



Provincia autonoma di Trento
Agenzia per la famiglia, la natalità
e le politiche giovanili



**VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO FOSTER THE
DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION
OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF FAMILY-
FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITIES**



AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO

EUROPEAN LARGE FAMILIES CONFEDERATION

PREAMBLES

WHEREAS

1. in 2006 the Autonomous Province of Trento started up a process of family-friendly certification for municipalities, and that by 31 December 2017 80% of municipalities in Trentino had begun the process certification as a “family-friendly municipality” and that 90% of the population in Trentino now lives in a family-friendly municipality;
2. on the basis of the method developed by the Autonomous Province of Trento, family wellbeing policy has made it possible to construct a local Alliance for the Family by bringing together stakeholders and initiatives to promote the social citizenship of the family, and to create and reinforce an integrated system of actions and services, enhancing local autonomy and promoting the principle of horizontal subsidiarity;
3. the Autonomous Province of Trento, the National Association of Large Families (Italy) and the Municipality of Alghero have all started up processes designed to encourage a culture promoting and supporting family wellbeing, each in their own areas of jurisdiction and according to their specific institutional characteristics;
4. on 13 May 2016 the Autonomous Province of Trento and the National Association of Large Families (Italy) signed a voluntary agreement to work together to reinforce the “family-friendly municipality” standard developed by the Autonomous Province of Trento at national level;
5. on 2 April 2015 the Municipality of Alghero signed a cooperative agreement with the Autonomous Province of Trento to promote municipal policies on family wellbeing, and that the procedure introduced by the Municipality of Alghero represents a “pilot scheme” for the system;
6. the Autonomous Province of Trento, the National Association of Large Families (Italy) and the Municipality of Alghero have established the “National Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities” through a voluntary agreement;
7. on 6 October 2017 the “National Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities” was set up in Alghero by the Municipality of Alghero, the National Association of Large Families (Italy)

and the Autonomous Province of Trento to promote a family-friendly culture in Italian municipalities;

8. municipalities belonging to the Italian network or that have obtained certification as a family-friendly municipality can make use of the family brands shown in Annex 1) of this cooperative agreement;
9. the European Large Families Confederation is a confederation of associations of large families from 20 European countries aiming to support family friendly policies, with special regards to large families;
10. the Spanish Federation of Large Families and the National Association of Large Families (Hungary) have awarded family friendly municipalities since 1998 and 2003 respectively, and thus have acquired knowledge and experience in this direction;
11. since 2008 the Portuguese Observatory of Family Friendly Municipalities has presented green flags to municipalities that have implemented pro-family policies;
12. underlining that the Autonomous Province of Trento and the European Large Families Confederation intend to work together to foster a culture promoting family wellbeing in Europe, through the “family friendly municipality” standard on the basis of the experience gained in Italy, which lead to the establishment of the “National Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities”, in collaboration with the National Association of Large Families (Italy) and the Municipality of Alghero;
13. the “European Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities” is the network of municipalities intending to promote policy fostering family wellbeing at national level, on the basis of the experience and knowhow gained by the Autonomous Province of Trento, starting with the assumptions stated in the White Paper on family wellbeing policy approved in 2009, and subsequently with the provisions of the provincial law on family wellbeing no. 1/2011;
14. the parties intend to work in order to:
 - a) support the life projects of families that may lead to an increase in birth rates;
 - b) promote an integrated system of services towards reconciling home life and work commitments;
 - c) encourage the implementation of policies helping young people in the transition to adult life;
15. the proposing parties in this voluntary agreement and the signatories intending to join subsequently are committed to recognize the experience gained by the Autonomous

Province of Trento concerning family-friendly certification, Family Districts and methods of involving family associations in implementing family friendly policy locally;

16. the proposing parties in this agreement are interested in spreading pro-family culture in Europe, not intended as social welfarism, and to cooperate with local authorities that intend to introduce innovative family policy inspired by the principle of “new public family management”;
17. municipalities belonging to the European Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities commit themselves to enhance and promote the new public family management “instruments”: family brands, family standards, family plans, family districts, horizontal subsidiarity, incentive systems etc., in order to develop awareness and more favorable approach towards families, with the direct participation of all stakeholders and civic society organizations dwelling with families on the territory, beginning with family associations.

All this having been stated, the following proposing organizations:

1. Autonomous Province of Trento, Provincial Family Agency;
2. European Large Families Confederation

agree to stipulate the following:

**VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT
TO DEVELOP THE EUROPEAN NETWORK
OF FAMILY-FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITIES**

Article 1 - Objective of the agreement

The Preambles present the general objectives of this agreement, which has been drawn up to encourage the development of the “European Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities” and hence to set in motion a cultural process of raising awareness, redirection of activities and bringing municipal institutions closer to the needs and wellbeing of families.

The purpose of this agreement is to launch a process of redirecting municipal policies according to the requirements established in the Annex to this agreement, to develop a system of services and initiatives for the wellbeing of families providing them with tools to achieve their life projects, via a cultural and administrative process inspired by the logic of “new public family management”, see Item 17 in the Preambles.

It is aimed to promote the principle of horizontal subsidiarity by actively involving family associations in the local implementation of family-friendly policy. In particular, measures shall be adopted in order to:

1. support the life projects of families, which may lead to an increase in birth rates;
2. promote an integrated system of services towards reconciling home life and work commitments;
3. encourage the implementation of policies helping young people in the transition to adult life;
4. create a European Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities in order to spread family-friendly culture and to encourage the exchange of good practices.

This agreement also aims at setting up a laboratory on family policy to explore and implement management and organizational models, assessment of policies, ways of involving family associations, pricing systems and policy, all this with a strong involvement of the local stakeholders in order to promote family wellbeing by supporting the social and relational capital of the geographical area.

Article 2 - Commitments of the proposing organizations

The commitments that the proposing organizations will put into effect to implement the content and aims of this agreement are as follows:

Through the Provincial Family, Births and Youth Policy Agency, the Autonomous Province of Trento undertakes:

1. to start up the actions necessary to achieve the content provided for in this voluntary agreement, stimulating the proposing and interested organizations to carry out all the actions necessary to obtain certification as a family-friendly municipality;
2. to establish the requirements for certification as a family-friendly municipality, on the basis of its experience – gained in Trentino and at national level through the National Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities - in collaboration with the signatories to the agreement;
3. to participate in the working group stated in article 3 of this agreement, aimed at preparing and assessing the work program;
4. to carry out informative and training activities in favour of organizations belonging to the European Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities on the aims of the network, family area brands already tried out within the province and the aims/objectives of “new public family management”;
5. to work with the signatories of the agreement to achieve its content, by making available the organizational, administrative and instrumental resources necessary for its areas of jurisdiction, and promoting communication about the aims, objectives and parties belonging to the European network in the area, as provided for and according to the timescale established by the working group;

6.to promote communication about the aims, objectives and parties belonging to the European network in the area, as provided for and according to the timescale established by the working group.

The European Large Families Confederation undertakes:

- 1.to instigate its member organizations to promote national networks of family friendly municipalities, following the model “National Network of Family- Friendly Municipalities” already established in Italy by the National Association of Large Families, the Autonomous Province of Trento, and the Municipality of Alghero;
- 2.to establish a European Network of Family Friendly Municipalities made up of municipalities which respect the requirements established by the working group stated in this agreement, and are committed to acquire the corresponding certification;
- 3.to coordinate the actions of the European Network in order to exchange good practice between municipalities and to carry out campaigns to raise awareness and disseminate information. For this purpose the European Network may organize seminars or conferences, carry out research, set up prizes or carry out communication actions (web sites, newsletters, press releases etc.) as provided for and according to the timescale established by the working group;
- 4.to participate in the working group stated in article 3 of this agreement.

Article 3 - Working Group and Work Program

In the initial phase, the following organizations are invited to send a representative in the working group: the European Large Families Confederation, the Autonomous Province of Trento, the Portuguese Observatory of Family Friendly Municipalities, The National Association of Large Families (Hungary), the Spanish Federation of Large Families and the Italian Network of Family Friendly Municipalities. Within one month of signing this agreement, these parties shall name the members of the working group, which shall establish the work program by the end of 2018. This must detail the tasks of each party represented in the working group, along with the timescale for the actions to be carried out. The work program shall have a duration of one or two years.

Initially the working group shall have the following tasks:

- a)establishing the requirements for the certificate “Family-friendly municipality” on the basis of the experience gained by the organizations represented in the working group;
- b)establishing the governance model for the European Network of Family-Friendly Municipalities and the methods and parties authorized to issue certification, respecting the provisions of the subsequent article 4;
- c)establishing monitoring procedures and how the validity of the certificate can be extended.

The working group can coopt representatives of interested national networks and of municipalities which have acquired the certificate already. The procedures of this shall be established also by the working group.

During its inaugural meeting the working group shall elect its coordinator.

Article 4 - Family brands

The parties agree that the labels assigned to municipalities which belong to the European Network of Family Friendly Municipalities or which have acquired the certificate “ Family- friendly Municipality” shall be those given in Annex 1) of this agreement.

Article 5 - Interested organizations

Following the signing of the agreement by the proposing organizations, the agreement may also be signed by other interested organizations in Europe sharing the same aims and objectives.

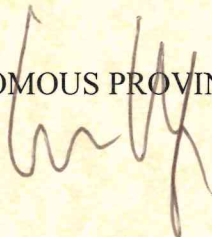
The application must be presented to the working group stated in article 3.

Article 6 - Duration of the agreement

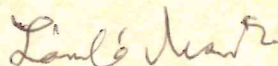
This agreement shall be valid for three years, starting from the date it is signed. On expiry, the agreement is automatically renewed, unless the proposing organizations specifically state that they do not wish to continue with the activities provided for by the agreement, or they require changes in the agreement.

Read, accepted and signed on 2 June 2018 in Szczecin (Poland)

AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO



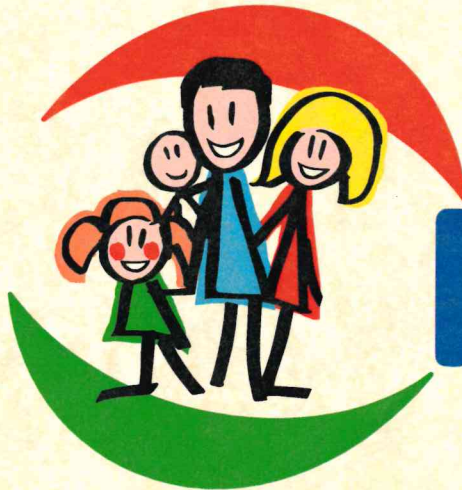
EUROPEAN LARGE FAMILIES CONFEDERATION



Annex: «Family brand»



Family
inTRENTINO®



Family
inITALIA®



Family
inEUROPE®



**Distretto
Family**
inTRENTINO®



**Network
Family**
inITALIA®



**European
Family**
NETWORK®



Member of
**Distretto
Family**
inTRENINO[®]



Member of
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Family**
inTALIA[®]



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