

Youth who have sexual thoughts about children

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Way of presenting: 2. Workshop

Introduction

Young people who have sexual thoughts about children are at risk for committing sexual abuse. However, most never act on their thoughts and manage to live a good life without abuse. Child sexual abuse prevention and education 2022-2024 (CSAPE) is a project funded by the EU's Internal Security Fund (ISF) and is collaborated with five European countries: Finland, Iceland, Greece, Albania, and Save the Children International: Bosnia-Hertsegovina as implementing office. The objective of the project is to prevent child sexual abuse by e.g., training professionals on 'young people who have sexual interest in children'. Early intervention is important to support youth who have sexual thoughts about children and accordingly prevent possible sexual abuse.

Methods

The workshop will: 1) provide information on young people who are sexually interested in children, 2) lower the threshold to talk about issues related to sexuality, and 3) provide information on how to support young people who have sexual thoughts towards children and where to get help from. In addition, 4) participants will share their thoughts on what kind of information professionals need related to the subject. The information is used in the project to create a training package for professionals working with children.

Learning cafe -method is used during the workshop. First, short introduction is given. Then, participants are divided into subgroups to discuss the subjects above. Participants will rotate through all topics. A representative from the organizer will be guiding the work in the groups. Last, a short overview of the results is compiled.

Results

Participants have gained knowledge on young people who are sexually interested in children. They have

better capacity to talk about sexuality related issues and have better knowledge on how to help young people get the support they need.

Conclusions

By opening up the platform for young person to express their thoughts to professionals and seek help increases the chances so the young person can live a good life without harming other children.