



**Project “TOGETHER AGAINST VIOLENCE”  
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# **Recommendations for raising the effectiveness of the work towards prevention of repeated violence**

**Austria, Bulgaria, Spain**



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### **Target group:**

Adolescent perpetrators of violence in residential care (14–18 years old) in Austria, Bulgaria and Spain (with a focus on Catalonia)



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### Key findings and conclusions of the research

#### *1. Understanding the violent behavior of adolescent perpetrators in residential care*

Main factors leading to acts of violence in all three countries:

- *Personal factors;*
- *Peers' influence;*
- *Family factors;*
- *Significant impact of networks and society.*



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### **Key findings and conclusions of the research:**

1. Understanding the violent behavior of adolescent perpetrators in residential care

### ***2. Prevention of youth violence***

**The systems in three countries differ in their degree of development and their preferred methodologies.**

- Prevention programs
- Residential facilities
- Post-residential care services



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### *Main Challenges in* Austria, Bulgaria and Spain

- **Working with families**, especially where children need to be removed from their family environment;
- Involving all family members and **identifying the significant adult** where the child’s removal from the family is required;
- Ensuring sufficient **financial resources** for the development of various preventive support programs;



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- Overcoming the **deficiency** of professionals trained specifically to work with violent youth, e.g. social workers, educators, care givers;
- Coping with the **devaluation & burnout** of professionals and the vulnerability of staff;
- Ameliorating the cooperation between different institutions and making up for poor **regional coordination**.



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- **Cooperation** between the professionals working with the youngsters;
- Introducing **casework** as a process of setting clear goals, objectives and indicators for measurement of the achievements and changes;
- Ensuring the **participation** of children and young people in the planning and decision-making processes affecting their lives;
- **Indicators** - measurement tool to assess and monitor the work as a part of a monitoring system.





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- Developing **various models** of residential support to ensure a change in children’s behavior.
- Overcoming the incompleteness of processes due to age: **all service provision is limited to the age of 18**, with few options of supporting the child’s advancement into adult life;
- **Overcoming the shortage of foster parents**, who are professionally trained and willing to assume charge of youngsters with violent behavior over fixed periods of time.



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### Principles of operation for the prevention of repeated violence

- **necessity and sufficiency** of the available services for the support of the child’s entire development;
- providing services, **after consultations with the family and children**;
- providing support for the family as a **primary** intervention;
- strengthening the families and reintegration as a **priority**;
- **minimize** the influence of negative factors, which lead to violent activities and provoke receded act .



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- Relevance :**

the individual approach, the needs assessment and planning for every child, depending on his/her needs;

- The best interest of the child and his/her right to participate:**

the child’s right to participate actively, to be heard and to initiate specific goals and activities supporting his/her development with a view of preventing repeated acts of violence;

- Right for protection and a safe environment**

- Inclusion of the significant adults**



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### Structure of the recommendations:

The recommendations are developed **as a number of work standards and practical advising for their implementation.**

**Standards are divided in groups** differentiated according to support and service provision. A group of standards refers to the content and process of support.





***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION***

