

A new Safe from Harm project in Europe!

"Safe From Harm!" is addressing the question of harmful practices and violence against children and young people in the setting of youth organisations. Through non-formal education, Scouting empowers children and young people to be self-reliant citizens. Scouting is a youth movement providing a safe environment for children and young people participating in its activities. Harmful practices and violence can still happen, inside and outside Scouting. As Leaders are the primary link to children and young people, we want to raise their awareness as well as equip them with the necessary skills, knowledge and competences to prevent harmful practices within Scouting and know how to address violence happening outside the movement - to ensure that they will provide a safe environment.

The project includes nine partners, from seven different countries: Spain, The Netherlands, Germany, France, Lithuania, Slovakia and Cyprus. WOSM Europe will contribute with its expertise and ensure a wide spread dissemination of the results through its European networks. Over 19 months, the project will involve as direct beneficiaries around 765 participants and potentially, considering the changes to happen in the leader training at the national level, 30,000 leaders across Europe. We anticipate that other organisations, Scout or non-Scout, will use the results.

The project will ensure a quality, relevant and meaningful output by combining European and national approaches. The European approach will facilitate the exchange of knowledge, perspectives, practices and expertise but also the creation of a like-minded community. This European approach will enrich the work to be done at the national level. Indeed, the project wants to facilitate the delivery of tailor-made policies or tools for each partner, to fit and answer the needs and the specificities of each of them; the European added value is necessary to broaden the understanding, use the practices in place in other countries and adapt to ever changing societies. We aim at providing partners with a framework to first reflect on their own practices and standards. Then they will review or create new policies and/or tools for their organisation in an organised process, with expert inputs, exchange of practices, with enough time and means to ensure the quality and relevance of the end result.

The project comprises four main European events, with a closing conference with external partners, partner-to-partner visits as well as national meetings focusing on consulting and reviewing/creating new tools and a specific training period to equip the leaders with necessary skills. The work will be shared among partners and with others via an interactive website, social media, online collaborative platform, a key findings publication as well as a short video. Those different elements will allow dissemination of our work and our findings through different channels and medium, during and after the project.

Being a volunteer based and volunteer lead movement, most of the work will be achieved by volunteers for volunteers. Staff members will be involved at the European and national levels to ensure the coordination, the follow up of the administrative work and provide expertise when needed and relevant. A Steering group, composed of selected experts from different European countries, will ensure, with the Project Manager, the coherence and the delivery of the project, both at the European and national level.

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All the information about the project can be found on the website: www.safefromharm.eu
If you want to know more about the project and its features do not hesitate to contact the Safe from Harm! Project Manager Nicolò Pranzini (npranzini@scout.org)

