

European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I

Approved by the EUCPN Management Board in 2018

Please complete the template in English in compliance with the ECPA criteria contained in the Rules and procedures for awarding and presenting the European Crime Prevention Award (Par.2 §3).

General information

1. Please specify your country.

Italy

2. Is this your country's ECPA entry or an additional project?

ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

Service for the implementation of socio-educational case management within the "Liberi di scegliere" project – CIG: 771400022e - CUP: J79d18000020005

4. Who is responsible for the project? Contact details.

As specified in the project contract:

Raffaele Bracalenti, President and Legal Representative of the Psychoanalytic Institute for Social Research (Istituto Psicoanalitico per le Ricerche Sociali – IPRS)

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www.iprs.it

5. Start date of the project (dd/mm/yyyy)? Is the project still running (Yes/No)? If not, please provide the end date of the project.

Start date:16/9/2019

The project is still running.

6. Where can we find more information about the project? Please provide links to the project's website or online reports or publications (preferably in English).

<https://www.iprs.it/progetti/liberi-di-scegliere/>

<https://www.iprs.it/evento/minori-di-camorra-e-ndrangheta-storie-famigliari-a-confronto/>

<https://www.iprs.it/evento/minori-di-camorra-e-ndrangheta-storie-famigliari-a-confronto-2-incontro/>

The above two training events are available on the you tube channel of the Psychoanalytic Institute for Social Research. See the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIIAZQkm1HeBCY39Mtwb16A>

7. Please give a **one page** description of the project (**Max. 600 words**)

The issue of juvenile delinquency elicits, at times, both surprise and worry. Despite the fact that crime statistics in general, and juvenile delinquency in particular, demonstrate a trend that tends to decrease, the widespread perceptions in civil society is that of an increasing in crime concern about crime and intolerance towards crime and delinquent acts. This anxiety often leads to calls for more repressive actions with little or no reflection on how the justice system operates in its attempt to rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders in society.

The **Ministry of Justice – Department of Juvenile Justice** has sought to give life to a project – “Liberi di Scegliere” which means “Free to choose”, with the aim of containing juvenile delinquency in areas with a significant mafia presence and initiate a process of re-thinking the practices employed by the juvenile justices in two regions in southern Italy: Calabria and Campania. The outcome of the mental and educational experiences demonstrates how 30 years of work (from the entry into law of the 1988 code on criminal proceedings for minors), which has constituted itself as a functional approach in most of the country within juvenile justice seems to have failed in the regions involved in the project, which have a high level interference by the mafia: the psychological and criminological complexity of the profiles and pathways undertaken by the juveniles involved; the severity of the crimes committed; the detachment from educational institutions; and the complexity of the work with the families render the tools that form the foundation for social work and rehabilitation inadequate. Juvenile justice in Italy has always sought to place educational work with minors who commit a crime at the forefront. This is a choice that places the Italian system amongst the most advanced in Europe. The system cannot ignore the challenges and need to constantly verify and eventually re-think practices and intervention tools.

IPRS, with KPMG, was awarded this project with a proposal whose strengths reside in its capacity to produce an in-depth analysis of the historical and social strengths in the Camorra and 'ndranghetta; in the experimentation, amongst the first in Italy, of psychological and sociological profiling tools that are in use in many advanced justice systems; the development of innovative tools for working with families; in re-thinking network-based work with educational institutions; and, finally, in pilot testing new working methods with 50 juvenile cases with a high level of complexity in terms of the social and criminological profile.

I. The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme.

8. Which **crime prevention/ reduction mechanisms** were used in this project to contribute to crime prevention and/or the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? Multiple answers are possible.

Establishing and maintaining normative barriers to committing criminal acts

e.g. 'Offenders, we are watching you' campaigns

Reducing recruitment to criminal social environments and activities by eliminating or reducing the social and individual causes and processes that lead to criminality

e.g. social and financial support for disadvantaged families

Deterring potential perpetrators from committing crimes through the threat of punishment

e.g. decreasing the time between arrest and punishment

Disrupting criminal acts by stopping them before they are carried out

e.g. increasing police patrols in vulnerable areas

Protecting vulnerable targets by reducing opportunities and make it more demanding to carry out criminal acts

e.g. placing locks and cameras

Reducing the harmful consequences of criminal acts

e.g. initiatives to recover stolen goods

Reducing the rewards from criminal acts

e.g. restorative justice programmes

Incapacitating (or neutralising) perpetrators by denying them the ability (capacity) to carry out new criminal acts

e.g. imprisonment of key gang members

Encouraging desistance from crime and rehabilitating former offenders so they are able to settle back into a normal life

e.g. prison rehabilitation programs

Explain how this/these crime prevention mechanisms were used ((**Max. 300 words**))

The mafia often represents the only recognizable and foreseeable future for youth growing up in an area with a high mafia presence. The *Liberi di Scegliere* project has sought to reinforce services offered by the juvenile justice system taking into consideration the complexity of the target group, guaranteeing the implementation of the intervention with the youth via the utilization of a continuous and multi-disciplinary global approach capable of keeping together distinct areas of work while utilizing a perspective capable of permeating the psychological profile and carefully balancing skills and co-development with key actors in the area. This approach also foresees the establishment of a dialogue, where possible, with the minor's family of origin or at least with some family

members, as the family is considered to be a resource in the construction of a rehabilitation plan. Working with families also makes it possible to intervene in relation to other family members (notably siblings) that are not yet involved in crime. This allows for the prevention of delinquency via the use of innovative social work tools that may also include the community (e.g., family group conferencing).

The involvement of the community within restorative justice, which entails a meeting between the victim and the offender where possible, can be used in areas with a high mafia presence. This represents an additional positive factor for rehabilitation plans with justice involved youth that supports their ability to understand the effects of their criminal acts, thereby supporting "a change in direction" towards non-delinquency

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives. For more information on evaluation, click [here](#)

9. What were the reasons for setting up the project? Was this context analysed before the project was initiated and in what way (How, and by whom? Which data were used?)? In what way did this analysis inform the set-up of the project? (**Max. 150 words**)

A lot of research addresses the involvement of minors in the 'ndranghetta and Camorra. In 2012 di Bella, then president of the Juvenile Court of Reggio Calabria, identified network reinforcement as a renewed educational alliance between agencies as key to reintegration efforts with juveniles from mafia families. He further identified the methodological pillars for juvenile justice system actions against the mafia in the specialization and enhancement of interventions that support reintegration programmes. This experience, however, is not always replicable given the unique nature of different mafia groups. The project derives from the needs identified by di Bella and proposed new practices that foresee more structured and multi-disciplinary work with juvenile offenders. This includes pilot-testing interventions in which local private and public agencies work with public institutions in activating reinforced-specialized teams that provide the psychological and social support to minors while maintaining juvenile justice actions in relation to the target group.

10. What were the objective(s) of the project? Please, if applicable, distinguish between main and secondary objectives. (**Max. 150 words**)

Main objectives:

Reduce mafia reliance on juvenile delinquency; develop plans coherent with the individual minor's needs for minors from mafia families

Provide alternatives to the children of mafia families or those who live in an area with a high mafia presence

Secondary objectives:

Initiate a process of rethinking the practices used by the Juvenile Justice Offices in the two southern regions;

Accompany the family of juvenile delinquents utilizing a systemic framework;

Support networking between actors that provide care or services to the minor.

11. Has there been a process evaluation?¹ Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what were the main results? Which indicators were used to measure the process? Did you make changes accordingly? **(max. 300 words)**

The project foresees a continuous internal evaluation process conducted by the granting organization, the Ministry of Justice – Department of Juvenile Justice, that in turn falls under the NATIONAL OPERATIVE PROGRAMME “LEGALITY” (PON) ERDF/ESF 2014-2020:

The reference indicators for PON legality are subdivided as follows:

a) Physical indicators

- Disadvantaged minors and minors at risk of mafia involvement
- Network meetings
- Juvenile case supervision
- Number of practitioners involved

Other indicators in regards to the ongoing implementation relate to multi-actor team meetings as opportunities to discuss individual cases in-depth.

b) Outcome indicators

- Disadvantaged minors engaged in: job search, education/training, the acquisition of a diploma, or employment (including self-employment) at the conclusion of their participation in the project.

¹**Process evaluation:** Also called *implementation evaluation*, or *monitoring*, this process documents **how the activities were implemented** in order to determine any deviations from the original planning. It facilitates finding explanations for when the results of the intervention are not as expected.

12. Has there been an outcome² or impact³ evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method were used and what were the main results? Which indicators were used to measure the impact? (**Max. 300 words**)

As the project is ongoing, it is not yet possible to determine the impact of project activities. Nonetheless, the ongoing evaluation makes it possible to identify the current state of achievement in relation to objectives primarily connected to:

- The definition of an integrated multi-actor, multi-agency methodology for interventions and the development of operational models
- The consolidation of inter-service interventions
- Reinforcement of professional psycho-social-educational skills needed in working with minors in a mafia environment
- The activation of integrated teams
- Reinforcement of the provision of services for minors including the provision of services to families (especially brothers/sisters and mothers)

III. The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.

13. How is the project innovative in its methods and/or approaches? (**Max. 150 words**)

The project maximizes the value of multi-disciplinary teamwork supported by continuous supervision. The following innovative methodologies maximize its efficacy:

- Psychological and criminological profiling: an in-depth clinical exploration of the minor's personal, family and social context;

²**Outcome evaluation:** Measures the **direct effect** (i.e., extent of the changes) **of the intervention on the target group, population, or geographic area**. The information produced by the outcome evaluation determines at what level the **objectives were achieved**.

³**Impact evaluation:** Measures **long-term effects** of the intervention on the target group, as well as **indirect effects** on the broader community. The information produced by the impact evaluation determines at what level the **ultimate goals** of the intervention were achieved.

- Teamwork, supported by an online platform, that enables various professionals to provide services to the minor concurrently;
- Work with the juvenile offender's family: use of family group conferencing to create a support network that promotes non-deviant behavior within a systemic framework;
- The balancing of skills and support for specialized practitioners in promoting future prospects that reflect the minor's capacity and aspirations;
- The involvement of all local actors in integrating the minor while promoting a sense of community responsibility towards the conditions that promote delinquency in places with a high mafia presence.

Victim-offender mediation as a means to work on empathy and the acquisition of understanding of the effects of crime.

IV. The project shall be based on cooperation between partners, where possible.

14. Which partners or stakeholders were involved in the project and what was their involvement? (**Max. 200 words**)

1. Juvenile Justice Services (Campania – Calabria) responsible for the juvenile cases
2. University professors for training to juvenile justice practitioners on the topic of the mafia and the Camorra
3. Stakeholders and local actors for the creation of training courses and reintegration plans for the juveniles involved:

- a) Mestieri Campania;
- b) Assofram (accredited educational body);
- c) Unione Industriali Campania;
- d) Villa Cimbrone Ravello;
- e) Istituto Toniolo Napoli;
- f) Imam Napoli;
- g) Itis Elena di Savoia Napoli
- h) Agenzia Work (Reggio Calabria);
- i) Istituto Don Milani Reggio Calabria;
- j) Libera Reggio Calabria;
- k) Ass. Bytesud;
- l) LegaNavale;
- m) Ass. Abaki;
- n) Coop. Altea

V. The project shall be capable of replication in other Member States.

15. How and by whom is the project funded? (**Max. 150 words**)

The project was funded by the Ministry of Justice (Juvenile Justice Department) - Rome, Via Damiano Chiesa 24, 00136, C.F. 97113870584 -

through a program financed by European Union fund: National Operational Programme Programma Operativo Nazionale "Legalità" Fesr/Fse 2014-2020. The procurement was assigned after an open call for tender.

Project number and reference:

Project "Liberi di Scegliere" CUP: J79D18000020005 CIG: 771400022E

16. What were the costs of the project in terms of finances, material and human resources? (**Max. 150 words**)

Value of the project: 484.665,00 €

n. of hours: 1680

According to the provisions of the tender specification, the Project was weighted as required, in terms of man-hours carried out by a team of high level of experts. The use of highly skilled human resources with high expertise in crime prevention allowed for the achievement of the expected objectives.

17. Has a cost-benefit analysis⁴ been carried out? If so, describe the analysis, including how and by whom it was carried out and list the main findings of the analysis. (**Max. 150 words**)

The project is still running. The cost benefit analysis has not been conducted yet. The project indicators, however, demonstrate a high level of efficiency for the activities carried out.

18. Are there adjustments to be made to the project to ensure a successful replication in another Member State?

No. Even if the Liberi di Scegliere project originated in an effort to support the Juvenile Justice Department in their work with minors in areas with high levels of mafia activity, this could be replicated in other European countries. The model developed is not only applicable in situations involving the mafia, but in all situations where the juvenile delinquents belong to families with a tradition of crime and delinquency.

⁴**Cost-benefit analysis:** A type of economic evaluation that compares the direct and indirect cost of the resources employed in the intervention, with the equivalent economic value of the benefits.

19. How is the project relevant for other Member States? Please explain the European dimension of your project.

The mafia is not only an issue for Italy, even if it has its origins there. Numerous studies demonstrate that the various mafia groups have gained economic significance, which includes both legal and illegal activity, in Europe and represent a dangerous and pervasive form of organized crime against which it appears increasingly difficult to intervene both in Europe and globally. Liberi di Scegliere is therefore a project that has a significant impact on mafia related crime in that the project targets the mafia's new levers, reducing their stay within Italian and foreign criminal environments. On the other hand, the project tests new practices within juvenile justice involving the provision of services in response to complex disadvantaged situations. A global intervention becomes necessary when the family of origin represents the source of the disadvantage. In such cases the juvenile justice system cannot be the sole actor. The response must be multi-disciplinary and integrated.

Working in Italy on the specific needs of the target youth, as Libero di Scegliere is doing, has a positive effect in Europe as well due to the weakening of the strength of the Italian mafia groups. On the other hand, European countries could utilize experience acquired via Liberi di Scegliere in the treatment of minors that are particularly at-risk, testing the integrated work, involving networks and teams, that this project has adopted as its principal distinctive component.

In general, when a minor enters the justice system, this entry should represent an opportunity to change the direction of the minor's life. Liberi di Scegliere allows minors to stop and engage in self-reflection, identifying their own skills and strengths as well as the weaknesses they need to work on. In this sense the minor becomes a protagonist in their own lives even if they come from disadvantaged/mafia environments/families. The minor has the opportunity to experience real life alternatives. The psychological and criminological profiling, the balancing of competencies, and the constant teamwork are all replicable in any EU country.

Please provide a short general description of the project (abstract for inclusion in the conference booklet – **max. 150 words**).

Juvenile crime, above all when mafia involved, merits specific attention in that it leads to specific situations that require interventions specifically calibrated to address the unique issues involved. The Liberi di Scegliere project aims to address this phenomenon via the utilization of a multi-disciplinary approach that makes

teamwork the distinctive element within juvenile justice services in an effort to provide services to the minor within a system framework and disengage him/her from the deviant trajectories in s/he is involved.