

Make the difference

Working together for children in households
with addiction issues

NEWSLETTER 1



Participating
countries: Belgium,
Cyprus, Czech
Republic, Germany,
Greece, Finland, Italy,
the Netherlands,
Portugal, Spain,
Slovakia, Slovenia

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www.euronetprev.org/projects/makethedifference



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LWL
Für die Menschen.
Für Westfalen-Lippe.

About Make the difference!

What is the EU-project Make the difference about?



Make the difference aims to **prevent the endangerment to the welfare of children living in households with addiction issues** by promoting cooperation between help systems, qualifying professionals and embedding (existing) offers for the children.

Cooperation between help systems can be a challenge. The project specifically focuses on **how to reach a binding cooperation agreement between addiction care and youth welfare services** and how to actually live that cooperation. For this, a practical guide with instructions will be published.

In all 12 partner countries, a cooperation agreement will be prepared, signed and implemented within the course of the project (**Work package 2**).

In a second work stream, professionals from both help systems will be qualified on issues concerning the target group in a joint seminar. A curriculum for such a seminar will be published (**Work package 3**).

Finally, as a low-threshold help offer, a mentoring programme will be offered for children from families with addiction issues (**Work package 4**).

Project flyer in nine EU languages



Project meetings

After the workshop, a first draft of the guide has been prepared and handed to the project partners to start working along the individual modules with their local partners.

→ Read more about the guide in our next newsletter!

Seminar for professionals (Work package 3)

Work package 3 is all about qualification of professionals and providing security of action. In a hybrid 3-day seminar in Belgium (Hasselt) and online, project partners and their local cooperation partners have received up-to-date information on family dynamics, stress factors and developmental risks of affected children, protective factors and how to build resilience, and roles of affected children in their families.

The addiction help professionals have been informed about youth welfare-specific issues and the youth work professionals have gained basic knowledge on addiction issues and how to address these issues with their clients. The seminar included lectures, group work, discussing individual cases and discussions about the attitudes towards families with addiction issues.

Among other aspects, participants have discussed about different attitudes towards families with addiction issues and how to address the children or parenting issues with clients in (addiction) counselling. As a good practice process ("roadmap"), the Belgian kindreflex ("child reflex") has been presented and discussed. Find more information here: www.kindreflex.be.



Voices from partners

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE NETHERLANDS



The Make the difference team from the Netherlands (left to right): Linda van den Berg & Sonja Basemans from Tactus, Eva Jansen & Tessa Honing from Veilig Thuis.

Almere, Netherlands ■ In the Netherlands, we have many years of experience with children from families with addiction issues. Tactus and Veilig thuis (Safe at home) are glad to take part in the project Make the Difference! A binding and accepted cooperation requires that the addiction care and Safe home are actively involved in the development and agree on how to “live” this cooperation. We have spent the past months on getting to know each other and our respective organizations. During the first workshop, we were able to come together face-to-face (or rather face-to-screen-to-face) for the first time with our international partners. This allowed us to

brainstorm about what this project can become and begin to envision the change we can bring about for children living in homes with addiction problems.

We are looking forward to working together as a team to represent the Netherlands and to compare our experiences with the other countries involved and to disseminate our insights at European level.

Sonja Basemans, Tactus, the Netherlands



Outlook: Work Package 4

The German programme “Balu und Du” (Baloo and you) (<https://www.balu-und-du.de/>) serves as a role model for a mentoring approach in MTD. Work Package 4 aims to promote positive caring relationships to stable adults as a protective factor for the children in order to foster resilience.

A video in English describes what Baloo and You is about: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDy1aJ16z5U>.

More on Work Package 4 in the next newsletter!

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