

TOGETHER AGAINST VIOLENCE

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RESEARCH BACKGROUND

The project focuses on the prevention of cases of repeated violence by children and youth aged 14-18 in Bulgaria, Spain and Austria.

The main project goal is to increase the effectiveness of the work with adolescent perpetrators of violence in residential care through prevention and intervention actions that help the reduction of future aggressive behavior.

The specific aims of the project are directed towards the research and assessment of the factors resulting in acts of violence; description of the current system of services and its effectiveness and improvement of the effectiveness through provision of recommendations and information to the professional community.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

WHAT APPROACHES, METHODS AND SETTINGS OF PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION DECREASE REPEATED VIOLENT BEHAVIOR OF ADOLESCENTS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE?

More in detail that means to have a look on situations, emotions, learning and change processes that lead adolescent perpetrators of violence into aggressive behavior. Also the coping strategies, resources, situations, relationships and supporting networks that help them to control and reduce repeated violent behavior are of interest.

MAIN RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The main research objective is to understand the violent behavior of adolescent perpetrators of violence in residential care (14 – 18 years old) in Bulgaria, Austria and Spain (with focus on Catalunya) and to analyse the existing programs for youth violence prevention and interventions to combat violent behavior of adolescents in order to outline the effective ways to deal with repeated youth violence.

Thus, the study aims at sketching best practices, new directions and approaches to be used in programs and services for social intervention, as well as stronger preventive strategies for repeated violent behavior.

METHODOLOGY

The qualitative study is based on three countries e.g. Austria:

- 12 (6 male, 6 female) interviews with adolescent perpetrators of violence in residential care using biographical research method
- 4 (2 male, 2 female) interviews with parents of adolescent perpetrators of violence in residential care
- 6 interviews/group discussions with care takers and experts in the field of adolescent perpetrators of violence in residential care

The data is analysed with the qualitative content analysis by Mayring.

RESULTS

- All the institutions treat adolescents with complex problems and broken family structures
- Everyday work routine is the basic component of the 'Therapeutic Milieu'
- Attachment and relationship work are the core skills, provision of structure is their fundamental counterpart
- Psychotherapy offers a chance to help sustain change processes beyond the transition from the protected sphere into everyday life
- Networking is a must

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