



European Approaches tackling Child Abuse and Neglect: An Evaluation in 5 European Countries

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This presentation

1. Prevent and combat CAN: What works?

European (Daphne) project
in 5 Countries

2. A Child Advocacy Center (Children's House) in The Netherlands



Project: “Prevent and combat CAN: What works?”

1. Workstreams:
 - 1 - Overview of policy and practice
 - 2 - Research amongst professionals and parents
 - 3 - Manual: what works?

2. Overview (workstream 1)

3. Practitioners and parents (workstream 2):
first findings



Timetable “Prevent and combat CAN: What works?”

1. Workstreams:

1 - Overview of policy and practice (January 2012)

2 - Research amongst professionals and parents
(2012; in process)

3 - Manual: what works? January 2013



Overview: European project in 5 countries:

- Netherlands
- Sweden
- Germany
- Hungary
- Portugal





Legislation on corporal punishment

Corporal punishment prohibited in all settings (schools, penal system, alternative care), including the home.

	Since:
Sweden	1979
Germany	2000
Hungary	2005
The Netherlands	2007
Portugal	2007



Global Initiative to
**End All Corporal Punishment
of Children**



Main characteristics: countries

	Germany	Hungary	Portugal	Sweden	The Netherlands
The child welfare system					The distinction general and preventive youth policy and the child and youth social care system
Universal and preventive services					Both, Centre for youth and families
Detecting, reporting and stopping of child abuse and neglect					No reporting duty & Reporting code still has to come a law.
Care services					Child protection is dealt with separately from youth care.
The integration of services					Many different initiatives of integrating services, including centres for youth & families, care and advice teams and safety houses
The education and training of professionals					Initially: hardly any attention; nowadays: Reporting Code & separate initiatives

Example: The Netherlands

- *The child welfare system:* Distinction between general and preventive youth policy & the child and youth social care system.
- *Detecting, reporting and stopping of CAN:* No reporting duty & Reporting *code* still has to come legally based.
- *Care services:* Child protection is dealt with separately from youth care.





Main characteristics per issue

	Germany	Hungary	Portugal	Sweden	The Netherlands
The child welfare system	by law, the child authority has to ensure a wide variety of services	great difference between policy and practice.	focus on the child protection system	strong emphasis on preventive and early interventions (within universal services)	The distinction general and preventive youth policy and the child and youth social care system
Universal and preventive services					
Detecting, reporting and stopping of child abuse and neglect					
Care services					
The integration of services					
The education and training of professionals					

The child welfare system

- *Germany*: by law, the child authority has to ensure a wide variety of services.
- *Hungary*: great difference between policy (+) and practice (-).
- *Portugal*: Focus on the (layered) child protection system.
- *Sweden*: strong emphasis on preventive and early interventions (within universal services).
- *The Netherlands*: distinction between general and preventive youth policy and the child and youth social care system.



Universal and preventive services

- *Germany*: Both, + The Federal Program ‘Early Prevention’ (2005)
- *Hungary*: Lack of specific universal or targeted services for the population at risk.
- *Portugal*: ECMIJ
- *Sweden*: Both, + Interventions for families and children with special needs are undertaken within the framework of the same interventions of the universal services.
- *The Netherlands*: Both, + Centres for Youth & Families.





Detecting, reporting and stopping of CAN

All, except Netherlands: Mandatory Reporting

- *Germany: Various rules, requirements and tasks for professionals in different fields.*
- *Hungary: Mandatory reporting, but no legal consequences.*
- *Portugal: Mandatory reporting for everyone, & rather complex legislation.*
- *Sweden: special legal representative for child.*
- *The Netherlands: Reporting code still has to become legally based.*

Care services

- All: few specific treatment for victims*
- *Germany:* Residential facilities for parents & their children.
 - *Hungary:* No attention to perpetrators of CAN.
 - *Portugal:* Oriented at domestic violence
Care services for victims are outlined in legislation. Treatment for perpetrators is not nationally spread, but exists locally
 - *Sweden:* Children's houses (Barnahus).
 - *The Netherlands:* Child protection is dealt with separately from youth care.





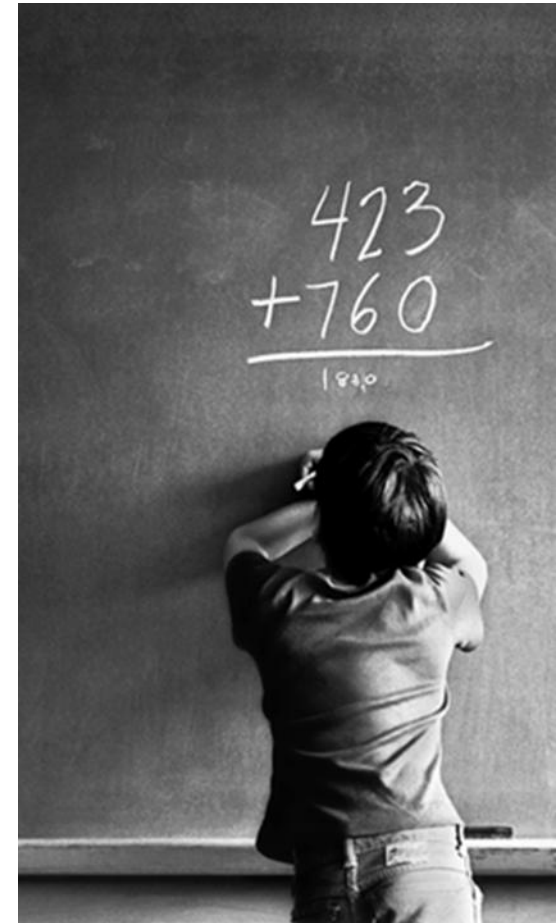
The integration of services:

- *Germany:* Federal Child Protection Act (in process).
- *Hungary:* The duty to cooperate is laid down in legislation.
- *Portugal:* CPCJs; integration (duty to cooperate) is laid down in legislation.
- *Sweden:* Many different initiatives of integrating services, including family centres & children's houses. Government stimulates cooperation.
- *The Netherlands:* Also many different initiatives of integrating services, including centres for youth & families, care and advice teams and safety houses.



The education and training of professionals

- *Germany*: Various developments.
- *Hungary*: No efforts at national level, but efforts by some professional groups and professions.
- *Portugal*: Some education and training of professionals within governmental strategy.
- *Sweden*: Attention in initial education of social workers, but difficulties regarding training (and recruiting and retaining) them.
- *The Netherlands*: Initially: hardly, nowadays: Reporting Code and separate initiatives.





Main characteristics: Some obstacles

- Lack of specific treatment for victims
- Wide range of support services
- Differences in quality
- Lack of research (and research programme) on quality, evaluation, attitude
- Limited resources, in particular for coöperation
- High caseload
- Basic knowledge on CAN; education of professionals
- Double tasks of Local social authorities
- Reputation of CP-offices (“they take away your children”)

Workstream 2: Research amongst professionals and parents

The aim of this workstream is:

To generate information about the *experiences of parents and practitioners* concerning the prevention and treatment of CAN.

Research question :

Do national prevention strategies and actions against CAN correspond to *what works in practice*, as experienced by parents and practitioners?

Results:

National reports
and international overview

Research methods

1. Case study: 10 cases

- Families who have received service care/treatment for CAN
- The service care/treatment has almost ended
- Parent(s) are interviewed

2. Focus groups

- Small group of stake holders (4-12 persons),
- Practitioners in the field of child abuse and neglect

Germany: the Sater questionnaire



Content of the focus group:

The focus groups

(combination of interview and discussion)

are based on:

- a Summary of the interviews
- Vignettes or (fake) case studies

Results:

- Validation by experts
- Evaluation current care service/treatment provision
- Suggestions for improvement

Content international overview:

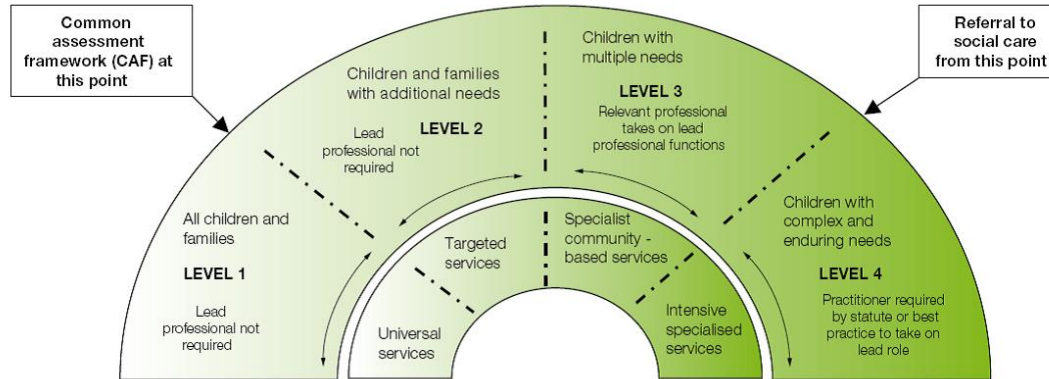
- What works in the perception of parents and practitioners when it comes to the prevention and care service/treatment of CAN?
- What obstacles or bottlenecks are common in current practices and what areas require change?
- Comparison of these two issues between the countries



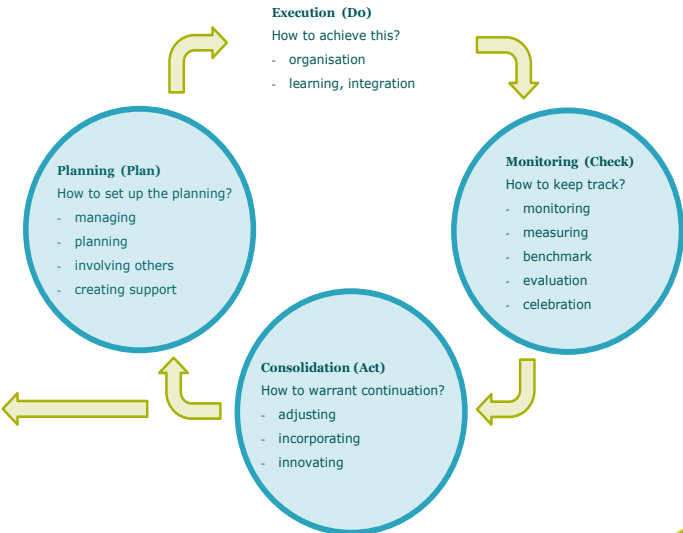
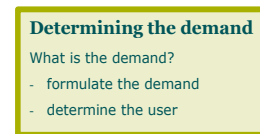
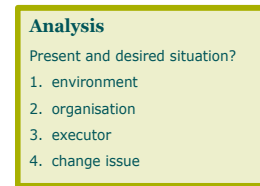


Workstream 3: What works?

The windshield wiper model of the continuum of care



Implementation Guide (Ooms & Wilschut, 2011)





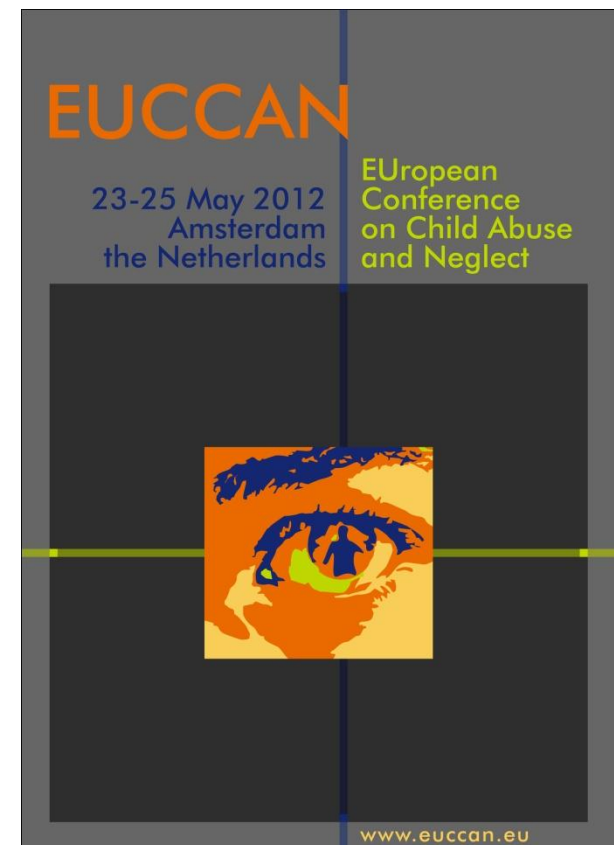
More about the project “Prevent and combat CAN: What works?”

- EUCCAN 2012 (Amsterdam)
- ISPCAN 2012 (Istanbul)
- San Diego conference 2013

contact

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Children Safe, Tackle CAN



Next: A Dutch Example

- Questions?
- Thank you for your attention!



- Next speaker:

Ria Andrews,
Child Advocacy House / Children's House - The Hague