

Project draft – Partner search

Applicant organization	Comune di Forlì
Department	Assessorato Politiche Sociali e Sanitarie
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1. Project Title: (TO BE DEFINED)

Possible titles:

W Kids – Welfare of Kids – preventing health disease in preschool children

HELP- HEalth Pro children

KIM - Kids' Mental Health

C.H.II.D. o CHIMED– Children's mental Health Determinants

MEHD– Mental Health Determinants for Kids

2. Main theme: Promotion of child' and its family's welfare – Mental health and psychopathological risk at pre-school age

3. Programme: Programme of Community Action in the field of Public Health (2003-2008)
Call for Proposals 2006

Priority Sectors:

2.1.3 Health Determinants

- underpin EU policies and activities regarding health determinants,
- support actions to provide and exchange good practice,
- promote cross-cutting and integrative approaches across several health determinants and maximise countries' efforts.

Priorities for 2007: projects linked to and in support of EU policies and strategies on health determinants, notably on mental health, nutrition and physical activity, tobacco, alcohol, drugs and environment and health. A specific focus will be on projects addressing good practice in conveying health-related life skills, in particular for children and young people, covering both risk and protective factors with an impact on lifestyles and behaviours. Projects should also show awareness of wider socio-economic considerations and contribute to reduce health inequalities.

2.1.3.2 Integrative approaches on lifestyles: support, in an experimental way, to initiatives that foresee the collaboration among different partners, in order to promote a healthy lifestyle within the community and in particular addressing vulnerable groups, such as children.

Mental health activities: based on the orientations set out in the EU mental health strategy, projects proposals should focus on:

- developing a mechanism for identifying and reviewing good practice, which integrates knowledge from existing projects, and includes measures fostering the visible recognition of leadership practice in mental health promotion, mental disorder prevention, combating stigma, promoting inclusion of people with mental health problems and their human rights.

2.1.3.5. Capacity building

— promoting cooperation between educational institutions on the content of common European training courses and modules in key areas of public health and to the development of tailor-made training curricula for health care personnel and other professionals involved in mental health services.

2.1.1 Health Information

2.1.1.3. Developing mechanisms for reporting and analysis of health issues and producing public health reports

2.1.1.4 Developing strategies for information exchange and responding to non-communicable health threats

— Support for disease knowledge projects relating to their occurrence, treatments, risk factors, risk reduction strategies, costs of illness and social support in terms of developing best practice recommendations.

4. Deadline: 21/05/2007

5. Brief project description

The project has been conceived thanks to the experience realized starting from 2003 – in the framework of the collaboration between the City of Forlì and the University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’ – concerning the protection of children’s mental health in the age of physical and psychic development in the area of Forlì.

The project idea came up from the fact that many children, during their development, can go through more or less long periods during which they show emotional and behavioural difficulties (sometimes in a clear way, sometimes not). Such difficulties could be caused by normal evolutionary crises, external stress conditions, intra-psychic conflict, or temporary difficulties in the development phase.

The identification of the existence of such emotional and behavioural difficulties in pre-school age and the prompt intervention represent a positive factor compared with the risk of structuration of a more deep-rooted and complex disease, that sometimes could remain until the adult age and eventually affect also the psychiatric sphere.

Taking into account the age of the child, the detection and intervention towards the referred above disease mainly concern the child’s family and the educational/pedagogical structures attended by the child. Nevertheless, the lacking availability of suitable evaluation instruments/tools in the presence of conditions characterized by not much evident and specific symptoms, the lacking information and training of parents and teachers towards the psycho-pathological risk of the child’s maladjusted behaviour, etc., often lead to the tendency to prepare sectorial or too generic interventions, or the creation of a wait-and-see attitude. The consequences of a wrong intervention or of a non-intervention could be very serious for the child’s mental health.

Starting from the results of the survey run in the area of Forlì, the City of Forlì **intends to promote actions able to favour the empowerment of children in pre-school age’s mental health and welfare at transnational level, fostering the confrontation with other (European and not-European) realities, in order to enrich the present knowledge, to enlarge the target of reference, to deepen the main theme, by means of the elaboration of a common methodology for the need assessment/problem analysis, the evaluation of suitable informative and preventive solutions, etc., to be easily transferred in other local and international realities.** In the specific, the project intends to **create a network of subjects/organizations engaged in the development of instruments/tools destined to the collection and dissemination of data and information concerning the mental health and psycho-pathological risk of children in pre-school age within the involved**

territories, to the elaboration of optimal and targeted solutions for the promotion of health and the prevention, falling back upon activities of information and training.

6. General objectives of the project

- to create and develop a permanent transnational network for the promotion of the child' and its family's welfare through the collection and dissemination of (scientific and not) information on mental health and psycho-pathological risk in pre-school age, on the consequences of lacking information and availability of evaluation instruments and wrong interventions, in order to overcome the lack of this kind of information and favour a more effective exchange of experiences;
- to favour the access of the different target groups/beneficiaries (parents, teachers, etc.) to the information concerning the protection of health in the age of development and the consequences of scarce/wrong information and intervention towards children, thus increasing the consciousness on the problem;
- to improve – in an indirect way – the quality of the action in the conception and implementation of local, national and international policies related to the protection of children's mental health.

7. Target groups:

Didactic and not didactic staff: teachers, didactic coordinators, school operators; paediatricians, parents/families

Final beneficiaries: children in pre-school age

8. Main activities:

WP 0 – Coordination of the project (COMPULSORY)

Assure the full and correct (operational, administrative and financial) management and the coordination of the project and the relationships among the partners at local, national and international level and with the European Commission.

WP 1 – Research and analysis

Elaboration of a common methodology for research, analysis and collection of data/information (questionnaires, etc.) starting from the experience in Forlì. Increase the comprehension of the specific context with reference to the state of the art, the needs, the best practices already implemented, etc., and detection of solutions for the improvement of children's mental health and in order to face the problem of existing scarce information. Creation and implementation of a database with the collected data. Elaboration of suitable information and training solutions in order to promote the prevention through actions of observation, analysis, positive behaviours:

- study / analysis of children's dysfunctional behaviours – analysis of children at risk;
- detection of possible solutions as to prevent future mental diseases in the children at risk;
- creation of informative/training courses for teachers, other didactic staff, paediatricians, parents

WP 2 – Target training sessions

Organization of training sessions mainly addressing parents and teachers, structured on the base of the (in itinere) solutions elaborated during the research activity. Involvement of children in some training sessions.

Application of the acquired competences with testing of the field.....

WP 3 – Networking and Mainstreaming

To foster the exchange of opinions and experiences among the main project's stakeholders, to promote contacts and the exchange of the (scientific and not) information developed, in order to create an effective cooperation network at European level, etc.

WP 4 – Dissemination of the project (COMPULSORY)

Inform, disseminate and promote the (interim and final) results obtained, addressing both to the main target groups and stakeholders and the general public; sensitive policy-makers and all the relevant actors involved. Promote the creation and employment of informative tools accessible to everyone (multilingual website regularly updated, multilingual publication, other dissemination and information materials, DVD, etc.). Planning an effective communication strategy at local and international level.

Organization of a final transnational conference.

WP 5 – Evaluation of the project (COMPULSORY)

Evacuate the project's (interim and final) results, their sustainability, transferability and actions ensuring continuity to the project. Monitoring the activities during all project's phases.

9. Main expected results:

- creation of a database containing all the data and information collected at transnational level on mental health in pre-school age
- study and in-depth analysis of the issues linked to the psycho-pathological risk in pre-school age
- monitoring the mental health of the pre-school children involved in all participating countries
- creation of a network of exchange of praxis and information at transnational level (improvement of the information already acquainted and support to the collection of further and new information)
- sensitization of parents, schools and teachers, policy-makers and public administrations, public opinion, media, etc.
- increased consciousness and competence of parents and teachers towards the prevention, detection and intervention with relation to the promotion of mental health in pre-school age
- internet website, publication, DVD, information and dissemination materials,

10. Duration

24 months (December 2007 – November 2009)

11. Budget (approximate)

About € 800.000

The budget available to single partners depends on the number of partners, on their actual involvement in project activities, etc.

Co-financing:

- 60% from the EU (about 480.000€)
- 40% covered by the Lead Partner and Full Partners – (about 320.000€)

12. Partnership

Lead Partner: Comune di Forlì – Assessorato Politiche Sociali e Sanitarie

Other partners: Università 'La Sapienza' di Roma – IT

Partners searched for:

Public bodies – public administrations, in particular the Departments linked to education and social/health sectors

Universities

Pre-school education institutes

Private institutions/organizations

Partner should be established in the UE Member States, Turkey e EFTA/SEE countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)

The success of the project depends on the presence of a reasonable number of partners, able to assure the appropriate geographical coverage of the activities.

Expression of interest to become partners by the 5th May 2007 !!!

The interested partners will receive more information on the project, a detailed description of the envisaged actions and instructions on how to complete and submit the application form and supporting documents required.

Expression of interest and request of further information to be addressed to **Barbara Grazzini and Rossana Giacomoni.....** (emails at the beginning of the present document).