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EUROPEAN COMMISSION - DIRECTORATE GENERAL JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS
Programme and Financial management
Grant Agreement number: 881677 – I.N.T.I.T. – REC-AG-2019 / REC-RDAP-GBV-AG-2019



"PRIMUM NON NOCERE" THE CHALLENGES OF CARING FOR TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN

EUROPEAN FINAL CONFERENCE

29th September 2022
hrs 10.00 - 16.30 cet

Hybrid seminar in presence at IPRS & zoom   

IPRS - Passeggiata di Ripetta, 11 - Rome - Italy

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ABSTRACT

The protection of child victims of violence represents an issue of significant concern given that – according to estimates – more than 50 million children in the EU experience some form of violence, abuse or neglect. The relationship between experiences of childhood trauma and long-term effects of children's physical and psychological development is increasingly being acknowledged as a major public health challenge. Today there is full awareness that the protection of child victims of violence, abuse and maltreatment represents a challenge that requires the intervention of different services and professionals according to an integrated working approach guided by what is called the **Trauma Informed Care (TIC)** principles.

The TIC approach which originates in the United States raises awareness of the impact of child abuse and childhood trauma on an individual's long-term mental and physical health. To mediate these consequences the TIC approach promotes key skills of recognizing and addressing trauma, staff training and workforce development as well as inter- disciplinary and cross sector collaboration between service providers and amongst systems of care.

In cases of violence against children a complex network of actors is involved (justice, social, health, educational and care services) who are required to share responsibility for intervention and "speak the same language," not the language of their own discipline, but that stemming from the common knowledge of the meaning of trauma, the short- and long-term effects of childhood adverse experiences (ESI) on children's well-being and mental health, the criteria for taking care of people who have been exposed to such experiences.



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Indeed, Child protection systems across Europe are faced with the task of providing coordinated services that build the resiliency of affected children and reduce risk factors of trauma – including re-traumatization through service delivery. The focus on a trauma informed approach – in relation to care and services – reflects a growing body of research that demonstrates that trauma informed care can:

- **help** service providers, parents and systems recognize and respond to the needs of children who experience trauma;
- **enhance** the effectiveness of child-servicing systems by promoting a common language and procedures that support healing and prevent revictimization;
- **support** the capacity of adults (parents/caregivers) – all of whom have a role to play in TIC – to cope with their own responses to trauma.

The **EC-funded project INTIT - Integrated Trauma Informed Therapy for Child Victims of Violence (881677 – I.N.T.I.T. – REC-AG-2019 / REC-RDAP-GBV-AG-2019)** has focused on how to assure the provision of multiagency trauma informed interventions and services for child victims of interpersonal violence and abuse. This has been done with a specific focus on continued expansion of Barnahus in countries that have adopted the model (e.g., Estonia), while exploring how to assure the inclusion of trauma-informed integrated care in Member States.

The **INTIT project** aimed to assess, in each of the partner countries (Spain, Germany, Estonia, Cyprus), the compliance of trauma-exposed child protection systems with Trauma Informed Care (TIC) intervention standards and to strengthen the capacity of professionals and services targeting abused and maltreated minors to operate according to trauma informed approaches.



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In order to enhance and expand the utilization of trauma informed care and services for child victims of violence, **INTIT** carried out activities at two levels: the level of knowledge and competences on trauma informed care and the systemic level.

At the level of knowledge and competences the project aimed at building capacities among professionals on trauma informed principles, values and notions. As far as the systemic level is concerned, the aim was to promote integrated care provision, ensuring collaboration between different agencies (e.g., judicial, social, medical) capable of minimizing secondary victimization and maximizing the efficacy of the therapy and services provided locally while developing a national coordinated service provision system.

As a final event, this conference will provide **an exchange opportunity between European experts and project partners**, with a view to showing the potential of an integrated TIC approach in addressing the needs of vulnerable children and in supporting the capacity of child servicing systems and professionals to sustain the healing and build the resiliency of trauma survivors, based on the results of the INTIT project.

Conference languages will be English and Italian.
The Conference will be audio and video recorded.



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CONFERENCE AGENDA

10:00 WELCOME SPEECH

Isabella Mastropasqua, Head of Office II DGPRAM, Department for Juvenile and Community Justice

10:15 CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Raffaele Bracalenti, IPRS President

10:25 THE INTIT PROJECT AND TRAINING MATERIAL

Catia-Isabel Santonico Ferrer, IPRS
Svenja Heinrich, CJD

10.50 SESSION I:

THE VARIETY OF TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES DURING CHILDHOOD

Moderator: Raffaele Bracalenti, IPRS President

- **SEXUAL ABUSE: NUMBERS AND TRENDS IN ITALY**
Antonella Troisi, Juvenile Court Judge, Salerno, Italy
- **INVESTIGATING CASES OF CHILD VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE**
Kyriaki Lambrianidou, Superintendent B – Criminologist Deputy Director or Crime Combating Department Director of the Safeguarding Subdirectorate CCD Cyprus Police Headquarters, Cyprus
- **TRAUMA AND MIGRATION: THE CASE OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS**
Sofia Trezzi, Psychologist Psychotherapist, Operating Unit of Neuropsychiatry of Childhood and Adolescence - IRCCS Fondazione Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico Milano, Policlinico di Milano, Italy



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11:50 COFFEE BREAK

12:10 • **LGBTIPHOBIA: A RISING ISSUE**

Óscar Rodríguez Fernández, Political Scientist - Alas A Coruña and Board member of the Spanish LGBTI Federation (FELGTBI+), board member of the Spanish LGBTI Federation (FELGTBI+), in charge of external relations, Spain

• **THE TRAUMATIC BACKGROUND OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

Dr. Giorgos Metaxas, Social Worker, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Sub-Ministry of Welfare, responsible for psychological assessment of abused children and juvenile delinquents facing criminal charges and/or in custody cases, Cyprus

Q&A

13:00 BUFFET LUNCH

14:30 **SESSION II:** **EXPERIENCES OF CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE**

Moderator: **Andreas Kapardis**, Professor of Legal Psychology at Law Department, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

• **COOPERATION AND TRAUMA-INFORMED BEHAVIOUR IN CHILDREN'S HOUSE**

Anna Frank, head of the Children's House, head of the Social Insurance Board Children's House, child protection worker with an extensive experience on abused children and children at risk. Since 2016 active in the development and implementation of the Barnahus model in Estonia at the Social Insurance Board, Estonia



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- **CHALLENGING COMMON TRAUMA MYTHS THROUGH A TRAINING PROGRAMME: A CASE STUDY FROM THE ESTONIAN JUDICIARY**
Anne Haller, legal expert at the victim support for the department of the Estonian Social Insurance Board, Estonia with an extensive experience on domestic violence and trauma and on awareness raising programmes targeting justice professionals in these areas, Estonia
- **CHILD PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM OR RE-VICTIMIZATION: THE MEDIATION ROLE OF JUSTICE**
Dr. Ramón Arce, Professor of Legal and Forensic Psychology at the University of Santiago de Compostela and Director of the Forensic Psychology Institute at the University of Santiago, Spain
- **CHALLENGES OF CONDUCTING CHILD-FRIENDLY COURT INTERVIEWS – HOW TRAUMA-INFORMED CAN THE JUDICIARY BE?**
Ulrike Stahlmann-Liebelt, headed the Prosecutor's Office of Flensburg, trainer at the police academy of Schleswig-Holstein on sexual offences, domestic violence, victim protection as well as police and judicial video interrogations. Victim protection delegate of Schleswig-Holstein, initiated the first Childhood House/Barnahus in Schleswig-Holstein in 2022, Germany

15:30 SESSION III:
OBSTACLES, KEY SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES TOWARD A MULTIAGENCY APPROACH

Moderator: **Andreas Kapardis**, Professor of Legal Psychology at Law Department, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

- **A MULTI-PROFESSIONAL APPROACH: A POSSIBLE DIALOGUE**
Annunziata Bartolomei, Social Worker, Elected Board Members of the National Council of Social Workers (CNOAS), Italy



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- **DBT-THERAPY FOR ADOLESCENTS – KEY SKILLS FOR PROFESSIONALS TO ACT TRAUMA-INFORMED**
Sabrina Henning, educator, DBT- therapist for social and nursing professions, trauma-focused consultant, executive department of nursing and educational service of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Catholic Children's Hospital Wilhelmstift, Hamburg, responsible for outpatient and inpatient treatment of patients with emotion regulation disorders, Germany
- **PROMOTING SELF-CARE AND FOSTERING THE SOCIO-EMOTIONAL SKILLS OF PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE CARE SECTOR**
Ramdas Weichert, social worker, regional director of KJHV, an association providing child and youth assessment and support services including residential groups for at-risk youth in Berlin. Educator and trainer for child and youth service professionals, Germany

16:15 Q&A and plenary debate

16:30 Concluding Remarks

16:40 End of Conference



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www.intitproject.eu



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