

Keeping Youth Away from Crime: Searching for Best European Practices

Definition Early prevention

Early prevention was recognized as a crucial and “essential part of crime prevention in society” by the United Nations in their Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (1990), also known as the Riyadh Guidelines, thus highlighting the key role of early prevention in deterring children from crime.

The Guidelines also stresses the importance of the participation of the entire society in creating an environment for children that is conducive to developing “non-criminogenic attitudes” and successfully prevent juvenile delinquency. The creation of such an environment requires the implementation of “lawful, socially useful activities”, whose aim is to ensure the harmonious development of adolescents, while respecting and promoting their personality from early childhood.

Resolution 45/112 - United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency - "The Riyadh Guidelines" (1990) - <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/juvenile.htm>

The “Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators” published by United Nations Office on drugs and Crime in 2008 further advocates for the creation of such an environment, so as to ensure for the children a “meaningful life in the community”, and which will foster a process of personal development and education that is as free from crime and delinquency as possible.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "Manual for the Measurement of Juvenile Justice Indicators" (United Nations, New York, 2008) - http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/06-55616_ebook.pdf

UNICEF, in a digest on Juvenile Justice, lists a series of general measures to promote social justice and equal opportunity, which thus tackle perceived root causes of offending such as poverty and other forms of marginalization.

UNICEF feels that primary prevention makes easier the implementation of “programming and policy development at all levels in spheres ranging from community health to education and family support services”. Here again, all the members of society are called upon to “contribute to the prevention of juvenile offending”,

UNICEF, Juvenile Justice, Innocenti Digest - <http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/digest3e.pdf>

In its World Report on Violence and Health (2002), the World Health Organization also presents several approaches (whether individual, relationship or societal approaches, and community-based efforts) and programmes around the world that aim at preventing violence before it occurs.

World Health Organisation. World Report on Violence and Health - Summary, (Geneva 2002)
http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/summary_en.pdf

Following this, we can assert that “early prevention” refers to a series of actions which aim at creating an environment that deters children from persistent disruptive behaviour and early-onset delinquency. By involving the entire society and implementing specific actions (lawful and socially useful), we can ensure that the personal development of children is as harmonious and as free from crime as possible.

Research Structure

Abstract of the national report>

Short version of the report that we will be published at the first page and will describe the content of the report. (half page)

Introduction

Description of the section.

Broad presentation of the issue of JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION and Early Prevention in the country

I Developing a prevention at early stages, overview of the systems.

(10 pages maximum)

Background summary (including SES, youth crime data & trends)

Some historical background to situate the information to follow, i.e. to help understand the specific context in which, for instance, the child protection system has evolved

Particular attention should be paid to issues of gender, ethnic background and similarities/differences between rural - urban areas throughout the research If people want to read more - there must be some references, researches (titles should be translated from national languages to English) etc.*

A. Youth Justice System

Section description

Broad principles of legislation (extent to which people have a say in decisions concerning their lives, young people's rights are respected and put in practice, children participation. Alternatives to detention, diversion)

1. Broad Principles of the Youth Justice System
2. What are the main bodies/institutions dealing with Juvenile crime prevention (an explained Diagram could be enough) and Which collaboration exists between these services?
3. The right of children and Young people in conflict with the law. How these rights are respected? (recent reforms)
4. Diversion measures

B. Youth care System from the scope of juvenile crime prevention

Section description

Is there a child protection system (when (using which criteria) is a child and/or family provided extra support from child protection services? When is a child deemed to be at

risk?). how the monitoring is done? what is the available recreation? health support? what linkages, if any, exist with (juvenile) justice system?

1. Description of the child protection system
2. Monitoring mechanisms
3. Criteria for placement or supervision
4. recreational activities and the issue of budget

C. Education system (10 - 18 years old) form the scope of Juvenile crime prevention

1. levels of attainment and what is available to all children - personal social education? what is available to children at risk? Which after-hours support is offered to children?
2. Special schools
3. school dropouts - criteria for exclusion from school?

D. Short presentation of health system

1. early screening of mental health and intellectual disabilities
2. Prevention of drugs consumption and support for addicted children
3. General health mechanisms and support for vulnerable families and children

II. Juvenile Crime Prevention Strategies

Section description

Principles of juvenile crime prevention and early prevention systems

1. Broad principles of the Juvenile crime Prevention and Early Prevention systems
2. Is juvenile crime prevention a priority? Which priorities within the Juvenile Crime prevention national plans (drugs, recidivism, etc.)
2. Development of professional skills. Are there specific institutions which provide training on Juvenile Crime Prevention.
3. Role of Local communities and town in juvenile crime prevention policies and strategies.
4. Juvenile Crime prevention strategy budget.

III. Promising practices in early juvenile crime prevention

DEFINE A SPECIFIC PROBLEM BY COUNTRY AND A PROMISING PRACTICE TO TACKLE THIS ISSUE.

Section description.

Initiatives can be described even if they are not implemented.

Describing the practices - two projects per country that are successfully implemented and working. As much as possible include practices that have undergone some form of comprehensive evaluation. Clarify how programs were evaluated and the reasons they are deemed to be 'good practice'.

Some tips.

Identify specialists - to talk about effective practice

Interview - semi structured, quite broad questions (to allow for some form of comparison, similar interview schedules should be used in the different countries)

Describe the role of local communities / towns in juvenile crime prevention policies.

III Evaluation mechanisms for early juvenile crime prevention programs

Some tips.

How do we think about it? How the practice can be found in case for, e.g. absentees etc. - in a broader perspective.

Programs that do not stigmatize the children and their families.

Prevention of crime

How is evaluation (of programs geared toward prevention of youth crime e.g.) done in the various countries?

Conclusion and Recommendations

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Some tips

- maximum number of pages per country report – 50 more references and annex.

Agenda

	Deadline
Send the definition and structure of the national research to partner to get their feedback before next meeting in October.	Before September 2013
First draft of the national research to be circulated among partners for comments from Providus and IJJO	End of January 2014
Final version of the national research	June 2014
Edition and Publication summer	September 2014
Promotion	October 2014