



CONSCIOUS PROJECT IS CO-FUNDED BY THE RIGHT, EQUALITY AND
CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (2014-2020)
UNDER THE AGREEMENT N.810558



AN INTER-SYSTEMIC MODEL FOR PREVENTING REOFFENDING
BY PERPETRATORS GUILTY OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

CONSCIOUS: The European project preventing the recurrence of perpetrators

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"I don't want to come back to prison", "I would like to be a better father to my children" "I don't want that my partner leaves me or fears about me" These are just a few of the main reasons which leads perpetrators to attend to the European program CONSCIOUS, in its way of stimulating a prevention model of perpetration and in the perspective of a strictly contact with the offenders and with the correctional facilities among the different actors of the society involved. What are the results? Prevention is better than cure, also in terms of court fees.

In Europe, 1 woman out 3 suffers physical or sexual abuse as early as her adolescence, and men committing violence are at high risk of perpetrate it, unless they are involved in such a set of interventions aimed at achieving them. Nonetheless, in many European countries the interventions are concentrated overall upon the victims, trying to intervene at social, psychological, as well as legal level upon the violence consequences. However, taking care of the sole victims does not guarantee the social health prevention, as it does not manage to hit the heart of the problem; the perpetrator of the violence, his reasons and the socio-cultural leading causes to these determined actions. "Throwing away the key" just to say it by a metaphor, without taking into evidence the perpetration of the behaviour as imprisonment freezes emotions and feelings.

CONSCIOUS, in its attempt to fill in this gap, has developed a pattern to prevent the perpetration from the perpetrators of sex crimes, and domestic assault. Just by the name the project neatly expresses its purpose

of making person more conscious not only of his behaviour, but also of the damages which the victim suffers as for his behaviour. CONSCIOUS wants to implement the empathy, by increasing the ability of recognizing and managing its own impulses, its own emotions, its own livings. It basically grounds on an international net cooperation between authorities and social health services, administrative staff, civil and public security organizations. The aim is that to intervene upon the offenders inside and outside prisons, by helping them to reach their way of social acceptance.

In order to do this, some individuals detained for sexual abuse crimes have been involved (42 sex offenders, of which 9 perpetrators and 12 guilty of domestic abuses in the prison of Cassino, FR), or of domestic abuse in the family or against minors (in the prison of Frosinone), but also in a state of freedom subjects, and that they have answered to specific criteria of clinic eligibility. A first part consisted of the creation of a toolkit (see in "Further Information") composed by questionnaires planned and destined to be used both with men who have adhered to a program of treatment and with women, whose (former) partners would have participated to a program to help them to stop to domestic violence and abuses. The toolkit has been revealed an excellent instrument to evaluate the risk of perpetration; it is smart, conceived in English for its broadest broadening, which is applicable to the regional contexts, as well as national and European ones, as the research of social and legal pattern have showed.

The CONSCIOUS pattern has furthermore provided and increased, through training and specific courses, the professional skills of health -care providers for the treatment and the management of perpetrators and its endeavoured treatment services planned *ad hoc*, where the ambulatorial programs are free. It has furthermore activated some operational synergies both at national and European level, in the fight against violence and in preventing the same.

What are the results? For the subjects in the state of freedom we have shown how the reduction of the perpetration may allow to reduce the general costs (of the penal proceedings) related to the victims of violence, but just nothing for that. The costs of the prevention are in fact neatly inferior to those of treatment ex post in virtue of the fact that the better investments to the prevention produce more enduring and effective results, not just at individual level for the whole society and to the public services involved.

This has been made through the proposal of an evaluating model of the social and economic impact of the CONSCIOUS plan, a methodological instrument apt to evaluate the impact on the actions in the plan from a double point of view.

In the first part of the Model, we have been created a correct methodological approach at the end of an evaluation of the project on the user pathway. From this point of view. the purpose has been that of

providing useful information, not only for the evaluation of the perpetration and as well as in general, apt to the analysis of the re-introducing pathway in the society of the guilty.

At the end of proposing a correct evaluative model doing a brief survey has been precise to accomplish the modalities of evaluation of the projects which have as the perpetrators of the sex offenders' subjects as their object.

The survey has been used 65 surveys of unique evaluation, proceeding from 13 different European countries so distributed: Spain (n=22), United Kingdom (n=19), Germany (n=6), Swiss (n=4), Finland (n=4), Sweden (n=2), Austria (n=2), Ireland (n=1), Denmark (n=1), Iceland (n=1), Croatia (n=1), Netherlands (n=1), and Portugal (n=1).

The evaluation has happened through different instruments such as:

- the implementation and the proceedings of embedding and/or delivering programme;
- analyses of the outcome;
- the impact, even in the broader terms not provided by the program;
- the relation costs- benefits and cost- efficacy.

In the second part, the theme of the social and economic evaluation of the project has been faced up. Under this aspect, the objective has been that some indicators capable of measuring the costs, both in material terms and more in general, in "social" terms of a project which faces against a typology of deviance from particular traits, such as sexual abuses and in domestic environment. In particular, in the second part of the survey the aim is that of providing some indicators able to report intervention costs towards the typology of crimes, compared to those on the prevention would have been grounded towards the same.

The model means to assess an EVALUATION OF THE THEORY on basis of the CONSCIOUS project in order to demonstrate the hypotheses; a) the decrease of perpetration allows to reduce the general costs related to the victims of violence b) the costs of prevention produce more enduring and effective results not only from individual level but also for the whole society and the public services involved.

The model claims to the application of an approach of TRAINING/ CONSTRUCTIVE EVALUATION (Stufflebam & Shinkfiels, 2007), in order to provide indications and integrations for orienting regional planning (of the Lazio Region), foreseeing the programming of funds POR/FESR.

CONSCIOUS has answered in a concrete way to the widest and multi-facet needs (social, cultural and governance policies) to proceed in the direction of a specific treatment of the perpetrators of sexual abuses. The last purpose is that of being able to preserve their right to the health, namely the right of having a sexual and behavioural habit more adequate, in the respect of the essential needs under the legal and penal

perspectives as well as of social security of the community. And not just like that. One of the crucial points of the project is that of having planned cultural events (based on the equal rights and principles of gender equality between men and women, female empowerment, etc) as an indispensable premise to the implementation of the activity of preventing and sensitising violence crimes. Simply making global and systematic actions to a broader spectrum that you may think to put under control that risk of perpetration and to start thinking in terms of an effective protection of the society and the protection of the crimes of violence, abuse and sexual harnessing.

Acknowledgments and partnerships

The project has been co-financed by Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union, front-runner of the Department of Mental Health and the diseases from addiction of the ASL of Frosinone in partnership with the guarantor of the Prisoners of Lazio and the Department of Law of the University of Turin with the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence and the National Centre for Research on the law of the Family and of Minors. CONSCIOUS has been sustained in addition to the correctional facilities of Cassino and Frosinone, from the Regional Division of the Correctional Department of Lazio, Abruzzo, and Molise, from the Court of Surveillance of Rome, from the Bureau of Penal Execution outside the Detention of Frosinone and of Cassino, by the support of Insieme verso Nuovi Orizzonti ONLUS and CNCA of Lazio.

The research leading to this publication has received funding from the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union (2014-2020) under the agreement n. 810588. This publication reflects only the author's view and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.