

Module V - Social Responsibility

CO-HAPPINESS - Happy and Safe in Community






Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union






CO-HAPPINESS

Happy and Safe in Community

-  Aim of the module
-  Social Capital
 - Definition
 - Consequences
 - Social Capital and its relation with the prevention of child abuse and maltreatment
-  Collective efficacy
-  Engaging with parents
-  Engaging the community
-  Tips for working with the community
-  Report of child abuse and maltreatment situations
-  How to help an abused or neglected child
-  European Good Practices

Aim of the the module

This modules is focused on **Social Responsibility**, which means that it will have the following specific objectives:

-  Understand the definition of social capital and collective efficacy and their relation to child abuse and maltreatment prevention
-  Provide knowledge on the importance of reporting child abuse and maltreatment situations, and how to react with a child victim of this phenomenon
-  Provide knowledge on examples of good practices implemented in Europe

“institutions, relationships, and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society’s social interactions.”


The World Bank

“Social capital consists of cultural practices, norms, networks, links, know-how and tradition, through which people conduct informal interactions of all kinds.”

Jack & Jordan (1999)

Social capital is **freely available for the benefit of all members of the community** and their interactions. It includes:

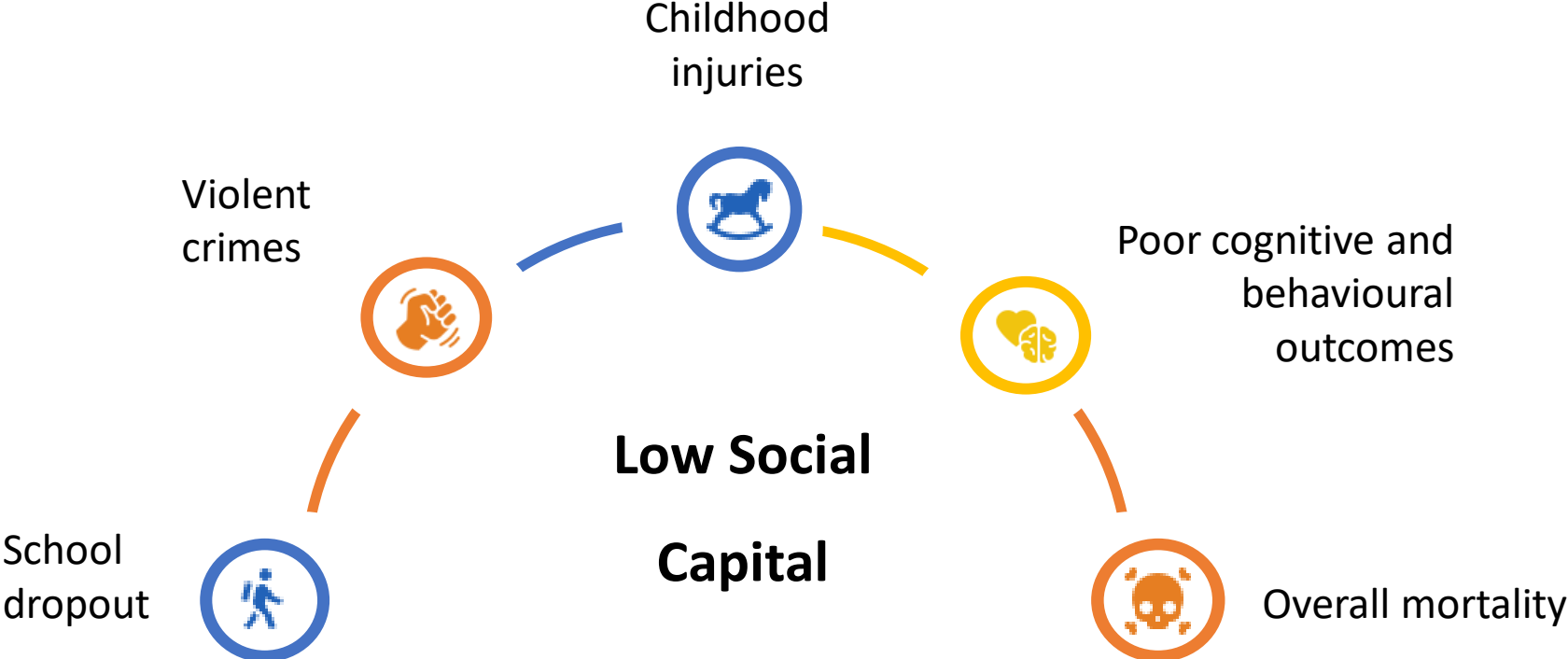
- ✔ **Collective efficacy**
- ✔ Psychological sense of community
- ✔ Neighbourhood cohesion
- ✔ Parental investment in the child



Let's check it later!

Social Capital: Consequences

Social capital is theorized to be a resource available to a family, like financial and human capital, that can help families overcome adversity or prosper economically



(Zolotor & Runyan, 2006)

Social Capital and its relation with the prevention of child abuse and maltreatment

Example of a previous study (Zolotor & Runyan, 2006)

In poor neighbourhoods, **low neighbourhood cohesion** (a part of social capital) measured at the neighbourhood level



Associated with an **increase in neighbourhood rates of substantiated child abuse of all types**

Notice

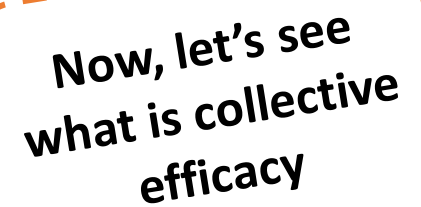
Maltreating parents may not have the same level of access to neighbourhood cohesion as nonmaltreating parents



REMEMBER THIS SLIDE

Social capital is **freely available for the benefit of all members of the community** and their interactions. It includes:

- ✔ **Collective efficacy**
- ✔ Psychological sense of community
- ✔ Neighbourhood cohesion
- ✔ Parental investment in the child



Now, let's see
what is collective
efficacy



Collective efficacy

Means that members of a group believe in the ability of the group to act effectively.



Neighbourhood Collective efficacy

Social cohesion and sharing expectations with neighbourhood residents about intervention with a common goal or to solve a community problem.

How is it measured?

- +** **Social control** → norms regarding appropriate behaviours and willingness to intervene.
- +** **Social cohesion** → mutual trust among neighbours

Example of a previous study (Wang, Chen, & Lyu, 2019)

A **higher** level of neighbourhood collective efficacy (i.e., social cohesion)



associated with

Lower odds of parental Physical Abuse against their children.



Many parents have had horrific childhood experiences










May have internalized their negative beliefs into adult lived experiences








It is important not to judge the choices made by parents, but recognize that negative choices often come from negative beliefs about who they are and about their worth

Barriers and facilitators to **seeking help and support**

Barriers

-  Shame
-  Waiting lists for services
-  Fear of being treated prejudicially
-  Feelings of depression and low self-esteem
-  The belief or hope they could change without help
-  Not having enough information about available services
-  Fear of child welfare services or having a child removed from their care

Facilitators

-  Supportive professionals
-  Supportive family members
-  Children as motivators to get help
-  Health problems as motivators
-  Supportive friend/recovery group members

Context can increase or reduce **parental stress** by influencing perceptions of personal safety...

... Creating a **sense of support** or **reconfirming feelings of isolation**

- ✓ Community resources
- ✓ Community professional services



Can offer temporary respite from parental responsibility

Can improve parents' mental health and capacity to take on the role of parenting

Frank Barry (*cited by* Daro & Dodge, 2009) explain this interaction using 4 arguments:

1

Child abuse and maltreatment result in part from **stress** and **social isolation**

3

External and internal strengths have impact in the quality of life of neighbourhoods

2

Neighbourhoods' quality can **boost or inhibit parenting** and **social integration** of families who live in them

4

Any strategy for preventing child maltreatment should address internal and external dimensions and focus on **strengthening at-risk families** and **improving at-risk neighbourhoods**






Immigrant and Refugee Families

- ✔ Invite immigrants and refugees to speak to your staff about cultural differences and concerns unique to immigrant families
- ✔ Participate in task forces, collaborations, and partnerships with community-based agencies dedicated to addressing the needs of immigrant families in your community.
- ✔ Develop literature in different languages to meet the needs of all families in your community.



Early Childhood Centers and Schools

-  Offer to provide onsite services to children and families. This can be an important first step in building families' comfort with pursuing services
-  Offer to speak at a parent-teacher organization meeting.
-  Seek opportunities to sponsor joint events.






Medical Community

- ✔ Develop parenting resources in cooperation with health-care providers. Physician organizations often have materials to help improve knowledge of parenting and child development.
- ✔ Develop community resource guides for health-care providers who identify children and families with specific needs. Resources might include child care programs, afterschool programs for children with disabilities, and others.
- ✔ Develop partnerships with local health-care provider organizations.

(Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, and the FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, 2018)



Domestic Violence Advocates

-  Collocate a domestic violence advocate onsite at family-serving agencies. Offer support groups and counseling for victims and children.
-  Develop cross-system protocols and partnerships to ensure coordinated services and responses to families experiencing domestic violence.
-  Host joint events such as workshops on teen dating violence, awareness or education campaigns, or food and clothing drives for victims and their families.

WHO
WHEN
WHERE
HOW
WHAT
WHY




**Reporting child abuse and
maltreatment situations**

Report of child abuse and maltreatment situations

Every year millions of reports of child abuse are made.

Although these numbers, **the phenomenon of child abuse and maltreatment is often not reported.**

Why?

-  Inadequate awareness regarding abuse and neglect and respective state laws
-  People fear making a situation worse
-  People think that someone else will intervene

Report of child abuse and maltreatment situations

We already analysed why child abuse and maltreatment situations are not reported. However, we know that it is mandatory to report them.

Following, we can see common worries about reporting child abuse:



I don't want to interfere in someone else's family



What if I break up someone's home?



They will know it was me who called.



What I have to say won't make a difference.

Report of child abuse and maltreatment situations

Ways to report a situation of child abuse and/or maltreatment



Telephone



Email / Letter



Face to Face

Specific information to report:

- ✓ Child's name and location
- ✓ The name and relationship (if known) of the person you believe is abusing the child
- ✓ What you have seen or heard regarding the abuse or neglect
- ✓ The names of any other people who might know about the abuse
- ✓ Your name and phone number (voluntary)

(Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, and the FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, 2018)

How to help an abused or neglected child

When talking with an abused child, the best way to encourage them is to show calm reassurance and unconditional support



Avoid denial and remain calm

Don't interrogate



Reassure the child that they did nothing wrong

Safety comes first





Examples of good practices in Europe

In the past year, 2019, the Co-Happiness' partnership developed a desk research on examples of good practices in each partner country – The Netherlands, Finland, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Romania



Let's check some examples

1

Handle with Care – THE NETHERLANDS



The purpose of this pilot is to support children who are victims or who witness episodes of domestic violence in the first 24 hours. When police are notified, they immediately report to the child's school that something happened, without details. The message says “Handle with care”, the child's name and date of birth and allows teachers to support the child.

2

“Encourage me to be strong” – FINLAND

This is a project implemented between 2013-2016, which brought together a network of professionals working in support services for children and families, which developed tools to identify, signal and prevent child abuse and maltreatment situations. The target audience was families with young children, families with children with special needs, and migrant families. The products were developed to provide information on the types and consequences of abuse, to encourage interaction and to promote a safe development environment for children, where their rights are protected.



3

Smile of the Child – GREECE



Direct Intervention Services, which respond to children who are in imminent danger and who need to be removed from their families to ensure their safety and well-being.

The first objective is to transfer the child to a safe place, accompanied by a social worker or a psychologist.

Cases are identified by the National Children's SOS Line (1056) and can be reported by the wider community, organizations, services and the children themselves.

4

Giovanni – ITALY

Giovanni (name invented) is a child who constantly attending the intimate relationship between parents. In addition, she confessed not to go to school because his father forces him to go and retrieve old iron in the countryside. Giovanni was then protected by a residential care measure for a period of 2 years, where she developed socio-psycho-affective and emotional competence and made a gradual integration into the school. The father was also accompanied. Giovanni is now home and the family is accompanied by a psychologist



5

The underwear rule – PORTUGAL



A resource used in schools to help parents simply explain which parts of the body are prohibited from being touched and, if so, how children should react.

It is based on a story in which one of the characters (“Hand”) asks to touch various parts of his new friend's body (“Kiko”). It focuses on 5 themes: Your body is yours alone; Good physical contact and bad physical contact; Good secrets and bad secrets; Prevention and protection - adult responsibility; Other Useful and Complementary Directions to the Underwear Rule.

6

Appreciative Parenting HoltIS Association – ROMANIA

“Positive parenting” program to understand parents' perceptions, attitudes, behaviors, challenges and ambitions by promoting and strengthening parent-child relationships.

Its main objective is to increase school attendance and strengthen the parent-school relationship, but also to raise awareness of the issues of abuse and its consequences for victims and perpetrators.





Find these and other examples of good practices on child protection and prevention of abuse and maltreatment situations on the Co-Happiness website:

([link to the national report uploaded on the website](#))



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