



PROJECT PROFILE

Daphne III Programme - Action Grants 2009 2010

Title Project: VIOLENCE IN TRANSIT

Code: JUST/2010/DAP3/AG/1231

Partnership:

- On the Road ONLUS Association (Applicant - IT)
- EAPN - Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza (Portugal)
- APIP - Asociacion para la Promocion y la Insercion Profesional (Spain)
- Europe Consulting ONLUS (IT)

Associates:

- Ferrovie dello Stato (IT)
- OSCE - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Austria)

Project Duration: 24 Months, from 14th June 2011 to 13th June 2013

The Project

Violence in Transit is a European Project financed in the frame of the Daphne III Funding Programme of the DG Justice. It focuses on areas of transit and people's flow, such as railway stations, long distance bus terminal, bus stations, to study street youth violence related phenomena and develop transferable models of intervention to tackle them.

Since long, drug dealing, prostitution, homelessness, traffic in human beings, urban deviance, street gangs have marked certain city areas, especially those where social control seems to be less strict, such as railway stations and transit areas in a broader sense. In such environments, young people are exposed to a number of social dynamics, in which social marginalization and unsocial behaviour, such as violent acts, are likely to predominate over other forms of interaction.

The Project Violence in Transit wants to deepen the knowledge of youth violence dynamics in Transit areas, moving from a research intervention (Work Stream 1) and outreach experimental actions and local community work (Work Stream 2) in railway and/or bus stations in Pescara (IT), Oporto (PT) and Barcelona (ES), and build on this knowledge a Spatial Welfare project (i.e. a project based on space/territory social planning).

Experience gained from the first part of the project will be used to create a Model of Interventions and Transferability (Work Stream 3), to be spread through the wider network of project partners and associates (Work Stream 4) to other areas of transit and flow, such as ports and country borders.

The partnership running the project has a long time experience in study and interventions in the field of social phenomena in transit areas. For example, the coordinator, On the Road Association from Pescara, Italy, runs the Help Center for marginalized people at the main railway station in the city. Europe Consulting ONLUS, from Rome, coordinates the network of help centers in 14 Italian cities. EAPN Portugal, being a national organisation connected to the European Antipoverty Network, has developed many projects with most vulnerable social groups, like prostitutes, drug addicted, homeless, Roma. APIP from Barcelona, Spain, has an over 25-year experience in training and labour inclusion of disadvantaged people.



Project Objectives:

The main goal of the Project Violence in Transit is to prevent of youth violence and to promote rehabilitation processes in urban areas with a high rate of act of violence (railway stations areas, long distance bus terminals, ports and country border areas), especially among people under 25 years old.

More in details, our partnership aims at achieving the following objectives:

- To increase the knowledge of youth violence in Railway Station Areas (RSA) at European level
- To empower a multi-agency and participating spatial welfare approach in preventing and approaching youth violence, and to promote rehabilitation processes through experimental social interventions with young people, exposed to the risk of being involved in violent acts (both as victims and offenders)
- To conceive and model new specific practices of social interventions in transit areas
- To disseminate and transfer such models of intervention to other areas with similar characteristics and facing similar violence-related risks, such as long distance bus terminals, ports and country borders

Target groups:

The actions carried on to reach the above goals address directly the following target groups:

- young persons and groups involved in exclusion processes and in violence acts (both as victims and offenders) in RSA
- people working, travelling and, more generally, attending the RSA
- people living around RSA

In addition to those target groups, Violence in Transit will benefit a wider range of stakeholders, who are involved in the project issues at various levels, namely social and sanitary systems, Governments , EU Institutions, Transit Areas managers, Local Authorities and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working on Youth Violence prevention and young people at risk of marginalization. It is worth mentioning also the citizens of Pescara, Oporto and Barcelona, who will have new instruments to help the new generations to grow up in a safer and positive environment.

Actions:

Violence in Transit is divided into 4 Work Streams, that are the major actions that are to be carried out to achieve the project's goals.

Apart from the coordination of the project (Work Stream 0), which involves all the partners in filling bureaucratic and administrative obligations requested by the funding programme, Violence in Transit provides the following:

- **Work Stream 1: Research on Youth Violence on Railway Stations and Spatial Welfare Approach**
Work Stream 1 aims at improve the knowledge about youth violence characteristics and phenomena in railway station areas, by carrying on a tripartite research, based on a thorough analysis of the station areas in Pescara, Porto and Barcelona, on a national desk research and on a transnational comparative study on the matter. More in details, the local analysis will be based on the combination of a participating observation and a research-intervention on each field, including interviews with experts and informants and data collection. Local surveys and desk research will result in a transnational comparative study, which will present the various aspects of a multifaceted phenomenon, whose features depend on a large number of factors, the dramatic economic crisis above all.
- **Work Stream 2: Social Interventions**
The definition of the context will be the starting point of a set of customised social interventions, based on a multiagency and participating welfare spatial approach. In each city involved, partners will establish contacts with the young population at risk of violence, both as victims and offenders, and will design,



plan and finally implement customised actions to prevent or limit such phenomenon. Those interventions will involve relevant stakeholders, dealing with this issue at different level of responsibility, namely railway station managers, security, and municipal social services, as well as NGOs active in the domain of youth deviance.

- **Work Stream 3: Modelling and Transferability of Spatial Welfare Interventions on Prevention of Youth Violence and related issues on Transit and Flow Areas (Railway Stations, Ports, Country Borders)**
The outputs of Work Streams 1 and 2, especially those of the different social interventions put into practice, will be analysed to produce transferable models, to be applied in other areas with similar characteristics. Starting from the results of the actions, partners will identify the key elements and the best practices, and will model the whole process of planning, building and carrying out social interventions, as well as the transferability process to other transit areas. Within Work Stream 3, partners will draft the Guidelines on Models and Transferability of Best Practises in Preventing Youth Violence and related issues in Transit/Transport areas.
- **Work Stream 4: Diffusion of models in European Railway System and in areas with similar characteristics and facing similar violence-related risks: ports and country borders.**
The aim of the last Work Stream is to favour the dissemination of the results of the projects among local communities and relevant stakeholders, namely railway companies and local authorities, through existing networks of enterprises and social organisations. A final conference will be held in the city of Rome in spring 2013, to present the project's outcomes to a larger public.