

Partner information



SURT. Women's Foundation. Private Foundation - SURT is feminist foundation based in Barcelona working with women and for women since 1993. SURT is committed to women in the effort to build a society with gender equality and free of gender-based violence. SURT's work aims at supporting women's empowerment, fostering their autonomy and leadership. To achieve this aim, SURT works in the following fields: economic empowerment, personal empowerment, community based empowerment and knowledge and advocacy. For more information visit <http://surt.org/en/>



Dissens – Institute for Education and Research (Berlin, Germany) is an NGO founded in 1989 with the aim to promote gender equality, acceptance of diversity and to end discrimination and violence. Dissens does research, counselling and further education on issues such as boys, men and masculinity, gender-reflective pedagogy, prevention of and interventions after violence, multidimensional discrimination, neo-Nazism prevention and gender equality. For more information visit <http://www.dissens.de>



Verein für Männer- und Geschlechterthemen Steiermark (VMG) / Association for Men's and Gender Issues Styria (AMGI) AMGI is a NGO/NPO in Styria (Austria), founded in 1996. The main centre is located in Graz. The centre provides masculinity research and gender education, gender-reflecting work with male youngsters, work with perpetrators of violence as well as counselling and group work through a multi-professional team and specialised in men's issues. For more information visit <http://www.vmg-steiermark.at>



Animus Association Foundation Animus Association Foundation works in support of families and children at risk and survivors of violence. The mission of AAF is to promote healthy communication among people and gender equality in Bulgarian society through developing accessible psychotherapeutic services, establishing social attitudes of tolerance towards differences, respect for suffering and non-acceptance of violence. AAF was founded in 1994 as non-governmental organisation, in 2001, it acquired the status of a public benefit organisation. For more information visit <http://animusassociation.org/en/>



The Istituto degli Innocenti (IDI) (www.istitutodegliinnocenti.it) is a public body that carries out documentation, research, analysis and training on matters related to the promotion of children's rights. At national level IDI performs the functions of National Center of Documentation and Analysis on Childhood and Adolescence (www.minori.it); and has an agreement with the Department of Equal opportunities and the Commission for Intercountry Adoptions. IDI has also established, together with I.R.C - UNICEF the Biblioteca Innocenti Library - www.biblioteca.istitutodegliinnocenti.it



Children in Scotland is the umbrella body for the children's sector, representing children's services organisations and individuals across the voluntary, private and public sectors. We work to influence politicians and policy-makers, as well as to inform and train the sector workforce, and give practitioners, parents and children and young people a real voice in shaping the future of childhood in Scotland. For more information visit www.childreninscotland.org.uk

Associate partners and co-financers of the project:

The Scottish Government Looked After Children Division is also supporting the project.



ALTER
NATIVE
FUTURE

An ALTERNATIVE FUTURE for young people who have lived with violence



Co-funded by the European Union

This publication has been produced with the financial support of the REC programme 2014-2020.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Alternative Future project team, and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

alternativefuture.eu

About Alternative Future

Alternative Future is an innovative project aimed at improving the lives and life chances of young people who have experienced violence. It is being delivered by a partnership of organisations across six European countries – Spain, Bulgaria, Scotland, Italy, Germany and Austria, and is funded under the Rights, Education and Citizenship programme of the European Union.

How the project carries out its work

The first step is to speak directly to young people who live in residential care settings, so that we can understand better how they perceive, understand and reflect on violence. This group of young people has been chosen as many of them will have direct experience of violence, through physical assault, sexual abuse, coercion by adults and aggression within peer relationships. The project team is speaking to young people in all six partner countries, to gather and reflect a diverse range of circumstances, experiences and contexts. The team is also gathering information from practitioners.



The information gathered from the young people and staff will be used to develop learning resources. These will build the capacity of staff to work more effectively with young people who have experience of violence and its continuing adverse effects. This information will be shared at a number of dissemination seminars – five or six in each participating country – after the support work with the young people, so we hope to reach a substantial number of practitioners and share the work of the project with them. Work with practitioners through the learning events should result in a number of identifiable actions to empower and support young people who have experience of violence, with particular emphasis on young people within the care system.

Informing policy at national and European level is a key part of project activity. We will hold an event where practitioners and partners will meet to share knowledge across the six nations and to learn from each other. We will also hold a seminar in each country, to which we will invite key decision-makers and influencers. A final European symposium will be held in Edinburgh near the end of 2017.

What we will produce

The main output of the project will be a Transnational Good Practice Catalogue, which will be the result of all the aforementioned activity. There is a project website alternativefuture.eu where the learning materials and methods will remain available after the project ends.

Positive and lasting change

Alternative Future will conclude its work at the end of 2017. We see it as the beginning, not the end, of a process. We hope to sow the seeds of better realising the rights of young people, of better understanding the effect of violence on their health and wellbeing, and of improving capacity in the workforce to support them during the life of the project. We want these seeds to take root and grow so that children's rights are respected and upheld in our care systems and throughout our services and so that young people move on from care with the same confidence and optimism as any other young person approaching adulthood.

Through our contact with policy makers we will seek to improve public policy in respect of children's and young people's rights, to secure commitment to continuous improvement in the life outcomes for young people who are care experienced, to ensure that gender perspective is taken into account within children rights policies and to work towards eliminating the difference in outcomes between them and other young people of their age.

The skills of practitioners who work with vulnerable young people will be improved and their capacity to respond sensitively and constructively enhanced. While we will reach a significant number of staff in the learning events, we aim to ensure that overall culture and practice in care settings improves as the staff who participate share their knowledge with their colleagues.



Keep in touch!

We want as many people as possible to know about Alternative Future so please pass this information on to anyone you think might be interested. More information about the project and the partner organisations can be found at alternativefuture.eu.

Details of learning events will be circulated later with information on how to book a place.

We will be happy to hear from you and answer any questions. You can subscribe to the newsletter by sending an e-mail to us:

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