

PROchild

Protection and support of abused children through
multidisciplinary intervention



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The project partnership



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA

Italy



TERVEYDEN JA HYVINVOINNIN
LAITOS

Finland



LA VOIX DE L'ENFANT

France



THE IARS
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

United Kingdom



KATHOLISCHE FACHHOCHSCHULE
NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN

Germany



THE INSTITUTE
OF CHILD HEALTH

Greece

PROCHILD project seeks to create a multi-professional, integrated model of cooperation with stakeholders involved in response to violence against children, Child Protection Services (CPS) and public and private organisations (health, social, school services, police forces and judicial authorities).



Objectives

- Protect the fundamental rights of children
- Promote early detection and reporting of abuse/ mistreatment cases
- Adopt a multi-professional model of protection & care of child victims
- Develop integrated and shared protocols
- Increase the skills of professionals
- Search for viable and appropriate ways to make victims of violence and their families, an active part of the assessment and improvement of protection and support services

Methods

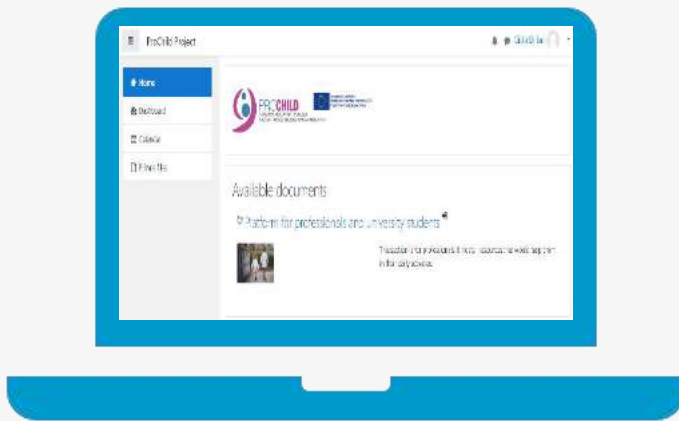
In order to achieve the above objectives the partnership worked on a number of different work packages (WP) and carried out activities within these. The specific work packages were:

1. Management and coordination of the project (WP1)
2. Communication and dissemination of the project (WP2)
3. The mapping of operators' needs and good practices of an early and integrated detection and treatment of abused minors (WP3)
4. Development of protocols among actors involved in the assistance and protection of abused children in accordance with a transferable interdisciplinary intervention model (WP4)
5. Multidisciplinary training of professionals involved in violence against children (WP5)

Results

- Awareness-raising on what is violence, abuse, neglect and what to do to give/receive support, targeted to families, minors, school staff, social and health professionals, police and judicial authority
- Completion of local/national protocols contributing to the creation of an integrated intervention model for early detection of abuse/mistreatment, reporting and protection of child victims
- The main results at European level are recommendations, stemming from discussions, on how to detect and report cases of mistreatment effectively, in order to reduce underreporting; what procedures and collaboration to activate; how to conduct treatment and protection of minors from a social, medical, psychological and legal point of view.
- Discussions carried out in roundtables and focus groups proved to be extremely satisfying for all the participants who expressed the willingness to carry out these activities and create a “permanent working table” for these issues.

WEBSITE



An e-learning platform
for professionals and students

for the collection of materials and good
practices

www.prochildproject.org
<https://www.prochildproject.org/training/login/index.php>

The PROCHILD Winter School

official Master Course of the University of Bologna a specific multi-professional training course on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the various forms of child maltreatment, domestic and gender-based violence.



Target



More than **100** participants (professionals and students)



Topic



1. basic information and epidemiology; 2. forms of mistreatment & violence against children and consequences; 3. how to recognise suspect injuries & risk factors for an early detection; 4. how to prevent, early detect and treat mental health's consequences of trauma and child abuse 5. legal aspects.



Guest lecturers



Institute of Psychiatry & Psychological Neurosciences King's College London
Personality of the legal, institutional and religious world



Co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) Programme of the European Union

The PROchild App



child who, in the first months of life, in the absence of verbal communication, has no other signaling system. It is a generic request, which solicits the adult's attention and above all has the function of calling the mother close to the child as quickly as possible, to console him, care for him, feed him and in any case try to understand why she needs help. The crying is generally later and is visually manifested by the flow of tears down the cheeks; it is a show that physiologically urges parents to wipe the baby's cheeks and console him. Humans are the only terrestrial mammals to shed tears in moments of emotional crisis. It is also known that babies of anxious and stressed mothers cry considerably more than those who are lucky enough to be in the arms of a calm and serene mother.

The main causes of crying and crying in babies are various: pain, discomfort, hunger, thirst, sleep, feeling of loneliness, excessive or poor sensory stimulation, frustration (in slightly older children). Crying changes with the passing of weeks and months, but by listening to the characteristics of their baby's crying, in particular its timbre, its intensity and duration, parents learn over time to obtain useful information. For example:

- hunger crying: the beginning is at low intensity and then becomes stronger and more rhythmic;
- painful crying: intense, strong from the beginning and prolonged over time with, to follow, a phase of silence and the presence of sobs alternating with short inhalations;
- anger crying: similar to hunger crying, but with a lower pitch and constant intensity.

Crying is a common cause of access to the pediatric PS constituting 10-20% of the causes for requesting a pediatric visit between 2 weeks and 3 months of the child's life. Fortunately, only 5% of cases underlies an organic pathology.

0-3 Months

3-6 Months

1-12 Months

12-24 Months

NO PANIC



FOR MOM



FOR THE CHILD



Co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) Programme of the European Union

The film show CHILD ABUSE



Conceived and created by **Eleonora Frattarolo**,
Direction **Daide Mastrangelo**

Authors:

Maurizio Cattelan, Elisabetta di Sopra,
Giosetta Fioroni, Luciano Leonotti, Eleonora
Mazza, Paolo Migliazza, Gianni Moretti,
Rufoism, James Rielly, Edoardo Sessa, Vanni
Spazzoli, Sandra Tomboloni, Massimiliano
Usai, Nicola Vinci, Silvia Zagni

SPOTTING CHILD ABUSE³:

Self-isolating and quarantine can lead to a change in the behaviour of children, not all of these changes are related to child abuse but may be an indicator for abuse⁴:

- aggressive or repeated shouting
- hearing hitting or things being broken
- children crying for long periods of time
- very young children left alone or are outdoors by themselves
- children looking dirty or not changing their clothes
- children being withdrawn or anxious
- physical injuries
- bed-wetting & nightmares



Child abuse in the Covid time

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED ABUSE:

- Talk to someone you trust
- Always remember, it is not your fault and you have done nothing wrong!
- If you want to leave home, there are safe spaces available to help you or the person that suffers the abuse⁵
- Visit the helplines below if you don't know how and who to talk to about the abuse
- Visit the websites below for resources that will help you understand abuse and to take actions against it

- Explain your next steps and see if the child agrees
- Report it to an authority

PARENTING TIPS DURING THE SUMMER AND COVID19:

- Set aside time to spend with each child
- Ask your child what they want to do and how they feel!
- Switch off the TV/phone and shield your children from too many negative news
- Give them your full attention
- Praise your child when they have behaved well
- Create a flexible and creative daily routine, including physical exercise and time outside (according to national restrictions)
- Make handwashing and hygiene fun
- Take some time at the end of the day to tell your children what they have done well!
- Take a break and reward yourself, only well-balanced parents can handle stressful situations



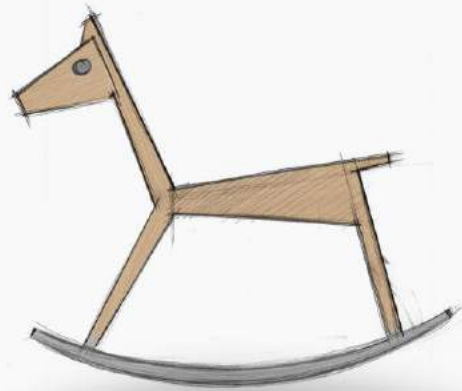
HOW TO REACT WHEN A CHILD/ YOUNG ADULT TELLS YOU ABOUT ABUSE:

- Listen carefully and tell them that they haven't done anything wrong and encourage them in their decision to speak up
- Take them seriously and don't judge

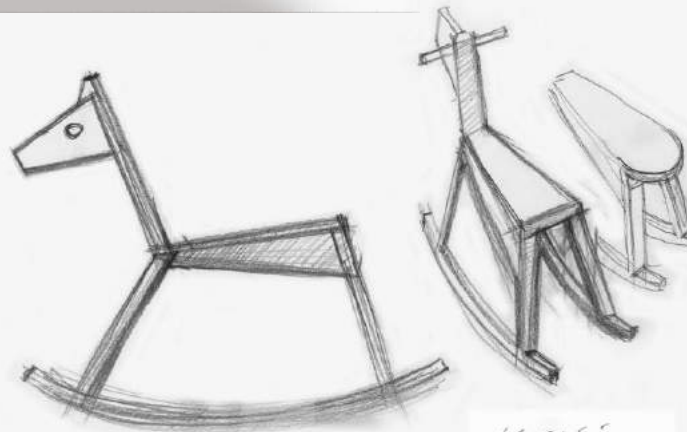
³ <http://thehideout.org.uk/children/what-can-i-do/>
⁴ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/what-to-do-child-reveals-abuse/>
⁵ <https://www.unicef.org/media/67211/file>



The PROCHILD rocking horse – Iosa Ghini



Iosa Ghini
2021



Iosa Ghini
2021



Co-funded by the Rights,
Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC)
Programme of the European Union

CONCLUSION

The project has provided a chance to learn from different Europe an countries and to share experiences, thoughts and ideas, but also to reflect on the difficulties countries face in regards to child protection.

Our research has identified that both best practices and difficulties can be universal; therefore, the solutions to such problems may also be universal.

As a result, the multidisciplinary training programme, which promotes European best practices and solutions, ensures that the mentalities of professionals from different European countries are guided towards the same cross-sectoral direction and integrated interventions in the protection of children.



Thank you