

PROMISE Exchange – Concept Paper November 2015

The PROMISE Project: Promoting child-friendly multi-disciplinary and interagency services

PROMISE aims at promoting child-friendly multi-disciplinary and interagency services supporting child victims and witnesses of violence, providing them with access to justice, avoiding re-victimization and ensuring high professional standards for recovery.

The project refers to the Barnahus (Children’s House) model, and similar models such as the Children’s Advocacy Centres, embracing cooperation between social services, police, prosecutors, judges, paediatrics and child/adolescent psychiatry in one place.

PROMISE is managed by the CBSS Secretariat (Children’s Unit). Partners include the Child Circle, HAPI, Verwey-Jonker Institute, Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Trauma Unit and Barnahus in Iceland, Linköping and Stockholm. It also builds on the expertise of prominent specialists in law, sociology, paediatrics, psychology and psychiatry from different European countries.

The project partners has developed a long-term vision for the project emphasizing that all children subject to abuse and violence in Europe have the right to be protected and be safe. This includes children having access to child-friendly services based upon quality standards, ongoing development of the services through the sharing of good practices and the mobilizing of national/local agencies, governmental and non-governmental, for collaboration to implement the Barnahus model. The project will also create the foundation for a future European Network of services and professionals.

What is the purpose and the expected outputs of the exchange?

The overall objective of PROMISE is to promote child-friendly, multi-disciplinary and interagency (MD/IA) services supporting child victims of violence. Drawing on UN, EU, CoE law and Barnahus models for MD/IA collaboration in Europe, PROMISE aims to enhance capacity and knowledge of service delivery across Europe to engage with child victims of violence.

To this end, PROMISE will organise exchange between services in 12 European countries committed to developing and implementing child-friendly, multi-disciplinary and inter-agency services for child victims and witnesses of violence, so called “exchange members”. The exchange feeds directly into the overall goal and the specific objectives of PROMISE, including promoting good practice, strategies and standards for MD/IA collaboration; disseminating child-friendly standards and tools for social, therapeutic, medical and legal services and; facilitating mutual learning between services.

The exchange will contribute towards the expected outcomes of the project, including:



PROMISE



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- To strengthen capacity, knowledge and exchange between current and developing services to support child victims and witnesses of crime across Europe.
- To facilitate and strengthen mutual learning and exchange between Government ministries, policy makers and practitioners from different sectors, including the justice system, current and developing services to support child victims and witnesses of crime and child protection advocates across Europe.
- To disseminate lessons learnt on how local, regional and central Governments can establish enabling factors, such as law, procedures, measures and resources.
- To create awareness of international and domestic law, guidance and policy.
- To support evidence and practice based advocacy.

What will the exchange do and what activities are envisaged?

The exchange will provide a platform for the involved exchange members. It will:

- a) Stimulate dialogue and mutual learning by exchange experience and knowledge between agencies and services through meetings, study visits, email and social media.
- b) Provide training for services on social support, therapy, medical support, child-friendly justice and engaging with children for the purpose of protecting children and collecting forensic evidence in the context of multi-disciplinary and inter-agency collaboration.

The core activity consists of the *exchange meetings*. These meetings provide opportunities for exchange members to meet face to face and to visit child-friendly multi-disciplinary and inter-agency services in four European countries.

The PROMISE project combines learning in different areas, including law and policy, good practice for care, good operational practice, practical implementation, thematic issues and research. The exchange meetings bring these key elements together, both drawing on *and* informing the PROMISE project outputs, including mappings, research and guidance documents.

The exchange meetings will:

- take their starting point in children's rights to be heard and to receive information;
- focus on key issues such as: child-friendly environment, focus on forensic interviews and children's access to justice, children's participation and follow up (including social protection and the protective potential of family and social environment);
- have a dual focus on thematic issues and operational/organisational aspects;
- be timed so that participants can receive information and give input to the project: research, mappings and guidance;
- take a participatory, interactive approach, focussing on mutual learning, exchange and transferability/adaptability of good practice to different national contexts;
- be hosted by experts and are combined with study visits to services;
- link to the local context and the centres/Barnahus the participants visit, fully capitalising on the experience and expertise of the centres and ensuring diverse European perspectives.



Three interlinked key issues will be addressed separately in the three exchange meetings:

Exchange 1: MD-IA Cooperation: What does it mean, how come and where are we going?

3-4 February 2016 in Zagreb, Croatia

- Understanding the legal framework - what are we working towards in terms of fulfilling rights? What elements should a multi-disciplinary and inter-agency service include? What constitutes good practice and what standards for care and cooperation do we promote? What examples of good practice do we see? How can these models be adapted and transferred – what are the opportunities and challenges?
- **Red thread:** child-friendly environment, focus on forensic interviews and children's access to justice, children's participation and follow up (including social protection and the protective potential of family and social environment).
- Consultation and information on the mapping of legal instruments, the mapping of good practice, the Scorecard and methodology.
- Study visit to the Child Protection Centre in Zagreb

Exchange 2: Implementation and training: Doing the right thing right

15-16 June in Reykjavik, Iceland

- What are the ins and outs of good MD/IA models? What strategies and tools are out there and what works? What training exists and what is a successful model to train teams and individuals?
- Improving practice: the meeting will be combined with a practical training including on social, therapeutic and medical services and the gathering of evidence from children, based on training and material developed by the Council of Europe
- Study visit to the Barnahus in Reykjavik
- **Red thread:** child-friendly environment, focus on forensic interviews and children's access to justice, children's participation and follow up.
- Consultation and information on methodology, good practice review and guidance, guidance on creating an effective and enabling environment, pilot of scorecard

Exchange 3: Transfer and adaptation: The next step

13-14 March 2017 in Haarlem, Netherlands

- Looking at the different models, what brings transferability and adaptability?
Promoting MD/IA: What will link policy and practice - current practices and challenges in implementing child friendly practices within the child protection systems? How can our advice be implemented in different national contexts? How can the MD/IA services become active agents for change in Europe?
- Study visit to the KENTER in Haarlem
- **Red thread:** child-friendly environment, focus on forensic interviews and children's access to justice, children's participation and follow up.
- Consultation and information on methodology and pilot of scorecard, good practice guidance, guidance on creating an effective and enabling environment, advocacy briefing



What happens between the exchange meetings?

The PROMISE project aims to ensure that there is continuous exchange between the project partners, the exchange members, the experts and other interested actors throughout the project. We will facilitate dialogue through email, social media and our website.

The exchange members will also be invited to participate and contribute to:

- One Inter-regional Stakeholder Exchange (Linköping, Sweden, 28-29 November 2016).
- One European Conference in Brussels 13-14 June 2017
- One webinar in September 2017

Who are the exchange members?

The PROMISE project partners and experts have selected 12 pilot countries, in which they aim to create tangible results in terms of development and establishment of child-friendly multi-disciplinary and inter-agency models for child victims and witnesses of violence. The countries have been selected to reflect the diversity of European legal systems and socio-economic and cultural contexts and ensuring relevant geographical coverage.

1. Bulgaria
2. Cyprus
3. Estonia
4. Hungary
5. Latvia
6. Lithuania
7. Malta
8. Poland
9. Portugal
10. Romania
11. Spain
12. UK (Scotland and England)

The partners will invite one actor in each of these pilot countries to become an exchange member. The selection will be made on the basis of proven commitment to implementing multi-disciplinary and inter-agency models for child victims and witnesses of violence. The project is keen on supporting innovators and early adapters that have already shown that they have an interest and potential capacity to adapt and/or transform their current service delivery or advocate for an effective and enabling environment. The specific criteria for selecting these organisations include:

- *Commitment and resources* – does the service have the necessary commitment and resources to take part in the project in terms of time, staff, budget? What kind of commitment have they shown before? Have they already tried to take steps? Have they already expressed interest in the Barnahus model? Have they established contact with e.g. the Barnahus in Iceland or other partners?
- *Potential to transform own service* – how likely are they to use-implement the knowledge that they will gain from this project and how likely is it that the organisation can transform itself during or after the project?
- *Influence and impact on authorities and government* – how influential and linked up is the service to local authorities and relevant governmental institutions? Can they play a part in promoting MD/IA with Government and contribute to changes in the national context?



- *National network* – how linked up is the service to other services and stakeholders and how well is the service positioned in terms of transferring knowledge to a broader audience

What do we expect from the exchange members?

The project partners' expectations on the exchange members are closely linked to the selection criteria above. They include:

- Prior commitment to participate in all the exchange meetings and ongoing dialogue, sharing experience, tools, strategies, good practice and ways to overcome challenges
- Commitment to take steps to adapt and transfer project outputs and learnings for the benefit of own service delivery, including taking concrete steps towards MD/IA models drawing on international and regional law and guidance as well as the Barnahus model
- Commitment to communicate, promote and transfer project outputs and acquired knowledge on a national basis, reaching out to other actors that have an interest in MD/IA models
- Engage in advocacy activities towards an effective and enabling environment for MD/IA service delivery

The exchange members can rely on our support in the development and implementation of MD/IA models drawing on international and regional law and the Barnahus model in their respective countries. The exchange coordinator will be in regular contact with the exchange members to follow up and discuss the member's involvement in the exchange activities.

Attachment:

Addendum on selecting the PROMISE Project Countries and PROMISE pilot countries.

