

INDEPENDENT GLOBAL INDEX ON FAMILY IGIF

Report 2016
on the right of family in the world



FONDAZIONE
NOVAE



Sursum corda!
TERRAE



**UNIVERSITÀ
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del Sacro Cuore

Centro di Ateneo
Studi e Ricerche
sulla Famiglia



Report on the right of family in the world
REPORT 2016

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INTRODUCTION

Luca Volontè, *Novae Terrae Foundation*

Novae Terrae Foundation it started an agreement with Catholic University of Milan. This is in order to create a Independent Global Index on Family (IGIF) concluded in spring 2016.

What is it?

The analysis originates from the definition of family as "the stable relationship between two hetero people. It is based on marriage and it has the purpose of procreation. It should focus on sexual differences and reciprocity, intergenerational solidarity and the principle of non-remuneration."

This work has two main goals:

- analyzing internationally the structural characteristics of family in order to identify if the tendency for family relationships is going to increase or not;
- understanding if family is supported by appropriate resources.

What is evaluated?

In order to achieve these goals we defined key indicators that can be classified by four categories:

- structural organization of family (marriage and parenting)
- resources for families to perform its responsibility of attention and care in everyday life (personal care services, work, family policies...)
- exchanges between members inside the family and abroad
- tendency to non-remunerative acts idea

This survey examines not only European countries but it is more international looking at some North and South America countries and some African and Asian countries.

The international community has, in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights acknowledged a fundamental social dimension of the human person in reaffirming that the family based on marriage between one man and one woman, pre-dating the State, is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, and as such entitled to protection by society and the State.

The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes that the child has the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents and that the family, the fundamental group of society, is the natural environment for the growth and well-being of children.

For the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, the child should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, and





consequently, the family should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.

Both society and the State have a legal obligation to support the family in the task of giving birth to children and educating them to live as responsible citizens and contributors to the community in a way that promotes individual human flourishing and the overall common good of society.

The defense of family environment, as it is told in the international declarations of human rights, has the specific task of protecting family so this first IGIF shows how this fundamental right is not only respected but also promoted in many countries and by many governments all around the world.

I just want to thank Catholic University of Milan for the excellent and expert work and collaboration. A special thank to Family Studies and Research University centre in the person of director Professor Giovanna Rossi, collaborators Dr. Maria Letizia Bosoni and Dr. Vera Lomazzi. Thanks also to Dr. Francesca Maccioni, excellent collaborator and many other colleagues, collaborators and directors of International Organizations for their ideas, suggestions and data. They have been an active and essential contribution to the publication of this IGIF.

I would like to thank to Dr. Vladimir Mischenko, Dr. Olga Lebed, Dr. Igor Ivanenko (St. Andrew Foundation and Fondation of National Glory) and Dr. Pavel A. Parfentiev (FamilyrightsOrg) about Russia; Prof. Ann Mutave Kioko (Culture for Africa) about Malawi; Prof. Eduardo Valenzuela Carvallo (Catholic University of Chile) and Nicholas Leon (IdeapaisOrg) about Chile; Prof. Janice Crouse (Howard Center and WCF) and Dr. Gil Crouse and W. Bradford Wilcox and IFS of American Enterprise Institute about U.S.A.; Prof. Laszlo Marki (ELFAC) and some collaborators of Minister of Family and Youth of Hungary; Dr. Petar Mitkovski about Macedonia; Prof. Carlos Polo (Population Research Institute/America Latina) about Perú; Dr. Ivan Munjin about Croatia; Dr. Anton Chromik about Slovakia; Prof. Tymoteusz Zych (Akademia Liderrow Rzeczypospolitej) about Poland; Dr. Amelie Martineau-Lavallée (ECDQ) about Canada; Dr. Nemanja Sukalo about Serbia; Dr. Ivaylo Tinchev and Dr. Michaela Djorgova about Bulgaria; Dr. Bodgan Stanciu about Romania; Dr. Ahmet Fatih Ortakaya about Turkey; Dr. Andrea Popescu (ECLJ), Dr. Maria Hildingsson (FAFCE) and Dr. Raul Sanchez (ELFAC) for providing EU regional and international data, Dr. Arantxa Escribano and Prof. Fernando Pliego Carrasco (UNAM) about Mexico and America Latina.

I should point out that many innovative and effective measures introduced by some countries in recent months and years, an example the original plan for the family and the birth rate of the Hungarian Government or Russian family plan or Turkish Government family measures, they have not yet fully developed all the desired effects that will certainly be measurable in the next 2018 IGIF Report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Giovanna Rossi, *Family Studies and Research University Centre, Catholic University of Milan*

This report fits into of a long tradition of family researches addressed by the Family Studies and Research University Centre of the Catholic University of Milan. It's an interesting chance for reflection on family relationships from a worldwide perspective.

The Centre was founded in 1976 and in 2006 officially became the Centro di Ateneo Studi e Ricerche sulla Famiglia (Family Studies and Research University Centre), it's a founding member of REDIF (Réseau Européen des Instituts de la Famille) and ESFR (European Society on Family Relations) and offers the opportunity for various multidisciplinary competencies related to the areas of psychology and sociology to engage in dialogue with those concerned with demography, economy, philosophy, pedagogy and law.

The theoretical and methodological framework used by the Centre's scholars and professionals employs the Relational-symbolic approach, within which perspective, the family is the context in which crucial differences in gender, generations and lineage are bounded to each other. Family is considered as a social subject, an active participant in the shaping of personal identity, education and social policies. This approach is useful in analyzing and interpreting the critical transitions the family undergoes, and in shaping different forms of intervention for, and together with, the family.

The Centre's research activity focuses on the most critical family transitions, such as the birth of a first child, the development of autonomy during adolescence, prolonged young adulthood, old age, separation and divorce. This activity is accompanied by an abundant production of publications that offer tools for interpretation of and intervention with families in the various stages of development.

For the past several years the Centre has edited two different series of publications: Studi Interdisciplinari sulla Famiglia (Family Interdisciplinary Studies) and Quaderni del Centro Famiglia (Family Studies and Research University Centre Working Papers). Family Interdisciplinary Studies is the Centre's most effective tool for the cultural and scientific dissemination of empirical results, new perspectives and innovative practices. From its onset, this publication has provided a platform for discussion on issues relevant to family dynamics and relationships by experts on different subjects principally related to psychology and sociology but including theology, demography, economics, law and history. Family Studies and Research University Centre Working Papers have the purpose of publicizing materials of interest to people who operate, at different levels, in the field of research and intervention with and for families in different clinical and social contexts.

The Centre also provides intensive training for professionals who work with and for families, both at home and abroad.



The interpretative models created by the Family Studies and Research University Centre have had a significant cultural influence in Italy as well as abroad on issues such as marriage, foster care and adoption, divorce, the life of young adults and, last but not least, social policies for the family. A multigenerational outlook and a focus on the inter-generational exchange of gifts and debts among generations and on those factors that promote generativity within the family bonds have paved the way to extremely innovative research and training programs.

The Independent Global Index on Family (IGIF), aims at providing a synthetic measure of how the family, particularly with children, is supported in different countries over the world, being aware of marked cultural differences.

It has been promoted and financially supported by Novae Terrae Foundation to which we give our special thanks, in particular to Luca Volontè, who proposed and continuously supported this index. We also thank Dr. Francesca Maccioni, Dr. Vera Lomazzi, Dr. Carlo Rusconi and those who concretely made this project possible.

2.3 Country Comparison

Here, the IGIF total score and each sub-index scores are reported for all the countries.

In Table 2.2 the country ranking is available with reference to the total IGIF, and in Table 2.3 the countries are in alphabetical order. Country notes (in the appendix) present detailed data for each country included in this Index.

Tabella 2.2 Independent Global Index on Family (IGIF): ranking

Rank	Country	Sub-index STRUCTURE	Sub-index DOMESTIC ECONOMIC RESOURCES	Sub-index CONTEXTUAL RESOURCES	Sub-index SOCIAL RESOURCES	IGIF
1	Denmark	0,3747	0,7997	0,6778	0,9514	0,7009
2	New Zeland	0,4225	0,7252	0,6702	0,8823	0,6751
3	Sweden	0,3790	0,8118	0,5903	0,9186	0,6749
4	Norway	0,4023	0,8108	0,5003	0,9655	0,6697
5	Israel	0,5436	0,6130	0,6603	0,7605	0,6444
6	Germany	0,3977	0,7712	0,6551	0,7498	0,6434
7	Switzerland	0,3976	0,8288	0,5267	0,8181	0,6428
8	Lithuania	0,5154	0,4932	0,7736	0,7611	0,6358
9	Russia	0,5547	0,5503	0,6892	0,7448	0,6348
10	Iceland	0,4514	0,8841	0,6883	0,4954	0,6298
11	Belgium	0,4056	0,5659	0,7680	0,7763	0,6290
12	Estonia	0,3917	0,6217	0,6900	0,7598	0,6158
13	France	0,3887	0,6049	0,7616	0,6813	0,6091
14	Netherlands	0,3607	0,8350	0,5327	0,6896	0,6045
15	Australia	0,4617	0,7146	0,4755	0,7632	0,6038
16	Malawi	0,9372	0,6375	0,2272	0,6041	0,6015
17	Cyprus	0,4823	0,5746	0,5970	0,7224	0,5941
18	Austria	0,3958	0,7672	0,5694	0,6365	0,5922
19	Latvia	0,4607	0,6107	0,6037	0,6806	0,5889
20	Japan	0,4535	0,6757	0,6067	0,6039	0,5850
21	Turkey	0,7126	0,2939	0,5414	0,7620	0,5775
22	Luxembourg	0,3703	0,6833	0,5560	0,6996	0,5773
23	Malta	0,5219	0,4781	0,5844	0,7099	0,5736
24	Spain	0,3359	0,6565	0,4761	0,8182	0,5717
25	Finland	0,4073	0,6926	0,5003	0,6733	0,5684
26	Hungary	0,3872	0,4135	0,6743	0,7473	0,5556
27	Bulgaria	0,4221	0,4591	0,5741	0,7489	0,5511
28	United Kingdom	0,4201	0,6743	0,4447	0,6285	0,5419
29	United States	0,5545	0,6720	0,3612	0,5680	0,5389





30	Slovenia	0.3964	0.6100	0.7079	0.4175	0,5330
31	Korea	0.3966	0.6817	0.7027	0.3176	0,5246
32	Portugal	0.3509	0.6563	0.3878	0.6864	0,5204
33	Greece	0.4412	0.3804	0.5351	0.7240	0,5202
34	Chile	0.4810	0.5632	0.3874	0.6212	0,5132
35	Mexico	0.5737	0.4797	0.4115	0.5699	0,5087
36	Canada	0.4018	0.7183	0.4910	0.3951	0,5016
37	Ireland	0.4517	0.5548	0.4314	0.5549	0,4982
38	Romania	0.5280	0.3573	0.4455	0.6421	0,4932
39	Italy	0.3766	0.3906	0.4601	0.7387	0,4915
40	Serbia	0.4977	0.3187	0.4352	0.6452	0,4742
41	Poland	0.4868	0.4926	0.2696	0.6234	0,4681
42	Czech Republic	0.4120	0.5983	0.3073	0.4685	0,4465
43	Slovak Republic	0.4693	0.3851	0.2916	0.5835	0,4324
44	Peru	0.2045	0.5537	0.3333	0.5223	0,4035
45	Croatia	0.4701	0.3559	0.4413	0.2322	0,3749
46	Macedonia	0.4816	0.4597	0.1762	0.3472	0,3662

Tabella 2.3 Independent Global Index on Family (IGIF): alphabetical order

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8	Korea	0.5154	0.4932	0.7736	0.7611	0,6358
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7	Turkey	0.3976	0.8288	0.5267	0.8181	0,6428
21	United Kingdom	0.7126	0.2939	0.5414	0.7620	0,5775
26	United States	0.3872	0.4135	0.6743	0.7473	0,5556

Looking at the country rankings (Table 2.2), we can see the lack of a clear geographical articulation, except for a greater presence in the first positions of some north European countries, with, in the lead, Denmark, New Zealand, Sweden and Norway, followed by Israel, Germany, Switzerland, Lithuania, Russia, Iceland, Belgium and Estonia with over 0.61 points.

A considerable number of countries are in the middle range with index scores between 0.60 and 0.50, showing the presence of a generic support to the family, but with some deficit ("could do more"): France, Netherlands, Australia, Malawi, Cyprus, Austria, Latvia, Japan, Turkey, Luxembourg, Malta, Spain, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, United Kingdom, United States, Slovenia, Korea, Portugal, Greece, Chile, Mexico and Canada.

