life in Europe", Luxemburg: Office for Official Publications of the European Countries, 2003:53-60). The European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) which is carried out on behalf of the "European Foundation of the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions" is based on these dimensions.

The subjective approach investigates wellbeing of families on the evaluation of the individual family-life by the family members themselves. The question is here: Are the members of European families satisfied and happy with their own family-life? Subjective satisfaction and happiness are central aspects of this approach. In this context dimensions of social inequality are important.

In order to achieve this aim, FAMILYPLATFORM applied the foresight approach. It is a technique that enables a group of experts and stakeholder representatives to shed light on a common situation, to generate visions about the future, and to discuss the realisation of these visions. Based on the major trends (which had been highlighted in the first outcomes of FAMILYPLATFORM) the participants prepared the frames for several future scenarios. Therefore the consortium took into consideration selected existential fields of family life (e.g. familial development processes, family and living environment, family management and family network, families and media relevant questions that emerged from the critical review will be considered as well) and worked out important variables and societal drivers.

The members of the consortium and the advisory board of FAMILYPLATFORM (researcher and stakeholder representatives) and a few selected policy-makers participated in eight future scenarios (workshops). They worked out common facets and preconditions of wellbeing of families, political strategies to realise these preconditions and the tasks of research to support and evaluate political action.

4: European research agenda

In a synopsis of all previous parts, in a final stage the consortium and the stakeholder representatives worked out a research agenda for a possible base for the SSH research Roadmap 2012-2013 and national research programmes. Hence, it is not only referring to topics and regional aspects of future research, but also to aspects of the research design itself, as well as to methodological issues. It also includes matters like an adequate mix of research methods and time frames to be considered, as well as useful data sources etc. The research agenda includes the essentials of the state of the art (results of area 1), the essentials of the critical review of existing research (results of area 2), the outcome of the foresight exercises, key policy questions and fundamental research issues (results of area 3). The draft of the research agenda has been discussed with stakeholder representatives, policy-makers and experts at the second conference.

A description of the main S&T results/foregrounds

Task 1.1: Reports: "Preliminary results of the state of the art" in the following existential fields of Family life and Family policy

Existential Field Reports written by consortium are the following: 1) "Family Structures and Family Forms in the European Union", written by Loreen Beier, Dirk Hofäcker, Elisa Marchese and Marina Rupp from IFB; 2) "Family Developmental Processes", written by Carmen Leccardi and Miriam Perego from the UNIMIB; 3) "Major Trends if State Family Policies in Europe", written by Sonja Blum and Christiane Rille-Pfeirrer from the AIF-UNIVIE; 4) "Family and Living Environment. part A: Economic Situation, Education levels, Employment and Physical living Environment", written by Epp Reiska, Ellu Saar and Karl Viilmann from the TLU, and "Family and Living Environment, part B: Local politics: Programs and best practice models", written by Francesco Belletti and Lorenza Rebuzzini from FDAF; 5) "Patterns and Trends of Family Management in the European Union", written by Zsuzsa Blaskó and Veronica Herche from the DRIHU; 6) Social Care and Social Services", written by Marjo Kuronen, Kimmo Jokinen and Teppo Kröger from JYU; 7) "Social Inequality and Diversity of Families", written by Karin Wall, Mafalda Leitao and Vasco Ramos from UNILIS, and 8) "Media, Communication and Information Technologies in the European Family", written by Sonia Livingstone and Ranjana Das, with contributions from Myria Georgiou, Leslie Haddon, Ellen Helsper and Yinhan Wan from the LSE.
After the congress, the groups completed their task at the end of March 2010. Family Research Centre got eight reports, altogether about 750 pages, and besides two expert reports, altogether more than 100 pages. (The purpose was that each report should consist of 60 pages including a 10-page-summary, but some of the reports were longer.)

Task 1.2: Report: Structures, development and objectives of family focused stakeholder representatives in EU

This report was co-ordinated by COFACE, and jointly authored by authors from COFACE, FDAF and MMM. "Family Organisations at the Local, National, European and Global Level – Three Case Studies" by Linden Farrer, Lorenza Rebuzzini, Liverani Aurora, Anne-Claire de Liedekerke, Jill Donnelly & Marie-Liesse Mandula gives information about how these three organisations are structured, how they have developed (some history), their objectives, and some of the challenges they face in their work.

In the Jyväskylä meeting, February 2010, the representatives of COFACE gave a lecture on family focused stakeholder representatives in EU and presented the structures, development and objectives of them. Later, the basic ideas of the lecture were included into WP1 final report.

Task 1.3: Organising the meeting „State of the art of the research on Family life and Family policies in Europe"

The lead participant JYU organized a congress, where all members of the consortium, the members of the advisory board, stakeholder representatives and experts brought their preliminary results. The results were peer-reviewed and publicly discussed. The three day meeting "State of the art of the research on Family life and Family policies in Europe" was held on February 24th, 25th and 26th, 2010. It gathered altogether 41 participants.

Task 1.4: Report: "State of the art of the research on Family life and Family policies in Europe: Major and common trends, cultural differences, specific developments of member states and research gaps"

Work Package 1(WP1) includes one deliverable, Deliverable No. 2, the report called "Research in Families and Family policies in Europe State of the Art". This report should have been 100 pages long including a summary. The delivery date was month 9, i.e. June 2010. It was edited by Marjo Kuronen. The first draft was commented by the members of the consortium, and the work was completed in June, as planned. The report was sent to the European Commission at the end of June, after minor corrections (language checking etc.) were made. The very final version of the report was completed on 16th July, and it was published on the FAMILYPALTFORM website on 1 September 2010. The report consists of 121 pages (including a five-page summary), plus references.

The findings of Work Package 1 can be defined as six main trends: 1)high dynamics in family forms, for example increasing diversity, prolonging presence of young people within the family of origin, postponement of parenthood and marriage, and decreasing fertility rates, all of which challenge the idea of the "middle-class nuclear family", although the idea still has power; 2) increasing level of female employment and a decline of a male breadwinner model, although the division of paid work and especially unpaid domestic work continues to be highly gendered, which still causes challenges in the reconciliation of family life and paid work; 3) changes and challenges in gender roles, parenthood and even grandparenthood, especially the rise of new models of fatherhood and the growing importance of the media that pose challenges regarding family values, competences, and authority, but also moments of togetherness as well; 4) polarization in families, especially new forms of inequality between families and in media environments as well, which all mean that EU countries are facing a new complex social structure in which there are two trends, firstly a growing uniformity of life-styles, and secondly the emergence of a dual society with winners and losers; 5) increasing number of migrant families, which probably causes new forms of inequalities, but may also be an answer to aging and labour shortage, and caring problems as well, because migration is more and more a process led by immigrant women; 6) care going public, because EU policy promotes women's labour market participation and therefore public childcare provision (actually public sector + a strong third sector, i.e. increasing role of local NGOs and networks of different actors), but besides the de-familialisation processes, there also exist new forms of familialism.

Work Package 2 consists of a critical review of the WP1-report, existing research on families. The report has been used also as background information when writing the future scenarios (Work Package 3) and the research agenda (Work Package 4). Later (May 2011) the consortium published a book ("Wellbeing of Families in Future Europe") presenting shortened and edited versions of all of

the key FAMILYPLATFORM reports; the version of the WP1 report numbers around 80 pages as its structure of the text is based on the six trends mentioned above.

All deliverables and outcomes from WP1 have been accomplished. Two experts report are: "The Professional Standards of Care Workers: The Development of Standards for Social Care Services for Families", written by Aila-Leena Matthies, from Kokkola University Consortium, and "Expertise on Transitions into Parenthood, written by Barbara Stauber from the University of Tübingen.

All of these Existential Field Reports are available at the FAMILYPLATFORM website http://www.familyplatform.eu and archived in a persistent repository (http://hdl.handle.net/2003/27684). These eight reports and two expert reports are Outcome No. 2.

Task 2.1: Set of information to stakeholder representatives and experts about the state of the art based on the outcomes of WP1

All the State of the Art reports carried out in WP1 were made available on-line for consultation and discussion by stakeholder representatives and experts (see 2.2).

Task 2.2: Setting up a platform for discussion "critical review on existing research" on the internet platform

A fully functioning website was prepared and launched by COFACE (lead participant of WP5). The site was ready for the launch of the reports from WP1 in March 2010, thus allowing for discussion and review both of the state of the art reports and all the materials (statements, summaries, reports from *rapporteurs*, videos) produced before, during and after the Lisbon conference in May 2010 (see also Task 5.6).

Task 2.3: Organising and leading of focus groups

A Conference was organized as described in Task 2.5. The critical objective of the 16 working groups (8 focus groups on each Existential Field plus 8 workshops on each Key Policy Issue) was accomplished with the contributions of all participants (chairs, keynote speaker(s)/initial discussant(s), stakeholders representatives, social partners, policy makers and *rapporteurs*) who were highly committed to the following tasks: to discuss the major trends in family change and developments in research and policies for each Existential Field/Key Policy Issue; to understand if these trends/issues represent important challenges for the wellbeing of families in the future; to identify major gaps in research and to discuss possible new developments and future tasks for research and policy making. The debate and critical review was stimulated by the findings of the reports on the eight existential fields/eight key policy issues, keynote speeches and critical comments by stakeholders, social partners, experts and policy makers. The role of the *rapporteur* was crucial in giving a brief feedback on the issues discussed within each Focus Group/Workshop in the Plenary Session on the following day; in preparing a short (written) summary report of the main points of the discussions at the focus group/workshop, with a special emphasis on the conclusions regarding major gaps in research and suggestions for the future research agenda. This report was sent to the conference convenor after the Conference before 8 June 2010.

Task 2.4: Summary of the focus group discussions

Concerning the dynamics of the debate, it is important to highlight the specific contribution of the different actors: in general stakeholders were more goal and policy oriented, clearly stating the objectives and claims of their organizations through their statements during the Conference. Their statements mainly focused on significant points that might have been overlooked in the reports as well as major subjects they consider essential to be further researched, drawing particular attention to the problems of specific or vulnerable families (mothers who want to stay at home; the role of fathers; same-sex families; disabled persons; lack of time for parenting; families in poverty; gender in families; violence). Stakeholders also revealed more sensitiveness to local contexts and to the risks and problems affecting many families with children. Many of their statements were written statements sent to the Portuguese team before the Conference (see Conference deliverables). Another important role of stakeholders was their contribution in reminding researchers about their difficulties in communicating and exchanging with civil society. On the other hand, experts were more focused on mapping the state of the art and the gaps in research and revealed more sensitiveness with regard to the diversity of families and the need to confront family and gender changes; they also reminded stakeholders about a need for a balanced approach between the knowledge deriving from field experience with families and knowledge deriving from research. All sessions were audio-taped (the plenary sessions were also video taped) in order to build up an important basis for reporting on the Conference and its Final Report.

Task 2.5: Organising the first conference "Research of families in Europe – critical review"

The Conference - *Research on Families and Family Policies in Europe: a Critical Review* - was organized as a 3-day Conference and took place in Lisbon, at ICS – Institute for Social Sciences, on the 25th, 26th and 27th of May 2010. The Conference brought together 140 participants: 60 researchers from university/research institutions, 58 stakeholders from about 50 family-related organizations, 11 social partners/policy makers; and 11 junior researchers.
Organization of the Conference involved the following tasks:

a) Preparing the rationale of the Conference according to three main principles: 1 – the process of critically reviewing the existing research on families and family policies in Europe on the basis of WP1 state of the art reports for each existential field previously defined; 2 – the Project's commitment in bringing together different relevant actors in a major forum of discussion: stakeholders (representing European families), social partners, policy makers and the scientific community; 3 – the importance of being as inclusive as possible of the plurality of perspectives and policy agendas regarding families;
b) Selecting and inviting all the participants - stakeholders, policy makers, social partners and scientific experts with appropriate expertise, in cooperation with the members of the consortium and according to several criteria such as diversity; different approaches to families and to policies; type of organization; country of origin;
c) Making sure that stakeholders, social partners and policy makers were provided with the written reports of the WP1 (WP1 task) which constituted a major basis for their statements and contributions during the Conference;
d) Providing all participants (stakeholders, social partners, policy makers, chairs, keynote speakers experts, and *rapporteurs*) with the *Conference Programme* as well as technical support and information on what was expected from them regarding their roles and tasks during the conference;
e) Designing the Conference**,** its structure and program (with the contribution of the coordination team from TU Dortmund University) according to four types of sessions:

- plenary sessions (including keynote speeches by guest experts, feedback by *rapporteurs* on the issues discussed within the focus groups/workshops and presentation of the preliminary results of the Foresight Exercise);
- eight parallel Focus Groups with about 15 to 20 participants (including a chair person, initial discussants and/or keynote speakers, stakeholders and social partners and a *rapporteur*) with the purpose of reviewing and discussing the major trends in family life, major gaps in family research and major challenges for policy issues in each one of the eight Existential Fields previously defined by the Consortium (*Family structures and family forms, Development processes in the family, State family policies, Family, Living environments and local policies, Family management, Social care and social services, Social inequality and diversity of families, Family, media, family education and participation*);
- eight Workshops on key policy issues (four in parallel) with about 20 to 35 participants (including a chair person, keynote speakers, stakeholder representatives and a *rapporteur*) with the purpose of discussing the major trends in family life, major gaps in family research and major challenges for policy issues in each of the eight key policy topics which were defined together with the Consortium on the basis of the Renewed Social Agenda 2008: *Transitions to adulthood*; *Motherhood and fatherhood in Europe*; *Ageing, families and social policy*; *Changes in conjugal life*; *Family relationships and wellbeing*; *Gender equality and families*; *Reconciling work and care for young children: parental leaves*; *Reaching out to families: the role of family associations and other institutions;*
- A final plenary session with closing speeches and a presentation of the on-going foresight exercise.

The Conference was considered by the participants as a stimulating and innovative forum of discussion which promoted debate and exchange between actors that normally do not engage intensely with each other's thoughts, understandings, agendas and work: stakeholders, researchers and policy makers. Therefore the Conference integrated a plurality of perspectives concerning the design of future research on families and family policies. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that there were some groups which were less well represented: social partners (unions and employers associations) and policy makers as well as some types of family associations (e.g. lone parent families, ageing families). There was a general agreement that it is important to include employers in further projects and actions related to the Conference's subject.

Task 2.6: Report: Different views, points of critique and perspectives for future research on families in Europe

The Conference produced significant results as well as several deliverables. First, it is important to mention the innovative character of this work package which encouraged and put into practice the dialogue between experts and civil society. Secondly, it is important to refer to the Conference Report which was delivered on schedule in July and published on-line in September (www.familyplatform.eu; http://hdl.handle.net/2003/27687). This report provides information on the critical review process on the basis of three perspectives: 1) it allows for a detailed description of the structure and main contributions which took place in each one of the 16 working groups (organization of the workshop and keynote speeches, main discussions and contributions from stakeholders, a list of methodological issues, major gaps and challenges for research and a list of key policy issues); 2) it bears witness to some of the interactions and processes of the Conference, consisting of questions, arguments and discussions, which were overall lively and mutually enriching, but also imparted diverse and sometimes contrasting perspectives on the wellbeing of families in European societies and the issues to be put on the agenda; 3) it provides a summary presenting the major topics of discussion, highlighting eight selected elements for the Research and

Policy Agenda. The Report constituted an important input to WP4 (responsible for the Research Agenda design) as well as to WP5 (responsible for the edition of a Booklet: *Families, a Summary of the Situation in Europe Today*). Among other Conference deliverables and outcomes, several documents may be mentioned, all available on Family Platform website: keynote speeches from plenary sessions ("changes in family life - issues for public policies" by Jean Kellerhals and "family policies in Europe", by Jeanne Fagnani; video taped); power point presentations by keynote speeches/initial discussants of each working group; written statements by stakeholders representatives; written reports on each focus group/workshop sent by rapporteurs and chairs after the Conference. The Partner MMM also made a special contribution to the work package, by carry out an analysis of motherhood: the Report *Realities of Mothers in Europe* is also available at the website (www.familyplatform.eu; http://hdl.handle.net/2003/27685). We can also consider as a Conference deliverable the fact that all 16 working sessions were audio-taped (plenary sessions were also video-taped). Finally the deliverable is a summary of the Critical Review Process, also available on the Family Platform website, which corresponds to the power point presentation the Lisbon team presented in the last meeting in Brussels on the 4th-5th November *Research Agenda, Research Issues for Family Research and Key Policy Questions in Europe,* and which was organized by WP4.

A last significant result of the Critical Review Process was to reach agreement on 9 key research areas for the future research agenda: *contemporary parenthood, motherhood, and fatherhood*; *children's experiences, trajectories and outcomes*; *changing family forms, trajectories and networks*; post-*divorce family forms and relationships*; *families, social inequalities and living environments*; *doing family: interactions and daily life, over the life-course*; *ageing, families and social policies; family policies.*

Task 3.1: Organising a workshop/ brainstorming of the consortium to discuss major challenges of factors having a strong influence on "families' wellbeing"

This work package involved the active participation of the consortium and the advisory board (thus approx 30 participants). This work took place from October 2009 until December 2010 and was finished with the delivery of the Deliverable 5: "Foresight report: Facets and preconditions of wellbeing of families" (www.familyplatform.eu; http://hdl.handle.net/2003/27688). The majority of the work happened during the following four meetings:

- Kick-off meeting in Brussels, 26 – 28 Oct. 2009
- Major trend meeting in Jyväskylä, Finland, 23 – 27 Feb. 2010
- Future Scenario meeting 1 in Witten, Germany, 28 – 30 Apr. 2010 – a meeting with two parallel workshops
- Future Scenario meeting 2 in Witten, Germany, 9 -11 Jun. 2010 – a meeting with two parallel workshops
- Key Policy Issue Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, 9 September 2010

The discussion continued between meetings through feedback loops (participants have been asked several times to provide feedback on the results) via e-mail.

Task 3.2: Presentation of results of task 3.1 to the stakeholders

In addition to the discussion within the consortium and Advisory Board mentioned under 3.1, a wide range of stakeholder representatives (about 120) were invited to provide their feedback on the future scenarios on the FAMILYPLATFORM website and during the two following conferences, where the work-in-progress was presented:

- Critical Review meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, 25 – 27 May 2010
- Critical Review meeting in Brussels, Belgium, 4 – 5 November 2010

Task 3.3: Consolidation of scenarios after the first conference and analyses of policies and measures aiming at achieving objectives of wellbeing of families

A central start was to define different facets and preconditions of the term "wellbeing of the family" in the future. The aim was not to establish criteria for a definition of wellbeing in general, but rather to identify key facets and preconditions, like the following ten: (1) Security for individual members of the family and for the family itself; (2) individual self-fulfilment; (3) health; (4) involvement in society; (5) love, respect and tolerance; (6) balance; (7) time, (8) equality; (9) support for families; (10) living and environmental conditions.
During the work on work packages 1 and 2, societal challenges had already been discussed. For this Work Package 3, the following societal challenges have been prioritized:

- Work-life balance and time management
- Changes in behaviour (family break-up, changing sexual morality, reduction in parenting skills, balancing individual fulfilment within families, individualism/selfishness, etc.)
- Ageing/demographic changing
- Uncertainty
- Gender roles of father/mother, cultural representations of gender roles, gender responsibilities, denial of gender identity
- Diversity (of family models, gender, father/mother, cultural, etc.)
- Lack of mainstreaming, families not valued by society, public respect for parents and family values
- Economic crisis
- Immigration

A long discussion made it possible to decide on four key drivers which will have a major impact on the development of families in the future:

- Inequalities on different levels such as social, cultural, economic, gender and ethical
- Migration
- Education and Values in Society Care Systems

Task 3.4: Foresight report: Facets and preconditions of wellbeing of families

After defining the facets and preconditions of wellbeing of the family, the main societal challenges and key drivers, the work on building scenarios of possible future family life in 2035 could start. The following four different scenarios were developed and described in a narrative way:

Scenario 1: Equal opportunities – open migration – diverse education and values – mix of private and public care systems

Scenario 2: Increasing inequalities – no migration (very select) – private education and extreme positions in values – privatisation of care systems

Scenario 3: Increasing inequalities – open limited migration – private education – accepted diverse values – privatisation of care systems

Scenario 4: Equal opportunities at a low level – restricted migration – rigid public education with very specific curricula – accepted diverse values – public care systems

The outline for each scenario is the same: First a general description of the societal frame and the challenges of that specific scenario have been given. Following the basic frame, four to five different family forms living in that specific scenario have been described in a very narrative way. The work of this first part has been condensed in the outcome 8: "Documentation of the results of the future scenarios", that contains 60 pages and was published in September 2010 (www.familyplatform.eu).

Task 3.5: Summary: Key policy questions and research issues for future Europe

The work on the future scenarios has lead us to the following key policy and research issues, that were condensed in outcome 9: "Wellbeing of Families in Future Europe – Key policy and research issues"[2], which contains 18 pages and was published in October 2010 (www.familyplatform.eu).

- Importance of intergenerational solidarity and communities, which will lead for example to intergenerational policies and community support implemented at an EU level or to housing, environment and community development. A social innovation could be a so called "Skill Market" – to exchange skills and help in a intergenerational way.
- Importance of sufficient time for families – policies should ease the "rush hours" in the lifecycle of families. An example of social innovation is the "Time Care Insurance" or a "Time Credit".
- Unpaid work and care arrangements, meaning the recognition of unpaid care work and the monitoring of gender equality policies for effectiveness and unintended consequences as well as to consider alternative care arrangements.
- Children's perspectives: rights, best interests, and impact on wellbeing. Especially in terms of research where the perspective of children and adolescents is often missing.
- Family transitions in a life-course approach
- Family mainstreaming as a key European family strategy – family mainstreaming is understood as cross cutting issue through all policy fields and should cover all disciplines of policy making, address the family group as well as the individual members living in a family (all generations) and consider all existing family forms. It should look at the families as agents and assets and not as problems.
- Impact of technological advancement on families, for example such as virtual schooling, virtual relationships, new communication tools and surveillance techniques.

Task 4.1: Documentation of the essence of the state of the art and of the critical review regarding the research agenda

All the outcomes and reports, which had been produced in WP1 and WP2 (the statements of the stakeholders included) were reviewed and analysed. By this the significant issues and aspects could be summarised. These summaries (documentations) draw the main aspects from all the information provided from WP1 and WP2. Based on these summaries several outlines for possible research fields were produced and discussed with the participants of the consortium and the members of the advisory board as a starting point for the research agenda.

Task 4.2: Analysis of the essence of the future scenarios with regard to the research agenda

[2] For purpose of better understanding, the report title was changed from initial name in Annex, page 22: "Summary: Key policy questions and research issues for future Europe"

Preparing the research agenda the report of WP3 has been studied and its outcomes especially the key policy issues and challenges have been integrated carefully in the research agenda.

Task 4.3: Describing the theoretical frames and tools for research

Within the research agenda, an important theoretical frame for analysing family and family life in Europe is the concept of “welfare states” or “welfare regimes”.
Additionally, with respect to further research the use of qualitative, quantitative as well as mixed methods was discussed especially with the focus of using a longitudinal and life course approach.

Task 4.4: Drafting tools and methods regarding research on impact assessment

Special focus was given to monitoring and evaluation of policies. Particularly with regard to evaluation, formative and summative forms can be distinguished and circumstances for the usability of these approaches was drafted and outlined. The necessity of a deeper and ongoing monitoring of policies on the EU-level as well as on the level of the (future) member states became evident. Analysing the existing research methods, more detailed resp. differentiated approaches (concerning e.g. cultural and ethnic background, regional aspects, gender) have to be claimed. The introduction of mixed methods and innovative concepts are seen as steps towards more insight in recent research areas. Additionally the need to close existing research gaps, such as rare family forms, minorities, violence and new methods to address these fields has been discussed.

Task 4.5: Drafting a first version of the research agenda

The IFB was responsible for the scientific monitoring of the FAMILYPLATFORM and the development of a research agenda. Based on the state of the art research undertaken by WP1 and its critical review and reflection undertaken in WP2 and WP3, key policy questions, societal challenges and fundamental research themes were identified and developed that make up the basis for future directions in family research. The first outline for the planned research agenda was presented a wide range of stakeholder representatives during the conference in Brussels (04. - 05.11.2010). Based on the results of the discussions a first draft version of the research agenda was elaborated during November/December 2010 and discussed with the members of the consortium and the advisory board on the meeting in Frankfurt January 2011.

Task 4.6: Organising the meeting “Discussion of the first version of the research agenda”

An important milestone was a meeting with all members of the consortium, the members of the advisory board and experts. It took place in Bamberg (06.-08.10.2010) with the aim to discuss the main aspects of the research agenda (task 4.5) and to update the participants on the state of the work and to spread new information.
In the Bamberg meeting, first steps towards the research agenda have been discussed and the most important research fields have been chosen: The IFB presented the main outcomes of the work packages, especially political issues, research gaps and methodological aspects. There were two days of discussion on the content of the research agenda, partly in small working groups, partly in the plenary. In the end a prioritisation of research areas was made and it was decided to prepare six research fields for the conference in Brussels: monitoring/evaluation of social policies and generating a data pool for Europe, care, life-course and transitions, doing family (family roles and gender and work-life-balance), mobility and migration as well as demographic change.

Task 4.7: Organising the "Second Conference: Research agenda – research issues for family research and key policy questions in Europe"

Another important milestone was the final conference: Research agenda - research issues for family research and key policy questions in Europe. The aim of this conference in Brussels (04.-05.11.2010) was to discuss the draft of the research agenda with stakeholder representatives, policy makers and scientists and to give all of them a platform to collect statements and issues. The Brussels conference was organised by the IFB with help from COFACE and Technical University Dortmund. It was attended by 112 participants (including the members of the consortium and the advisory board of FAMILYPLATFORM).
To refresh the information about the FAMILYPLATFORM's proceedings short presentations were given concerning the findings of the state of the art, the results of the foresight approach and of the critical review. Afterwards, stakeholder representatives had the possibility to give input and comments on the work done until then and also concerning their interests for the research agenda. The team of the IFB presented the research fields chosen during the meeting in Bamberg, excluding demographic change due to limited time and the decision to use this cross-sectional topic as background. Every presentation was followed by a discussion in the plenary. The statements were collected and the remarks during the discussions were noted to analyse them and take them into account when writing the research agenda.

Task 4.8: Report: Research agenda

Important results derive from the two meetings (Bamberg and Brussels) where the decision on the main research areas was made. After some necessary changes the following structure was implemented:

- Main societal trends,
- Challenges for policy and research,
- Important research fields and methodological issues
    - General methodological remarks,
    - Family policy (including monitoring and evaluation),
    - Care,
    - Life-course and transitions,
    - Doing family (including family roles and gender and work-life-balance),
    - Migration and mobility,
    - Inequalities and insecurities (including financial deprivation, violence, housing and living environment as well as minorities),
    - Media and new information technologies.

Beside the main topics some of the issues discussed in the FAMILYPLATFORM either have a shorter explanation in the research agenda or are worked out as cross-cutting topics within the main research areas.

The research agenda (90 pages) was finished at the end of March. During April it was reviewed by the participants of the sonsortium. It is currently proof-read and will be published in Mai 2011.
The research agenda highlights the following main research fields:

1. Sustainable and inclusive care solutions: The work of FAMILYPLATFORM conclusively demonstrates that providing care is the most challenging issue for everyday family life. Finding sustainable care solutions may well be the greatest challenge for the wellbeing of families in future Europe. The project identified a substantial lack of research on care: there is a need of comparative research on the characteristics of care solutions for different groups of care receivers. Additionally

more knowledge is needed about the wishes and demands of care givers and care receivers, especially children. It is vitally important to know more about how decisions relating to care are made in families. These processes are undoubtedly influenced by different welfare provision systems and it is therefore important to discover if provision matches needs. Finally, the impact of care on the life courses of caregivers needs to be taken into account.

2. Life course and transitions: FAMILYPLATFORM highlighted the fact that family life changes extensively over the life course of family members. It is a major challenge for families to adapt to changing demands and the socially dynamic context in which they live. In this context, there is a lack of research on the life courses of families and their individual members. We know too little about different phases of family life and how families cope with transitions between life phases, about the effects of social policies on different transitions, and are in need of more research on the outcomes of different transitions such as divorce on the wellbeing of children.

3. Management of everyday family life: Another main research area is what researchers call 'doing family'. In short, this means the management of everyday family life and the matching of competing demands – such as employment, education (day care, schools), neighbourhood services and living environments. For this research the target group is opened up to employers and social services amongst others. Satisfying arrangements are important for the stability and quality of family relations. A better understanding of how families deal with demands calls for new and common indicators in Europe and highly differentiated investigations.

4. Harmonisation and evaluation of Family policies: Family policies vary across the EU and stakeholders frequently called for much more monitoring and evaluation of family policies. In order to achieve this, comparable cross-EU information is badly needed. One solution might be a European observatory of national family policies. In addition, stakeholders called for ‘family mainstreaming’ to assess the impact on families of all fields of policy. Advanced research methods (including longitudinal studies, mixed methods, etc.) would be needed to help answer questions relating to future family wellbeing. In addition, there is a lack of harmonised basic data on financial deprivation, wellbeing and inequality. Greater efforts are needed to identify good practices and find creative ways of fostering family wellbeing.

5. Inequalities, migration and mobility: There is a need for deeper understanding of the social inequalities that exist between families, as well as of the role of families in reproducing social inequalities. There is also a need for a better understanding of how policy can tackle inequalities. Furthermore, research is needed on specific types of families which may be more vulnerable to poverty. Given increases in immigration and mobility, research on immigrant families and on families from minority ethnic groups is urgently needed, because of the challenge this poses for European policy-making. Knowledge about different forms of mobility and their impact on family life is needed

6. New media and information technologies: Research has to face two directions of influence: The first is how the trends in media development and spread shape family life and behaviour. Thus we should have a look on the development of communication, it’s frequency between family members (and others) as well as the information flow used by them and the risks combined with new opportunities. Looking at the flow of communication from the other direction, it is essential to understand which trends in family life influence the development and the demand for (special) media. Here the question arises which social groups force and characterise trends and which families will be excluded.

Task 4.9: Preparing the presentation of the research agenda in Brussels

The final conference in Brussels (04.-05.11.2010) has been organised by WP4 with help from Technical University Dortmund and COFACE. While the preceding work has been displayed by the leaders of WP1, WP2 and WP3 the draft of the research agenda was presented by the members of WP4. Additionally the collection of statements and other contribution was made by WP4 in order to integrate these votes in the final concept of the research agenda.
An additional presentation of the research agenda was organized by Technical University Dortmund and held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 22.03.2011 by WP lead participant 1, 2 and the overall coordinator.

Task 5.1: Building up an interactive internet platform WP5 lead participant will have core responsibility for the internet platform (the technical support will be provided by a special agency).

The work began in November 2009 on the logo for the project. With this decided at the end of December 2009, FAMILYPLATFORM worked with its contractor from January – March 2010 to develop a multi-functional web-platform. Features include chat, messaging system, user directories, a file directory, an interactive map, protected (secure) areas and multiple access levels and restrictions for users.

From the official launch date on the 2nd March 2010 (at the Brussels Info Day), the website continued to be developed until it was fully functional by early April 2010. This deviates from the Annex, which stated that the platform would launch in Month 1. Clearly, this timescale was not realisable, because even getting information from partners about their work packages, and their areas of expertise, and their logos took more than a month. Although it would have been preferable to have launched the fully functioning site in time for the final Info Day, this proved technically impossible – as it took at least a month of development and testing before the site was fully functional. However, the impact has not been particularly negative, because without material (the publication of the Existential Field reports in April/May 2010) the site was effectively just a shell. In effect, the site was ready at the best time for the launch of the reports.

At the time of writing (April 2011), the site attracts has around 150 page 'hits' a day, and 31 unique visitors to the site per day. Over 350 external stakeholders have registered in addition to the 45 members of the Consortium and Advisory Board, all of the reports produced by the project have been published, and all of the stakeholder presentations produced for the Critical Review (WP2) and Research Agenda (WP4) stages of the project. In addition, we have a number of photos and videos of FamilyPlatform events included on the site. When searching for a variety of 'family' related terms using a search engine such as Google, FamilyPlatform website is on the first page of results.

Task 5.2: Preparing and content management of the mailing list (WP5 lead participant).

Several different mailing lists have been produced:

1) There are internal Consortium and Advisory Board mailing lists used for internal communication;
2) There is a stakeholder mailing list (includes all registered members of the website) which is used to contact stakeholders about new newsletters and publication of reports,
3) And we have a press and policy publicity list of over 1000 individual email addresses which is used to highlight some of the key milestones of the project.

Task 5.3: Providing information material: project brochure, policy briefs, info letters (WP5 lead participant, assisted by participant No.1).

Once a logo had been chosen, it was possible to begin work on the project brochure (flyer). Around 1,500 copies of the initial project brochure were produced in February 2010 and these were disseminated at the three Info Days, at the conference, to COFACE members, and sent by post to all of the Consortium and Advisory Board members across Europe. An additional 300 copies with some updated details were printed in September 2010.

A project folder was designed and 400 copies printed in February 2010. These were used for the Info Days, the two Conferences and the two research agenda dissemination presentations. A Project Banner was also produced in time for use at the Info Day in Milan (February 2010).

Information Letters were produced for the three Info Days. These were sent to all COFACE members; Mouvement Mondial des Meres (MMM) also submitted lists of potential participants.

A project Booklet titled "Families – A Summary of the Situation in Europe Today" was produced to coincide with the Research Agenda Conference. This booklet was based on the key discussions of the Critical Review Conference in Lisbon, and summarised the findings of the State of the Art (WP1) and Critical Review (WP2) phases of the project, listing findings and key policy and research issues. It represents a stock-taking of knowledge gained from WP1 & WP2, turning the mass of documents produced by researchers into digestible chunks of information. An electronic copy was distributed to over 1000 contacts, and 1000 copies were printed, a large part of which were distributed at the Research Agenda Conference.

A booklet based on a similar format and design to the previous one was produced titled "A Reserach Agenda on the Family for the European Union". The text was prepared by IFB, and this was then reworked with input from Technical University Dortmund and MMM; it summarised the key points of the Research Agenda, and was designed to publicise the full report as well as help disseminate the main findings/proposals of the Research Agenda. 800 copies were produced in English, and because of the timing of a Hungarian Presidency on Families and Demography (Budapest, March 2011) the booklet was translated with input from Demographic Research Institute Budapest and 200 Hungarian language copies printed and disseminated in Budapest. Electronic copies of the English and Hungarian versions of the text have been made available on the website and an email will be sent announcing publication to coincide with publication of the Research Agenda.

Work on the Policy Brief began in January 2011. IFB supplied the text, and this was reworked with input from colleagues at Dortmund, and the Commission. A draft version is currently circulating, and once a few minor alterations have been made it will be finalised and published online. Draft versions of the Policy Brief were circulated at a presentation of the Demographic Experts Group and the REPRO/ FamilyPlatform dissemation presentation (both in Budapest 2011).

Task 5.4: Editing the inputs for the internet platform: Reports, documentations and readers (WP5 lead participant, assisted by participant No.1).

All FamilyPlatform reports (apart from the full-Existential Field reports produced for WP1 due to the sheer length of them and the time available) have been copy-edited and proof read. This has been done to ensure a consistency of language conventions and increase the readability of the reports. Usually, reports are returned for clarification to authors, and then a final version is produced. After this, all reports are formatted to ensure or at the very least increase, internal consistency – and when

possible a consistency across all FamilyPlatform outputs. Front/back covers have been added to public reports, and Disclaimers added to Reports after those of WP1.

Task 5.5: Providing the regular info letters for stakeholder representatives and policymakers (WP5 lead participant, assisted by participant No.1).

Three issues of the internal newsletter have been produced, and these complement the mailings to registered stakeholders and Consortium & Advisory Board members about upcoming events and new published reports. The first issue was sent out May 2010, and the second issue July 2010, a third in December 2010. In addition, a final issue to mark the very end of the project (final publication of the research agenda and possible follow-up actions) may be produced some time in spring/summer 2011.

Task 5.6: Preparing and maintaining the forum for debate on the internet platform (WP5 lead participant).

Preparation for debate included continuous testing of the website during early days, and encouraging visitors to register. It was decided early on that only registered stakeholders who provided sufficient information about their interests and organisation could get involved in an online debate. In addition to 'messaging' debates, a consultation was also initiated as part of the Future of Families (WP3).

Much could be written about the merits, challenges, and possibilities of online debate – suffice to say, a one year project (starting from scratch) is rather too short to commence a lively debate, the existence of an online community is a precondition for this to be achieved. Despite this, there *has* been some online debate, and it has been a key asset for the project to say that everyone has the possibility of having an input (even if they don't use that opportunity).

Task 5.7: Planning, editing and publishing the online journals (WP5 lead participant, assisted by participants No.5; 7; 11; 8; 9).

Work began in January 2010 on the Online Journal, and the first issue was published April 2010 on Family Structures and Family Forms. Volume 2 was published October 2010 on Intergenerational Solidarities in Families. Volume 3 titled Demographic Change and the Family was published January 2011. Volume 4 on Volunteering and Families was published March 2011.

These publication dates differ from those stated in the Annex (2, 9, 13, 18) for a number of reasons, not least because the dissemination could not begin until the project manager had been hired and articles prepared. However, the delays had had no impact on the work of FamilyPlatform as a whole, and all of the outputs were delivered successfully by the end of the project.

Each volume of the journal consisted of two or three longer articles, supplemented by shorter pieces (often interviews). There is an editorial article in each volume, a consistency of style, and balance of articles from civil society, policy, and academia. Each volume was edited by a different participant (Vol. 1 – TLU, Vol.2 – UNIMIB, Vol. 3 – DRIHU, Vol. 4 – MMM) whose role was to solicit articles and prepare the texts. COFACE's role was to support this and to edit, format, publish, and disseminate the material online.

Task 5.8: Preparing the calls for statements (stakeholder representatives) for the conferences (WP5 lead participant).

COFACE has been involved (with MMM) in developing the invite lists for the Critical Review Conference and the Research Agenda Conference. However, Work Package leaders of WP2 & WP4 put calls out for statements rather than COFACE. Once the statements have been made, COFACE publishes these on the internet platform where they are available to download and to be discussed.

Task 5.9: Press relations: press releases, press conferences (WP5 lead participant, assisted by participants No.1 and 2). Contact to international organizations (e.g. UN, OECD) by participant No.12.

Press releases have been produced about the launch of the website (May 2010), the Critical Review Conference (May 2010), the Research Agenda Conference (November 2010) and for the publication of the Future of Families report (WP3) in January 2011. One final press release is foreseen in April 2011, to coincide with publication of the final Research Agenda (and the dissemination booklet).

All Info Days have included invitations to local, national, and European press, and opportunities for press to discuss the project with the co-ordinators.

Participant 12 were responsible for the contact with international organisations and they had a meeting with representatives of the Council of Europe, and were able to invite a representative from the UN to attend the Lisbon Conference.

Task 5.10: Editing and compiling the text book publication: "Future Perspectives for Families in Europe".

This book was self-published using a slightly adapted title: Wellbeing of Families in Future Europe - Challenges for Research and Policy. It has an assigned ISBN number and has had around 500 copies printed. The book contains the final reports of WP1, WP2, WP3 and WP4. All articles were redrafted by WP leaders, commented upon by COFACE/Dortmund, and then proof-read (by an external contractor). This final text was then prepared for typesetting (externally contracted) and in liaison with COFACE the final book was prepared. A second book was also prepared containing the four volumes of the FAMILYPLATFORM Online-Journal (Title: Spotlights on Contemporary Family Life). All of the texts were again carefully edited and proof-read. This book was printed in time for the Dissemination presentation in March 2011 in Budapest; 400 copies were printed. Both books were disseminated to all Consortium and Advisory Board members, and also to a list of over 65 key contacts in the instutions (European Parliament, European Commission, European Economic and Social Committee), academics, contributors of the articles, and research funding bodies throughout Europe (and some further afield, e.g. USA, Australia, India, Japan, etc).

Task 5.11: Organising an Info Day for stakeholders in Brussels, Milan and Budapest

Three Info Days were held, in Budapest, Milan and Brussels (February & March 2010). In total, 113 external stakeholders attended, many of whom have gone on to act as multipliers (by receiving leaflets and further information) and others who have contributed regularly to the Conferences.

Potential impacts of the project:

The FAMILYPLATFORM ("Social Platform on research for families and family policies") is part of activity 8.3. "Major trends in society and their implications". According to the work programme, the FAMILYPLATFORM contributes to advancing the "knowledge base that underpins the formulation

and implementation of policies in Europe (economic, employment, social, cultural, and consumer policies) and […] to the development of European research communities in these domains" (Work programme FP7-SSH-2009).

Potentially the FAMILYPLATFORM will have lasting impacts on the following areas:
1. The research agenda and its results are a possible base for the SSH research Roadmap 2012-2013 and the following Framework Programme (FP8). The research agenda includes the state of the art, a critical review of existing research, key policy questions (societal challenges), and fundamental research issues, it will also contribute to pointing out methodical deficiencies of existing research approaches. It developed perspectives of how impacts and national disparities of family policies can be assessed and evaluated in the long run. By this the agenda considers:

- Ideas for a new Eurobarometer survey including aspects of the concept of "wellbeing of families" as well as subjective perceptions of families themselves
- A design of new longitudinal and comparative studies
- The development of suggestions for an adequate harmonization of research topics and national statistics
- The development of a common theoretical framework

Expected impact: The research agenda provides effective standards, criteria, and indicators for impact assessments of family policies. The agenda contributes to a stronger focus on application oriented research for politics. It will support the EU-Commission in guaranteeing a long-term well directed advancement of research. The consortium outlined possible research projects for the call 2012 and 2013 in FP7 SSH. The outlines have been sent to the commission in November 2010.

2. By using the concept of family wellbeing as a starting point, the activities of FAMILYPLATFORM contribute to a stronger consideration of needs and desires of families in policy and research. The concept of family wellbeing has been worked out by representatives from family associations, policy-makers, as well as researchers. With the help of this concept, the interlinkage of future strategies of family related policies (on regional, national and EU-level) and research perspectives can be improved.

Expected impact: A broad public discussion of the concept of "family wellbeing" is expected and its confirmation as key concept in EU policies as well as for future research.

3. FAMILYPLATFORM developed a systematic which is the premise to build up a knowledge base for the formulation and implementation of family relevant policies. Although there are already knowledge systematics in existence in family research, they only qualify for the formulation and implementation of policies to some extent. The systematic underlying the review the state of the art is based on eight "existential fields of family life and family policies":

1. Family structures and family forms
2. Familial developmental processes (the dynamics of family life and life courses in general, i.e. developments and changes)
3. State family policies (different welfare systems and different legal frameworks)
4. Family and living environments (regional and environmental contexts of family life)
5. Family management (incl. division of labour and family-related work)
6. Social care and social services (family relationships and care giving)
7. Social inequality and diversity of families (special challenges to families such as poverty or migration)
8. Family, media, family education

This form of knowledge systematic is especially productive for the formulation of key policy questions and research issues due to the following reasons: The existential fields are relevant to both research and policy, as they refer to central areas of the life of families and family policies. With the help of these existential fields, major trends (regarding family life, familial ways of life, as well as family policies) and national developments can be sketched and key policy questions can be derived. Furthermore, the interlinking of research and policy can be improved. The existential fields refer to three levels of family life and family policies:

- the micro level: family structures and family forms; familial developmental processes, family management, social inequality and diversity of families, media and family education,
- the meso level: family and living environments, social care and social services,
- and the macro level: state family policies.

The individual existential fields are also suitable as tertium comperationis for comparisons of countries and for the analysis of the impacts of political acts.

Expected impact: FAMILYPLATFORM developed a knowledge systematic on the basis of existential fields of family life and family policies. Building on this systematic, the FAMILYPLATFORM created a knowledge basis for the formulation and implementation of policies in Europe on a long-term basis. By means of these existential fields, problems of families as well as tasks and impacts of family policies on regional, national or EU-level can be described more precisely.

An extensive knowledge base for the formulation and implementation of policy has not been developed so far. Although there are a number of studies and surveys dealing with a multitude of areas and themes regarding families and family policies, they have not been brought together systematically yet. FAMILYPLATFORM summarized systematically the current state of research concerned with family life and family policies in Europe. This was done with regard to the existential fields of family life and family policies mentioned above. The results have been published for a broad audience (not only consisting of scientists, but also of stakeholders, such as family associations, children's rights organisations, policy-makers, and social partners).

Expected impact: The reports published by FAMILYPLATFORM offer a systematic overview of the current state of knowledge regarding family life and family policies in Europe. Thus, there is a common knowledge and discussion basis for researchers, policy-makers, and family stakeholder representatives. On this basis, problems of families and state policy, as well as deficiencies in politics and research can be pointed out.

4. Another impact of the FAMILYPLATFORM dreives from the critical review of the current state of research which was undertaken by at least 160 representatives from family organisations, from policy and from research institutes. In doing this, major trends of family life and their implications for national, regional and EU-policies have been addressed and central problems of families and state policies in Europe has been pointed out. Thereby, future tasks for family friendly policies and research have been designated. Taking into account the critical review of existing research, the FAMILYPLATFORM developed key policy questions and fundamental research issues for future Europe. The results of the discussion have been presented to the broad public (via conferences, internet platform, online journal, reports in the media).

Expected impact: The FAMILYPLATFORM opened a broad discussion of future family-friendly national, regional, and EU-policies. This included involving a broad number of external interested persons in the discussion. Further, the diverse and partly conflicting expectations of individual groups of stakeholders have been made apparent. Moreover, the discussions lead to a common sense with regard to key policy questions and fundamental research issues.

5. The FAMILYPLATFORM enabled a productive exchange of ideas between policy-makers, social partners, representatives from family and children's rights organisations, and the scientific community. The individual groups were encouraged to express their interests and expectations with regard to research and policy. The moderation techniques used within the social platform enabled a way of communication that was mostly characterized by understanding and respect. At least 160 stakeholder representatives and up to 58 researchers from different disciplines were directly involved in conferences, focus groups, workshops, and future scenarios of the FAMILYPLATFORM. Moreover, the discussion forums of the internet platform allowed the participation of outsiders in the platform.

Expected impact: The FAMILYPLATFORM initiated a productive, shared learning process of stakeholders (policy-makers, social partners, representatives from family and children's rights organisations) and researchers with regard to the possibilities and limitations of policy and research. The FAMILYPLATFORM contributed to the development of a persistent network of scientists, representatives from family associations, and policy-makers. This network will continue to deal with the research questions and future family policy on a long-term basis.

Dissemination activities and exploitation of results

One of the central tasks of the FAMILYPLATFORM was to make itself public right from the start in order to make it visible to policy-makers, family and children's rights associations, social partners, the international research community, and, in the broadest sense, to the general public. One of the objectives was to involve as many stakeholder representatives as possible in the activities of the social platform. At the end of the project more than 160 persons were involved. Interim and final results have been presented to the broad public as well. In order to spread the information as effectively as possible one Work Package concentrated on the implementation of targeted dissemination strategies: Networking, communication, and dissemination (WP5, the persons responsible were William Lay and the associated project manager Linden Farrer). The dissemination actions were also supported by the project coordination team.

In particular, the following activities and dissemination actions have been carried out (for further details see 5.1 to 5.11):

1. The elaboration and circulation of a project brochure: The easy-to-read brochure gave an overview of the concept, of the objectives, and details of the FAMILYPLATFORM (duration, activities, information about the internet platform and possibilities of participation, online journals etc., web address, and call for further information). Right at the beginning of the FAMILYPLATFORM, it has been sent to family and children's rights organisations, to important policy-makers, and social partners. The brochure was also displayed at relevant conferences.

2. During the first months of the runtime of the FAMILYPLATFORM, an internet platform has been created. This website provided an even more detailed overview of the concept, objectives, and details of the FAMILYPLATFORM. Furthermore, the internet platform contained:

- a library of documents and of links

- a calendar and a message board for the community.
- the possibility of launching discussions and surveys, incl.
- public consultations/debates

This internet platform still exists. Visitors of the platform can get detailed information about the participants. It provided an overview of the activities planned during the work of the platform and presented – and still presents – the results of the work done. In addition, short portraits of the stakeholders and researchers involved in the FAMILYPLATFORM are provided. There is also a download section where visitors can download reports (of interim and final results of the FAMILYPLATFORM). All of the texts have been written in a comprehensible way, in a language intelligible to all. There is another section (portal) on the internet platform, where users can download short documentations of conferences (explanation of the topics of the conference, report on the findings, important statements and quotations from a selection of speakers, photos from the conferences, portraits from the speakers). In addition, the internet platform was a portal for discussion forums with regard to specific topics (critical review of existing research, key policy questions, and research issues etc). Here, stakeholder representatives registered, made statements, and took part in the discussion.

3. Dissemination by the participants and the stakeholder representatives: The participants and the stakeholder representatives, who participate in the FAMILYPLATFORM, draw attention to the FAMILYPLATFORM by their own individual web-sides

4. Online journals: During the course of the FAMILYPLATFORM, four online journals have been published. They addressed the broad interested public and inform about important topics and results concerning the FAMILYPLATFORM. They were subscribed free of charge and could be downloaded on the web-side. Thus, they were sent to interested persons directly on request.

5. Press releases, press conferences: At the the end of the FAMILYPLATFORM, press statements had been sent to large daily papers and to periodicals in order to inform about contents and consequences of the social platform. At the end of last conference in Brussels, a press conference took place.

6. Booklets, policy briefs, information letters:
Important policy-makers (on local, regional, national, and European level) as well as scientists working in the area of family and social politics, civil society organisations, economy representatives and media have been informed by two project booklets titled “Families – A Summary of the Situation in Europe Today” and “A Reserach Agenda on the Family for the European Union”. A policy brief was published at the end of the project. All stakeholder representatives participating in the FAMILYPLATFORM (in conferences, workshops, discussion forums on the internet platform) have been regularly informed about the current state of the FAMILYPLATFORM by info letters (every six months).

8. Presentation of objectives and outcomes of the FAMILYPLATFORM at conferences (for more details see **TEMPLATE A 2**): The partners of the consortium presented the FAMILYPLATFORM and its results on specialist conferences and congresses. The project was also presented at the European Parliament for three times.

9. Book publications and articles in newspapers and journals: Within the context of the FAMILYPLATFORM two books have been published: *Family Wellbeing: Challenges for Policy*

and Research“ and “*Spotlights on Contemporary Family Life.* Articles in scientific journals and family journals informed about the outputs of the social platform (see **TEMPLATE A 1)**.

10. The most important reports and outputs of FAMILYPLATFORM were archived and made permanently accessible on the edoc-server of the University of Dortmund.

- The address of the project pblic website, if applicable as well as relevant contact details.

FAMILYPLATFORM
For the wellbeing of families in Europe, today and tomorrow
Website: http://www.familyplatform.eu Email: info@familyplatform.eu
Familyplatform report archive: http://hdl.handle.net/2003/27684

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Furthermore, project logo, diagrams or photographs illustrating and promoting the work of the project (including videos, etc…), as well as the list of all beneficiaries with the corresponding contact names can be submitted without any restriction.