

# IFFD Information 2026



International Federation  
for Family Development



IFFD FOUNDATION



# TRAINING: ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2026

## 1. Innovation projects.

- **INSPIRING FAMILIES.** IFFD aims to establish itself as a leading reference in digital content for family and personal training. Building on material developed for the digital “Love Talks” congresses and enriched by other content from experts in these areas, a proprietary platform was launched in 2024 that includes several blocks of content, updated regularly. By 2025, the platform already included more than 90 expert talks, and throughout 2026 the content will continue to be expanded and updated with 6 new training modules.
- **EMBARCADOS.** In 2024, a pilot version of a training program for married couples of all ages was launched, consisting of four meetings devoted to reflection and dialogue on communication and crisis management, knowledge of one’s spouse, sexuality and the meaning of commitment. In 2025 it was replicated in several cities in Spain and launched in Buenos Aires (Argentina). In 2026 it is planned to begin the program in Colombia and replicate it in other languages and countries: Italy, the USA and Canada.
- **PEDAGOGICAL INNOVATION.** As part of its pedagogical innovation strategy, in recent years IFFD has had a team of collaborators, which we have called Synergia Innovación, tasked with enriching the experiences of IFFD’s basic courses. These courses provide strong support and guidance to parents in their educational work, but they require a format update. Throughout 2026 we will continue working on the professionalization of this team, providing it with human and material resources, which will allow a more agile development of proposals to improve our training programs for parents and educators.

## 2. Regional congresses and in-person working sessions.

IFFD organizes international congresses every four years. In February 2024, IFFD held the 21<sup>st</sup> International Family Enrichment Congress in Cebu, the Philippines. In parallel, the 2nd International Personal Project Congress, for young professionals, was held. Overall participation in these events exceeded 1,200 participants of 40 nationalities from the five continents. On the day prior to the congress, two parallel working sessions were held: one with the directors of IFFD’s collaborating centers around the world and another with the young promoters of Personal Project. In addition, three moderator-training courses were delivered. The next IFFD International Congress will take place in 2028.

In the intervening years, IFFD organizes regional working congresses for coordinators of training activities aimed at parents, married couples, and young people. The upcoming regional congresses are:

- **European Meeting of Family Enrichment Leaders**, in Warsaw, November 2025, bringing together coordinators of Family Enrichment and Personal Project courses from 29 European countries.
- **Southeast Asian Meeting of Family Enrichment Leaders** in Singapore, in October 2026.
- **Latin America Family Enrichment Leaders**, in the second half of 2026.

### **3. Coordination of training courses on the five continents: Africa, America, Asia, Oceania and Europe.**

In 2026, IFFD will continue to support local teams by providing training materials, advising countries on program launch, training coordinators and moderators, as well as providing support in organizing the courses by coordinating the exchange of trainers between countries.

The IFFD programs pursue the following objectives:

- **To provide participants** with a deep understanding of the stages of personal and family development.
- **To promote both individual and shared responsibility** of fathers and mothers in the education of their children.
- **To train in educational skills and enable** fathers and mothers to design their own family project.
- **To offer communication and problem-solving skills** that foster a harmonious family environment.

In the 2024/25 academic year, **730 courses** were organized in which **33,100 people** from **60 countries** took part; 59% participated in some kind of family-training course and 41% in other various activities. In addition to locally organized courses, IFFD also offers **international online programs** for 'Personal Project', 'Marital Love' and 'First Steps'. These programs make it possible to offer training to parents, married couples and young people all over the world who, for some reason, cannot take part in a local in-person course. In 2026, two international digital courses will be offered: '**International Digital Personal Project**' (6th edition) and '**International Digital First Steps**' (2nd edition), both between April and June.

### **4. Training activities for moderators and program coordinators.**

In the 2024/25 academic year, 10 international courses were organized for moderator training: 8 international moderator-training courses (digital format) for Canada, Colombia, Dubai, the Philippines, India, Nigeria, Singapore and Venezuela, and 2 moderator-training courses in hybrid format (digital + in-person) in Italy and the USA.

Family Enrichment Holidays (FEH) will have a new edition between 27 June and 7 July 2026. It is a 10-day in-person training experience that combines training with family holidays. Participation of around 20 families is expected. Around 40 moderators from several countries take part in the training given each day. This format is currently being replicated in other regions and countries.

A European **Family Enrichment Holidays** was held between 25 July and 2 August, bringing together moderators from neighboring countries, especially Eastern European countries, with the aim of providing specific training in moderation. Germany is also considering holding a national edition in 2026.

### **5. Support for national conventions to promote parent-training programs.**

One of the planned annual activities is the provision of support for the design and organization of national conventions held in various countries. These events represent a valuable opportunity in each of those countries to share experiences and to give momentum to the training activity carried out through the courses. Between 2023 and 2025, several countries received support through trips by members of the board: the Philippines, Hong Kong, Argentina, Canada, Chile, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, the USA, Italy and Poland. In 2026, participation is planned in national meetings and conventions in France and the USA.

### **6. Coordination of technical committees and expert working groups for updating IFFD programs.**

These working groups are responsible for updating course materials used in the various courses, as well as creating new materials and adapting them to new formats.

The Synergia teams are carrying out the updating of the programs in Spanish. Translation and linguistic and cultural adaptation of the programs to each country is carried out by the following technical committees:

- **English technical committee:** currently made up of experts from Australia, Canada and the United States. In 2026 they will continue working on the review, translation and updating of IFFD programs in English.
- **French technical committee:** made up of experts from Belgium, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, France and Lebanon. In 2026 it will continue with the review of the materials for coordinators and moderators. revisión de los materiales para coordinadores y moderadores.

- **German technical committee:** made up of experts from the three countries that offer training in this language: Germany, Austria and Switzerland. In 2026 they will continue working on the translation into German of training programs, as well as support materials for moderators.
- **Language-specific working teams:** in addition to the international teams mentioned, people from different countries are working on the translation of the programs into their respective native languages (Italian, Croatian, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, etc.).



## 2026 CASE STUDIES

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# ADVOCACY: PRINCIPALES LÍNEAS DE ACTUACIÓN

## 1. United Nations General Assembly resolution in 2026.

- **Objectives.** IFFD's main activity at the United Nations consists in advising member states, the UN system and other non-governmental organizations on family policies and, in particular, on parenting education.

Throughout 2026, work will continue along these lines, with the aim of making progress on some particularly important points contained in previous years' resolutions:

- Encourage the design, implementation and evaluation of social policies with a family perspective and focus them on improving the social development of the members of the family unit.
- Encourage governments to support studies and the implementation of activities aimed at strengthening the resilience of the family unit through state funds, tax benefits and other forms of support.
- Emphasize the need for the United Nations to prepare an annual global report on the situation of families around the world and on how social policies oriented toward family development are the most effective way to achieve that goal.
- Highlight the contribution of the family unit to sustainable development and propose strategies to strengthen the family unit in the face of the positive and negative impacts of megatrends.
- Encourage countries to invest in parenting education (parenting support) as a tool to improve child well-being, social cohesion, intergenerational solidarity, recognition of unpaid work, the role of fathers in the home, breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty, and mental health.
- Encourage countries to allocate adequate resources to support parents in positive parenting and shared responsibility in the care of all members of the family unit, as an effective means to promote well-being and social inclusion.

- **Activities.**

- **Commission for Social Development (February).** One of IFFD's priorities in its international advocacy activity at the United Nations is to take an active part in the Commission for Social Development.
  - **IFFD Briefing.** This is an event held in the framework of the Commission for Social Development that serves as a platform to address issues of international importance concerning the role of the family



unit as the center of social development. In 2026 the focus is expected to be on following up on the Second World Social Summit held in Doha, Qatar, in November 2026 (Second World Social Summit).

- **IFFD Awards.** Each year an award is given to public or private organizations that have particularly promoted the family perspective in their legislation or activities. The awardees in 2026 are the region of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia and the American organization The Best Place for Working Parents.
- **Written and oral statement.** IFFD customarily submits both written and oral statements at this Commission with various recommendations to improve the situation of families. In 2026 the subject will be the role of the family as a catalyst for social development in the context of the Social Development Summit.
- **Commission on the Status of Women (March).** At this Commission, IFFD usually submits a written and an oral statement with various recommendations to improve the situation of families. In 2026 it will present a proposal for recognizing and supporting caregivers and those who are cared for.
- **Commission on Population and Development (April).** At this Commission, IFFD also usually submits a written and an oral statement with various recommendations to better address the challenges posed by demographic change.
- **International Day of Families (May).** IFFD, together with the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, organizes an event every year to celebrate the International Day of Families at the United Nations. The event aims to reflect the situation of families around the world, as well as to provide solutions and recommendations to member states and policy-makers. The proposed theme for 2026 focuses on the World Social Summit held in Doha, Qatar, in November 2026.
- **The year 2026 will be particularly significant** due to follow-up activities to the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the preparations for the completion of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its evaluation.

## 2. Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families.

- **Objective.** To contribute to the resilience and strength of modern cities so that families can find a suitable place to live in them.

- **Activities.**

- **Annual technical Meeting of Signatories.** The annual technical meetings aim to bring together the experiences of municipal and regional officials to share and enrich, with good practices, the main indicators of the Venice Declaration. The conclusions of the meeting lead to recommendations to improve the situation of families in cities and regions. Six editions of the Annual Technical Meeting have been held in Curitiba (2019), Virtual (2021), Brussels (2022), Toruń (2023), Virtual (2024) and Buenos Aires (2025). In 2026 the next meeting is expected to be held in Europe, in one of the signatory territories.
- **World Cities Day observance.** Each year IFFD organizes the observance of World Cities Day. The event aims to highlight the importance of family-oriented policies in cities and regions. This event offers an occasion to bring new signatories into the Venice Declaration and to share the main advances on specific points of the project. IFFD has the support of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and of UN-Habitat.
- **Delegates for Brazil, Europe, Argentina and Colombia.** To facilitate the management and expansion of the Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families Project, regional delegates have been appointed from civil-society organizations and the private sector.
- **Regional meetings.** Since 2021, IFFD has helped organize and provide content for regional meetings of cities that are signatories to the Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families Project. In October 2023 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Meeting of Family-Friendly Sustainable Cities of Mexico was held in San Luis Potosí. In 2024, the Veneto Region held a European regional meeting to mark the International Year of the Family in the city of Venice. Mexico hosted the 4th Regional Meeting of Family-Friendly Sustainable Cities in Aguascalientes; and Argentina brought together 12 additional signatories to the Venice Declaration to join the Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families Project in Buenos Aires. In 2025 São Paulo held the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Meeting of Project Signatories and Buenos Aires the 2<sup>nd</sup> Argentine Meeting. In 2026 various regional meetings and further sign-ups are planned in Brazil, Europe, Mexico, Argentina and Colombia.
- **Academic projects.** In order to improve the evaluation and impact of the Venice Declaration and to provide it with an academic perspective, several academic projects are under way with the following institutions: Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), UNINOVE (Brazil), IPC (France), institutions in Argentina, and Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico).
- **Good Practices Platform.** With the aim of sharing good practices in family-oriented social policies promoted by the signatories of the project, a Good Practices Platform was created in 2024. The platform was officially launched at the beginning of 2025 to showcase the positive and decisive impact of the family on the SDGs and on the Urban Agenda. This space

will serve as a guide to broaden and enrich the Family Resolution at the United Nations in 2026, as well as to promote better family policies in urban areas.

### 3. Collaboration with UNICEF.

- **Objective.** To contribute a family and parenting-education perspective to UNICEF's activities and goals.
- **Activities.**
  - **UNICEF Executive Board.** IFFD has been a consultative member since 2018 and takes part in the various meetings, contributing a perspective on care for children by emphasizing the importance of supporting parents in their work at home.
  - **UNICEF NGO Committee.** IFFD serves as co-chair of the NGO Committee on UNICEF. This is a leadership role representing the role of civil society within UNICEF.
  - **Family-Friendly Policies.** IFFD collaborates with UNICEF on the initiative "Redesigning the workplace to be family-friendly: what governments and businesses can do".

### 4. International Advocacy training.

- **Objective.** To critically examine the field of international human rights and development advocacy –its institutions, strategies and key actors–; to explore how national, regional and global policy strategies are shaped; and to foster debate on the various challenges faced by family advocates together with a range of stakeholders, including governments, international institutions and the private sector.
- **Activities.**
  - **International Advocacy Workshop.** This event is held annually and is aimed at young leaders from around the world who are interested in developing their professional careers in the field of multilateral institutions.
  - **Ongoing training.** The workshop continues throughout the year, with the participation of young attendees in the various activities that are organized.
- **Locations.** In recent years, the International Advocacy Workshop has been held in Madrid, Budapest, Mexico City and Paris. In 2024 it was held on 3–4 September in Warsaw (Poland) and in 2025 it was held in Paris.





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