



# Synthesis Report /report /NO PUNISH

*Authors:*

*Ana Jurado*

*Carlos Benedicto*

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## 1. Introduction

The objective of this report is to provide technical conclusions in order to develop best practices, based on evidence, that will allow professionals to work towards improving protection and treatment of children; therefore, we seek to create a tool, common for all European Countries, that will help to detect corporal punishment as an educational strategy.

The project **No PUNISH** relies on the fulfilment of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted in 1989, which recognises children as objects of law, therefore, promoting their defence, integrity and rights.

This transnational study will allow us to understand the common factors identified within this psychosocial phenomena, going beyond cultural aspects, and learning from measures proven to be efficient for prevention and against corporal punishment as an educational strategy.

In order to achieve these objectives, steps are as follows:

### 1. Tool development:

- The objective of this project is to develop a transnational tool to assess the effectiveness of the different child protection systems when detecting and acting upon cases of corporal child punishment, seen as a form of child abuse. Furthermore, strengths and weaknesses of the system in different fields of action (educational, legal, social and health) shall be detected.
- Provide effective strategies and best practices for eradicating corporal violence against children.

For this purpose, the report thoroughly analyses the current situation of children in the countries participating in this Consortium: The Netherlands, Romania, Estonia and Spain, in order to find out:

- Incidence of child abuse in every country.
- Comparison and assessment of the legal framework set for the protection of children.
- Comparison, analysis and evaluation of administrative, educational and health measures taken.
- Proposal for improvement strategies and best practices to address corporal punishment.

We hope that this document will give a structured and synthesized vision, allowing conclusions that lead to effective strategies to combat child abuse.

Analysing "why?", "how?" and "when?", we can study physical punishment as a behaviour and identify the beliefs and values undermining this form of violence. We consider this the only way to fight against manifestations of abuse, that cause serious consequences in the social and emotional development of the child.



Before addressing the issue in depth, we will consider the different geopolitical and socio-demographic contexts of the countries participating in the Consortium. Below we summarise those aspects:

- ❖ **The Netherlands** has a population of 16.5 million within an area of 41.540 km<sup>2</sup>. Despite being one of the smallest countries in the world, the country has a high density of population, 485 people per km<sup>2</sup>. With an immigration rate of 11%, this multicultural society faces difficulties integrating its foreigners. The country is administratively organised as a central Government with provinces and municipalities, whose management is decentralised. Concretely, public welfare is managed by the 388 municipalities that form the country, although, supervised by the central Government.
- ❖ **Estonia** is located in Northern Europe, the country has an area of 45.228 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 1.3 million. This makes Estonia the least populated country in the European Union. 15% of its population are immigrants from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. The country is divided into 15 counties, which are administratively independent.
- ❖ **Romania** has around 19 million inhabitants, out of which only 1.5% are immigrants. The Roma population is the most vulnerable, which is traditionally facing significant integration difficulties. The main source of income is still agricultural activity, as most of its population lives in rural areas. This aspect is also reflected in their beliefs concerning tolerance and acceptance of violence "misfortune comes from heaven".
- ❖ Finally, **Spain** is the country that has the largest number of inhabitants, with a population of 49 million it is an important receiver of immigration. Having the highest immigration rate in the European Union also brings along many social difficulties. Likewise, it is worth emphasising that economic reports list Spain as a country in process of growth. This fact contrasts with child poverty rates provided by UNICEF. Administratively the country has a complex system, in which several public and private entities share a purpose, this requires important coordination efforts.

As a main conclusion, we feel there is a need to further investigate corporal punishment in childhood. Furthermore, as an entity, there is a need to develop a consensual definition allowing rigorous studies, in order to establish theoretical models and lines of action. We found that the scarcity of studies related to child abuse make it extremely difficult to draw conclusions and make transnational comparisons.

Moreover, there is a need for European policies to protect children, these need to be unified. Specialized institutions (dedicated to detection and research) need to be established to ensure that the rights of the child are not conditioned by the country's economic development.



## Section 1. Context Analysis

### 1.1. General data, scope, consequences, risk factors and prevention strategies against corporal punishment as a form of violence

While child abuse in its different forms, has been thoroughly studied, **corporal punishment** as a manifestation of violence against children, has not attracted as much attention from the scientific community. Despite of this lack of scientific coverage, it is not a minor issue, but an important act of violence. This leads to the fact that attitudes and values that justify reiterate use with children are maintained, undermined by law and their own education; even if it can be considered as a serious violation of the rights of children, their integrity and dignity.

Therefore, as a starting point, this report analyses the incidents of abuse in the countries participating in the Consortium, moreover, the risk and prevention factors associated with this problem are identified, allowing us to build a predictive and explanatory hypothesis to build strategies for action.

The disparity of criteria and the lack of a common definition, of what is considered corporal punishment in the participating countries, should be tackled. There is an additional difficulty, which is the absence of specific statistics on physical punishment; rather this data is included in an insufficient and broad definition of child abuse including: corporal punishment, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and child negligence.

In the following table, the data related to incidence, prevalence and risk factors in the participating countries is summarised:

<b>SPAIN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 80% of child abuse occurs within the family environment or within other familiar environments to the child (wider family, education, friends etc.).</li> <li>● As mentioned before, there are very few studies on the use of physical punishment. In 1997, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, stated that 47.2% of Spanish adults claimed hitting their children was essential; 2% even admitted frequent use of violence. More women (49%) accepted physical punishment than men (37%). Furthermore, individuals with lower education levels showed greater tolerance (49%) compared with those who had higher education levels (5%). The study was repeated in 2004 and results showed a significant decrease in accepting corporal punishment: only 25.6% participants agreed as opposed to 74.4% showing disagreement.</li> <li>● Statistics in 2014 identified a total of 17.959 cases of abuse (8,995 cases of mistreatment, 4,710 cases of emotional abuse, and 3,559 cases of physical abuse).</li> <li>● <b>Risk factors;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Family risk factors: gender violence, drug use or mental disorders (depression, anxiety) of any of the parents, a history of abuse in the family and unrealistic expectations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>towards the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social risk factors: economic problems, unemployment, lack of social support, low education level.</li> <li>● <b>Protective factors:</b> Good health, elevated level of intelligence based on values and beliefs that give meaning to life, positive and resilient relationships.</li> </ul>
ESTONIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child abuse is a serious problem in Estonia.</li> <li>● Definition <i>New Child Protection Act, 2016, paragraph 24, section 1 states that “neglect of a child, mental, emotional, physical and sexual abuse of a child, including humiliation, frightening and physical punishment of a child, also punishment of a child in any other manner which endangers his or her mental, emotional or physical health, is prohibited”.</i> The UN Rights of the Child Convention, Article 19 paragraph 1 states that “a child must be protected against all physical and mental violence, injustice or abuse, negligence, carelessness or cruel treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse”.</li> <li>● "The Penal Code,—paragraph 121 section 1,)—stipulates that “causing damage to the health of another person and physical abuse, which causes pains, is punishable.”</li> <li>● In 2015, the Chancellor of Justice registered child abuse as an increasing trend spreading across the country. Here corporal punishment is defined as behaviour which results in a decrease of physical and psychological well-being of the child, endangering health and development. In fact, it is a form of violence, defined as the use of physical force to cause pain and distress to the child.</li> <li>● Following the Violence Prevention Strategy 2015-2020, individuals suffering from gender-based violence are also identified as victims.</li> <li>● There is a need for greater involvement of the Government to eradicate corporal punishment, as the alarming statistics of children requiring assistance show; in 2013 there were 3190 cases increasing to 3220 cases in 2015 (Statistics Estonia, 2017). However, compared to 2008 the number of children who had never been punished has decreased. If in 2008 the incidence rate was 19%, in 2015 it decreased to 14%. The percentage of Children who had suffered physical punishment (ex. hit with a fist or belt) in 2015 was 14%. Also 23% of children had been pulled by the hair. There are different trends in Russian and Estonian speaking families. Estonian speaking families punish children (30%) or prohibit meeting friends (35%), as a consequence of a broken rule. Whereas, Russian speaking families use physical violence such as pulling their hair (33%) and prohibiting children to join family activities (23%). Despite the fact that corporal punishment occurs more in Russian speaking families, Estonian speaking families use corporal punishment more frequently during early childhood. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>The Estonian Union of Child Welfare</b> carried out a study as part of the 2008-2015 series with the aim of identifying the involvement of children in family life and their opinion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<p>about upbringing and education. (including punishment)". 18% stated Internet restriction; 32% were prohibited to see their friends and 18% could not participate in family activities. Children who were not punished decreased from 19% in 2008 to 14% in 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relevant variable: origin of families (Russia vs Estonia). 33% of Russian speaking families said to use physical punishment. Conclusion: the families of Russian origin used more corporal punishment than families from Estonia, implying an important cultural component.</li> <li>- In Estonia many parents use corporal punishment because of tradition. Therefore, it is an attitude that is inherited from previous generations. In 2009 a research carried out by the Ministry of Social Affairs showed that 47% of parents found corporal punishment inevitable.</li> <li>- The use of corporal punishment also derives from the fact that parents quite often lack parenting skills, specially during conflict situations, where they do not see any other alternative. In the Estonian Children and Families Development Plan 2012-2020 a lot of emphasis is put on offering training for parents to improve and develop their parenting skills.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROTTERDAM</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Definition:</b> (Children’s Act 2015) child abuse is defined as: "any form of abuse, such as physical, psychological violence and/or sexual abuse by a parent or any other person with whom the child has a relationship of dependence; that could cause serious damage and threat to the child in form of physical and psychological violence."</li> <li>● <b>Prevalence:</b> in the first half of 2016: the total number of cases detected were 3295, out of which 1125 (34%) were physical abuse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3.4% prevalence of child abuse (in all its forms), with a total of 119,000 children per year.</li> <li>- 9.9% of children between 12-17 year acknowledged having been abused during the previous year.</li> <li>- 45% suffered two or more kinds of abuse.</li> <li>- Negligence is the most common form, the annual incidence rate of physical negligence is estimated around 8.1%, and academic and emotional negligence around 8.4%.</li> <li>- Studies from 2010 (Soerdjbalie et al), estimated that between 15-17 children die per year as a direct or indirect consequence of child abuse.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>A long-term impact:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence of a relationship between negative or traumatic experiences during childhood and risk of diseases and self-destruction attitudes has been found. For example: diabetes, heart problems, obesity, sedentary lifestyle, sexual risk behaviours, addictions, depressive moods, low self-esteem and risk of suicide.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 50% of abused children will be adult offenders.</li> <li>- Inter-generational transfer of violence, high risk of abusing own children.</li> <li>● <b>Risk factors:</b> Associated with child abuse in general: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Parents:</b> Parental violence, psychological and/or psychiatric disorders; irritability and hyperactivity, parents that suffered abuse or witnessed family violence, unwanted pregnancy.</li> <li>- <b>Family:</b> lack of family unity, frequent family conflicts.</li> <li>- <b>Interaction between</b> parents and children, high expectations, image of their child, the use of physical punishment and absence of emotional relationships</li> <li>- <b>Child</b> age, children between 0-3 are at higher risk.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
ROMANIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child abuse is a <b>great social problem</b> in Romania, data reflects a significant increase in the last five years.</li> <li>● The <b>General Directorate of Social Assistance and Protection (ANPDA)</b> of the country recorded <b>13 546</b> cases of child abuse in 2015.</li> <li>● Data published by <b>ANPDCA</b> shows that 90% of the cases reported are abuse, negligence and exploitation of children within the family.</li> <li>● Longitudinal studies carried out between <b>2011-2015</b>, reflect an increasing trend in cases of abuse, predominantly in rural areas. Since last year no more differences between gender were registered.</li> <li>● Concerning the incidences of abuse, there is an increase of cases between 2014 to 2015. There is a significant difference between cases of negligence (513 cases, 76%) and physical abuse (5%).</li> <li>● <b>Risk factors:</b> poverty, low educational level, alcohol, drugs, mental illnesses, unemployment in the urban areas.</li> <li>● There is an important social acceptance of corporal punishment, generally Romanian people think that <i>"misfortune comes from heaven"</i>.</li> <li>● Gender-based violence is a serious social problem with a high number of child victims as witnesses.</li> </ul>

## 1.2. National Support System responsible for this area

Knowing the different definitions of corporal punishment used in the legislation of every country allows us to understand the degree of tolerance of the society. Laws serve as the basis and engine to deploy administrative measures which help to identify the victims and respond to complaints.

### 1.2.1. LEGISLATION

SPAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On the 30th of November 1990, Spain ratifies the Convention on the rights of the child enacted on the 20th November 1989, by which the country rejects all kind of physical or corporal punishment employing physical violence intended to harm and</li> </ul>
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	<p>cause discomfort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Spanish legal system does not properly include a legal definition of "physical punishment".</li> <li>• The Spanish Constitution approves compliance with international agreements that safeguard the rights of the child (art 39). Physical punishment appears indirectly as "physical integrity", "slander", "physical violence" and "maltreatment".</li> <li>• Organic laws 8/2015 from 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 26/2015 from 28<sup>th</sup>, amend the child protection system and provide more rights to minor children such as the ability to be heard. This advance represents increasing the protection of minor children in the whole Spanish territory.</li> <li>• The law 43/2015, from 9<sup>th</sup> October targeted on social action in the third sector and the law 45/2015, from 30<sup>th</sup> October, about giving a voice to the most vulnerable social sector through social entities.</li> <li>• The Organic Law 1/2015, from 30<sup>th</sup> March, modifies the Penal Code by improving regulation related to minor children. Therefore, allowing more severe punishment in case of maltreatment of children. The Law 4/2015, from 27<sup>th</sup> April on the <b>status of the victim of crime</b> treats the child as a victim and also contemplates the case of gender-based violence.</li> </ul>
ESTONIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In 1991</b>, the Convention of the rights of the child was approved by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia.</li> <li>• The <b>Act of the Child Protection from 1st January 2016</b> (paragraph 24, section 1) prohibits corporal punishment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– It provides assistance and protection to children in need and children as victims of abuse, neglect, or in any other vulnerable situation of violation of their rights. The Act also regulates coordination between the institutions of the protection system.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Violence Prevention Strategy 2015-2020.</li> <li>• Children and Families Development Plan 2012-2020.</li> <li>• Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023.</li> <li>• Guide informing about children in need of assistance, 2011,</li> <li>• The Ombudsman for Children</li> </ul> <p><b>Documents for child welfare evaluation:</b>  Child Welfare Measurement Approach  Guide for Child and Family Assessment  Mapping of the Assessment Tools for Child Welfare and Mental Health  Child and Family Assessment- Conditions at Home</p> <p><b>Guidelines for case management:</b>  List of data that should be included in the Case Plan  Instructions for carrying out Case Management Processes  Instructions for implementing Case Management based on Networking  Handbook for Case Management  Practical Guide for managing Cross-Border Child Protection Cases  Assistance in Child Protection Work.</p>



	<p>Selection of Various Child Protection Cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Social Affairs is responsible for making child protection policies. On the other hand, the Estonian Social Insurance Board, coordinates application of these policies and national strategies. Furthermore, the Board liaises cross-sectorial cooperation for prevention concerning child protection.</li> <li>• The local government child protection entity manages individual cases related to children’s wellbeing, such as “child in need of help”. The entity also works in cooperation with the police, the health service or the victim support service.</li> <li>• There is also Public Child Helpline 116111 service to request help for a child in need of assistance.</li> </ul>
<p>ROTTERDAM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989.</li> <li>• Corporal punishment is prohibited since 2007 as of the Article 1:247 of <b>the Civil Code</b>. The code establishes that the upbringing and care of children should not involve any emotional or physical violence or any other form of degrading treatment.</li> <li>• On the 1st July 2013, the Code of enforcement of domestic violence and child abuse is put in place (<b>Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Mandatory Reporting Code</b>). A roadmap for professionals in education, health, welfare and justice in case of presumption of domestic violence and child abuse.</li> <li>• Criminal code with reference to child abuse: Art.300-305</li> <li>• Through the "<b>Domestic Exclusion Act</b>", a perpetrator of domestic violence can get a restraining order for a period of up to ten days.</li> <li>• <b>Advice and Reporting Centre of Domestic Violence and Child abuse (AMHK)</b>. The Youth Act led to the fusion of the Advice and Reporting Centre for Child abuse and the Support Centre for Domestic Violence, to form the AMHK</li> <li>• In 2015, <b>the Youth Act</b> led to the decentralization of the child protection system, giving the responsibility of the protection system to the municipalities. (fields of: prevention, health promotion, comprehensive care...) (jeugdwet, 2014, Art. 2.1).</li> <li>• <b>VIR, "at-risk Youth Reference Index"</b>, is a digital system that collects data about the population of 23-year olds at risk. Its aim is the early detection of risk situations, which require attention in mental health, to ensure healthy development.</li> </ul>
<p>ROMANIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law No.272/2004, "<b>Promotion of the rights of the child</b>", with the subsequent regulations aimed at protecting children.</li> <li>• Law 217/2003, "<b>Prevention and combat of domestic violence</b>", states the definition of abuse and provides a set of protection measures aimed at the victims of domestic violence.</li> <li>• <b>Physical violence is defined as follows:</b> "physical injuries triggered by punching, pushing and pinching, pulling hair, cutting, burning, choking, biting in all forms and with any intensity; disguising injuries as a result of an accident, poisoning, intoxication and other similar actions. "</li> <li>• Law 217/2003 "<b>Protection</b>" aimed at protecting physical and mental integrity.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GD 1156 / 2121, “<b>National strategy to prevent and combat domestic violence</b>”, 2013-2017, an operational plan to implement domestic violence prevention strategies.</li> <li>● Standard <b>HG 49 2011</b>, regulates intervention of a multidisciplinary team and adequate protection measures based on the definition of physical abuse towards the child.</li> </ul>
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### 1.2.2. ADMINISTRATIVE

<b>SPAIN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The country’s administrative organisation is decentralized, constituted of several organs (Central State, Regional and Local governments) holding different roles related to childhood policies.</li> <li>● <b>II National Strategic Plan for Childhood and Adolescence 2013-2016 (II PINEA)</b> is composed of 8 objectives that have to be met by any public and private entity.</li> <li>● <b>Children's Observatory (1999)</b> created as a monitoring plan to ensure the implementation of policies related to child protection. (Public entity, Consultation body). Child Abuse Protocol: detection, notification and registration of cases.</li> <li>● <b>Royal Decree 1110/2015</b>, from 11th December, enforces a central database of sex offenders, regulating compulsory certificates to allow or prohibit professionals to obtain a certificate of ability to work with children.</li> <li>● Basic protocol of intervention against child abuse in the family.</li> <li>● According to Law 26/2015, from 28<sup>th</sup> July, the Central Database of Sex Offenders (RUMI) is established, aiming at centralising all data, analysis and study, enabling efficient policies and strategies.</li> </ul> <p><b>State level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The central state has the obligation to ensure that the Convention on the rights of the child of the United Nations is followed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At the regional level no specific institution is dedicated to child abuse prevention or to offer attention to children in need. This competence lies within the Ministry of Social Affairs and Family.</li> <li>● <b>Standardised protocols</b> for the detection and reporting of child abuse exist in all regional communities.</li> <li>● Up to this date only one specific unit dedicated to the <b>detection of child abuse and prevention (UDEPMI)</b> exists in Catalonia.</li> <li>● The population has free access to childhood programs, which are managed by private entities with public subsidies.</li> <li>● There are <b>14 private entities</b> carrying out specific projects related to child abuse throughout the country. They play an important role in creating visibility and lobby for setting up policies in this field.</li> <li>● The figure of the minor child defender does not exist, this monitoring work is carried out by the Ombudsman.</li> </ul> <p><b>Protocols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 17 autonomous communities have developed protocols, guides, or record tools: in total more than 60 tools are available.</li> </ul>
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ESTONIA	<p><b>Institutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Social Affairs is responsible for child protection policy making.</li> <li>• The Ministry of Justice sets and enforces the legal and criminal framework of the state.</li> <li>• The Estonian Social Insurance Board coordinates the implementation of national child protection policies, the application of national strategies and the coordination of cross-sectorial cooperation and prevention strategies.</li> <li>• The local government child protector manages cases related to children in need of help and ensures their wellbeing. The child protector can work in cooperation with the police, the medical service or victim support services, etc.</li> <li>• The Ombudsman for Children safeguards that the valid legislation is enforced and that the fundamental rights of children are protected.</li> <li>• The Estonian Union for Child Welfare is a non-profit organisation that contributes to ensuring children’s rights and works towards a child-friendly society.</li> <li>• The Public Child Helpline 116111 allows to report a child in need of assistance.</li> <li>• There is a network between entities in order to help a child in need or a child victim quickly and effectively. It is important that different specialists cooperate with each other, as every specialist has his/her own role and possibility to support the child. The network in Estonia may consist of child protection workers, police, and victim support workers, who must all collaborate to help child victims.</li> <li>• <b>The MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)</b>, is a network based on a case management model, with the aim of identifying and protecting high-risk victims in cooperation with specialists from several institutions.</li> <li>• Currently various private entities, as NGO’s, are working to prohibit corporal punishment. Their efforts consist in raising awareness, organizing seminars and training courses for specialists and the general public. They also promote child safety and contribute to educating parents about the rights of children.</li> <li>• Development of European project aimed at the rights of the child.</li> </ul> <p><b>Protocols:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim of a network based case management model is to identify and protect high-risk victims in cooperation with specialists from several institutions.</li> </ul>
ROTTERDAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2015, youth care becomes the responsibility of the municipalities, together with the Ministry of Safety and Justice, being responsible for the protection of abused children.</li> <li>• There is a special body for domestic violence and child abuse “Veilig Thuis” (“<b>Advice and Reporting Centre for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse</b>”, of <b>AMHK</b>). This body gives advice and investigates cases of domestic violence and child abuse. This body is a regional function.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Model Reporting Code Act.</b> July 2013. The protocol for the identification and action against violence and child-abuse is aimed at professionals. Functions: Identification protocol, technical advice, research, activities and coordination of child care.</li> <li>● <b>The child Ombudsman,</b> is an independent Institute that ensures there is compliance with the rights of children and young people in the Netherlands. The entity oversees local and national authorities' compliance with the law, child policies, as well as compliance with the UN Convention on the rights of the child. It has the power to report noncompliance to the Parliament and the Senate.</li> </ul> <p>Network institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A <b>Volunteers community</b> network develops awareness campaigns for early identification. The community also implements preventive programs.</li> <li>● A team of <b>community social workers</b> is trained to identify specific cases.</li> <li>● <b>The Advice and Reporting Centre for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse (AMHK)</b> specialises in research and evaluation and activates the protocol of protection if necessary.</li> <li>● <b>The Youth protection forum Act</b> gives support to vulnerable families and acts preventively to avoid the separation of the child from the family.</li> <li>● <b>Safe House,</b> works with detection, tracking, monitoring, providing support for offenders in cases of domestic violence and youth issues... The entity generally takes a preventive approach, working closely together with: the community team, the forum for protection of children and the protection system of the municipalities.</li> <li>● <b>The Child protection Council</b> receives information from the AMHK, the municipalities and other authorised organs.</li> <li>● <b>The Assessment team</b> is the institution responsible for implementing the measures related to child protection and also offers resources (host family - house home). They also evaluate measures of protection, home visits or reports to the juvenile court.</li> </ul>
ROMANIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The National Centre and authority for the protection of children (ANPDC)</b> and <b>the General Directorate for Child Protection</b> aim at preventing domestic violence by offering free assistance to victims.</li> <li>● <b>The General Directorate of Social Care and Protection</b> acts through social awareness campaigns. The Directorate offers emergency and domestic violence counselling services and a care centre for child victims of neglect, exploitation and abuse.</li> <li>● <b>The Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Interior and Regional Development</b> promote seminars to create awareness of the consequences of family violence.</li> <li>● <b>NGOs,</b> public and private foundations, such as Save the Children, developed various projects and campaigns over the years to promote children's rights and prevent abuse (ex: Be supportive. Not Violent).</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measures such as <b>national strategies to prevent and combat domestic violence (2013-2017)</b> serve to increase the effectiveness of prevention programmes by promoting non-violent attitudes and zero tolerance for domestic violence, but they also provide an effective central registration system allowing evaluation and intervention</li> </ul>
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### 1.2.3. EDUCATIONAL

<b>SPAIN</b>	<p>Important aspects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Protocols</b> for detection of abuse in schools. All communities implemented a Protocol assisting with the identification of signs of abuse, as well as a facilitating notification to the judicial authorities.</li> <li><b>Awareness-raising campaigns</b> on abuse promoted by entities such as (FAMPI, ADIMA...) to raise awareness about the harm of abuse.</li> <li><b>Training</b> needs of professionals have been detected; the statistics reflect that in some communities less professionals report than in others.</li> </ul>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Studies involving different professionals working with children (Soo, et al 2009; Karu 2012...), show that there are difficulties to identify and report incidences of neglect, as well as sexual abuse, given the ambiguity and lack of clarity of the signs.</li> <li>Plans and strategies: <b>Strategy for the prevention of violence 2015-2020;</b>/"Children and Families Development Plan"2012-2020; "Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023". Objectives are: training of professionals working with children (social workers, educators, health professionals...), exchange of good practices, detection and reporting of abuse, draft of instructional manuals for professionals.</li> <li><b>Ministry of Justice:</b> Raise awareness about fulfilment of the rights of the child and their participation in society. Promote research, propose improvements, train professionals (topic: non-violent, positive parental education), propose actions in coordination with the Ombudsman of the minor child.</li> <li>Pilot study: <b>Incredible Years</b> (Ministry of Social Affairs together with the National Institute of Health Development) is a parental training course aimed at preventing family conflicts by providing parenting skills. Studies show its effectiveness of reducing anti-social aggressive behaviours or behaviours related to drug use.</li> </ul> <p>Awareness-raising campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>National campaign "Punishment does not raise a child"</b> " (Child Helpline), 2016, holds that corporal punishment should be banned in media channels (radio, newspapers, TV, cinema, internet, posters etc.)</li> <li>National Institute of Health Development "campaign", 2016 "Smart Parents" recognises parents who do not use physical punishment.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ministry of Social Affairs “campaign”, 2017, “I am OK” raises awareness of mental health disorders among young people and encourages them to look for help.</li> </ul>
ROTTERDAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The municipality has the authority to ensure child protection, but can only promote the training of teachers to improve identification of child abuse. The Ministry provides support to the Department of Education to fight against child abuse.</li> <li>● <b>Awareness-raising campaigns</b> for children and families. Anti-abuse week.</li> <li>● Regarding the <b>training of professionals</b>, it is recommended that training schemes contemplate training on domestic violence and abuse during childhood. Also, collaboration between schools and universities should be promoted.</li> </ul>
ROMANIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The National authority for the protection of children and their rights (ANPDC)</b> together with the <b>Ministry of Education</b> has promoted several campaigns to prevent violence and good practices aimed at parents educating in a non-violent manner: “you can be a good parent, “the rights of the child in laws ”.</li> <li>● <b>CJRAE (County Educational Resources and Assistance)</b>, locally, centralises actions such as: mediation in prevention of violence and juvenile delinquency, brief therapy, social mediation...</li> <li>● A town in the <b>Dolj County</b> developed a network of school advisers, trained to intervene in cases of violence, in collaboration with other professionals (health service, public administration, NGOs).</li> <li>● Programmes to raise awareness about the rights of children, such as: “art or violence, you choose”.</li> <li>● Parent schools promote the development of parenting skills (County Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance).</li> </ul>

#### 1.2.4. HEALTH

SPAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All communities implemented protocols and guides for detecting and reporting child abuse, which shows awareness of health professionals towards the issue. These professionals are those who report most frequently. Guides and protocols have been developed in collaboration with UNICEP, <b>REPSDI, network of health promotion and the rights of the child.</b></li> <li>● The interest of <b>the Spanish society for Social Paediatrics, SEPS</b>, to promote study and training of professionals on mistreatment of children, is worth mentioning.</li> </ul>
ESTONIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>In 2011, The Ministry of Justice</b>, requests healthcare professionals to assist in prevention and intervention of domestic violence.</li> <li>● Protocol for the detection of disorders in health and development, (paragraph 5) Public Health Act, as of which doctors must identify both social and educational risk factors to ensure early detection.</li> <li>● Law of Obligations Act, paragraph 768, states that providers of</li> </ul>



	<p>health care shall maintain the confidentiality of information, except if failure to disclose the information could result in self - harm or causing harm to other people. The Estonian Data Protection Inspectorate, 2016, 15, states that medical personnel are not allowed to guarantee confidentiality of information that is related to crime and offense, being obliged to notify the police. In the case of a child in need of help or in danger, the doctor is not obliged to share information about diagnosis, however, he will need to suggest assistance or inform about the endangering situation.</p>
<p><b>ROTTERDAM</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mandatory Reporting Code (Domestic Violence and Child Abuse)</b>, includes a section on detection of abuse for health professionals. There is mandatory compliance for all professionals.</li> <li>● <b>LESA (Child Abuse National First-line Partnership Agreement)</b>, aims at improving the relationship between GPs and the health system to improve response in case of child abuse. LESA also provides recommendations to improve local intervention in this area.</li> <li>● Protocols: <b>step by step (KNMG) battered childhood Plan</b>, is a protocol for professionals in the health sector to assist with identifying child abuse following criteria.</li> <li>● Further education: continuous training through the KNMG tool to detect child abuse and/or domestic violence.</li> <li>● Link of interest: <a href="http://www.encorporalpunishment.org/assets/pdfs/resarch-summaries/Global%20research%20summaries.pdf">www.encorporalpunishment.org/assets/pdfs/resarch-summaries/Global%20research%20summaries.pdf</a> .</li> </ul>
<p><b>ROMANIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The Ministry of Labour, Education, the Police, Local governments (General Directorate of social assistance) and NGOs</b> developed a <u>multidisciplinary cooperation protocol</u> with the aim of intervening rapidly in cases of physical violence, in order to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Assign a team to combat violence and exploitation of children.</li> <li>– Train family members and other professionals (paediatricians, nurses) to assist victims.</li> <li>– Promote different tools to reduce the risk of violence and neglect in families.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### 1.3. Strengths and weaknesses

The following table shows strengths and weaknesses, with the aim of drawing conclusions and allowing progress towards identification and consequent action required to eradicate corporal punishment.

	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p><b>SPAIN</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Observatory for children. (supervision of infant policies)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> RUMI, single record of maltreatment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Standardised protocols for professionals of various fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Legislation: there is no explicit prohibition of corporal punishment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a clear definition of corporal punishment, it would be necessary to better distinguish between</li> </ul>



	<p>(health, police, education).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Entities and NGOs working on child abuse prevention.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Status of the victim, protects and recognizes children as victims.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> National plan for children (PINEA II) promotes the rights of children.</li> </ul>	<p>corporal punishment and physical abuse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There is no figure of an Ombudsman working for children.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No clear definition of competences for entities involved, decreases effectiveness.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There are no specific studies on physical punishment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Risk factors associated with physical punishment need to be further investigated.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Central unit to study child maltreatment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of economic investment in childhood policies.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Detected risk factors are associated with abuse (physical, emotional). There is a need to further define this type of behaviour to increase understanding.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improve a new training curricula for professionals from the educational sector.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of specialized multidisciplinary teams.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ESTONIA</b></p>	<p>New Child Protection Act, 2016, clearly states that corporal punishment is prohibited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of protection plans for children and gender-based violence: <b>Strategy for the prevention of violence 2015-2020.</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Main authority responsible: "Estonian Social Insurance Board".</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Figure of the child defender</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continuous awareness campaigns for the population.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Entities specialised in the field: Private and state entities.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education and training of specialists, parents and general</li> </ul>	<p>Need to increase awareness of the impact of any type of violence against children and campaigns targeted to completely reject child abuse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Registration of cases of abuse should allow more detailed investigation about the use of physical punishment and associated risk factors.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There is no prohibition by law relating to the use of physical violence as an educational strategy.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Child protection laws are</li> </ul>



	<p>public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protocols in place requiring professionals to report cases of child abuse.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Network, between public and private bodies, with the corresponding specialists, “MARAC”.</li> </ul>	<p>included in the law relating to prevention of gender-based violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continuous training of professionals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ROTTERDAM</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children’s Act, law for the protection of children.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific law on domestic violence and abuse of children, 2013.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specialized advice and information centre for domestic violence and child abuse (HKMA).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Figure of the Ombudsman for children.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Network of community teams structured in 5 levels.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory reporting Code: code for identification and notification of cases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Weak and unclear definition of physical punishment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Risk factors are associated with abuse in general, but not with physical punishment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ROMANIA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Law for the promotion of the rights of the child 2004.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Law on prevention and combat of domestic violence, 2013.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Coordination body ANPDA.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> HG 49/2011, dedicated multidisciplinary team.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Frequent public awareness campaigns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social problem, tolerance towards use of physical punishment during childhood. Cultural support, which is difficult to change.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Missing specific definition of physical punishment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of economic resources to carry out measures of protection.</li> </ul>

To conclude, there are weaknesses within the four protection systems as highlighted in the above table.

Corporal punishment during childhood does not have a fully dedicated entity and is studied as part of all other manifestations of physical abuse. The lack of a consensual definition hinders further investigation and analysis of this behaviour; furthermore, it does not allow development of an explanatory hypothesis as to determine specific risk factors and consequently provide more effective responses.

Nevertheless, if professionals have sufficient resources and indicators, they will be able to respond proactively to the challenge of inhibiting escalation of violence, usually starting with corporal punishment and possibly resulting in severe physical abuse.



## Section 2. Best practices

### 1.1. Criteria

To analyse best practices in the participating countries, 20 best practices have been selected. Their analysis is intended to set the basis for building a tool that is intended to allow assessment, diagnosis and intervention and at the same time optimize performance measures put in place by the competent bodies.

The information provided in the following tables outlines those practices. They are structured in 6 items, which shall facilitate comparative analysis to detect key criteria included in best practices.

First of all, it is important to highlight the difficulty when selecting these practices, since they initially pretend to respond to broader child abuse issues. All in all, it is worth mentioning difficulty of detecting specific actions against physical punishment.



## 1.2. Best practices participating partners

### 1.2.1. ROTTERDAM

BEST PRACTICES	ENTITY	TARGET	OBJECTIVES	METHODOLOGY	OUTPUT	OBSERVATIONS
<b>VOORZORG</b>	Nederlands Centrum Jeugdgezondheid. (NCJ)	<b>CHILDREN (9 months- 2 years)</b> vulnerable families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Fighting child abuse</li> <li>❖ Working in health and safety</li> <li>❖ Personal development</li> </ul>	<p><b>PREVENTION FOCUS</b></p> <p>LEVEL 1: Performed by professionals who work with pregnant women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LEVEL 2: Home Visits by VoorZorg Nurse</li> </ul>	<p><b>Domestic Violence</b> (Mejdoubi J, vand den heikantS, van Leederdam F et al (2013))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emotional abuse decrease (56% CG vs 39% I)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sexual violence decrease (16% CG.vs 8% I)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cost: 13,000 € per person</li> <li>✓ Specialized training</li> </ul>
<b>OPVOEDEN &amp; ZO</b>	Kennisinstituut NJI	<p><b>PARENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4-12 years old children</li> <li>▪ Transmit parenting skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Improving parenting skills</li> <li>❖ Preventing emotional and behavioural problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Training (transfer of knowledge, instruction with film clips, group discussions ...)</li> <li>➤ Sessions: specific parental skills (say no, punishment)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prevention of emotional and behavioural problems in children. (Review Moran, Ghate &amp; Merwe 2004)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Available to immigrant parents</li> <li>✓ Material cost: 318€</li> </ul>



<p><b>VIPP-SD</b> Video-feedback to promote Positive Parenting &amp; Adequate Discipline</p>	<p>Universiteit Leiden/ Centrum voor Gezinsstudies</p>	<p><b>PARENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children from 1 to 3 years old with difficult behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Preventing or reducing behavioural problems by improving parenting skills.(positive interactions, discipline strategies)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The interventions are focused on the family. (home visits, mother-child filmed interaction, training)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Indicators allow to measure effectivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cost to be defined</li> <li>✓ Not destined to children with development disorder, intellectual disability</li> </ul>
<p><b>FAMILIES FIRST</b></p>	<p>Vereniging Spoedhulp Jeugd</p>	<p><b>FAMILY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children from 0 to 18 years old</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Resolving crisis situations and fostering safety within the family.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Level 1: working to reduce crisis situations.</li> <li>➤ Level 2: skills development and reducing burdens experienced by parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ 75% reduction of violent behaviours in a year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cost of implementation: 10,179 €</li> </ul>
<p><b>PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION THERAPY (PCIT)</b></p>	<p>Bascule, ggz instelling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children from 2 to 7 years old</li> <li>Serious behavioural problems</li> <li>Cases of physical child abuse in families and multi problem families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Offering parental skills to reduce serious behavioural problems in children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Training sessions</li> <li>➤ Focus on the positive behaviour of children. Empathy. Child-parent interaction is important.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Efficiency of PCIT, empirically supported in over 100 studies (USA, Australia and China)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ No cost available</li> <li>✓ License to be purchased</li> </ul>



### 1.2.2. ESTONIA



BEST PRACTICES	ENTITY	TARGET	OBJECTIVES	METHODOLOGY	RESULTS	OBSERVATIONS
<b>Internal Security Program. (ISP)</b>	ESTONIA <a href="http://perkeskus-eu/">http://perkeskus-eu/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Men as aggressors, who have used violence in the family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Combat violent behaviour within families and intimate relationships</li> <li>❖ Promoting an environment of change of attitude and behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Feminist approach</li> <li>➤ Cognitive and behavioural approach</li> <li>➤ Total time for program is 14 weeks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ The length of the whole program was too short to have a higher impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2,000 € per group (10-12 people)</li> <li>✓ No specific training required</li> </ul>
<b>Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT)</b>	USA/MIAMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minors between 11-19 years old</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Minors: emotional self-control/problem resolution/social abilities</li> <li>❖ Parents: emotional management/resolving family problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Intervention structure:</li> <li>➤ 1. Family 2. minors 3. school environment 4. Drug abuse 5. Criminal and delinquent behaviour (Total time 4-6 months)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Parental skills increased 72%</li> <li>❑ Anxiety symptoms decreased 37 %</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Total cost program</li> <li>✓ 2.2-2.7 million €</li> </ul>
<b>The Incredible years</b>	USA, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents and children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Parents: training on how to raise a child without the use of corporal punishment</li> <li>❖ Acquiring tools to reduce stress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Many training programs with various methods aimed at parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Internal rate of return IRR OF 23%</li> <li>❑ 95% Finished the program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pilot project,</li> <li>✓ Total cost: 597 per person</li> </ul>



BEST PRACTICES	ENTITY	TARGET	OBJECTIVES	METHODOLOGY	RESULTS	OBSERVATIONS
<b>Parent effectiveness training (P.E.T)</b>	USA <a href="http://www.sinamina.ee">www.sinamina.ee</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Communication and conflict resolution skills.</li> <li>❖ Developing and maintaining democratic, mutually satisfying relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Behaviour window (conceptual model)</li> <li>➢ 8 meetings lasting 3 hours each</li> <li>➢ Different strategies and methodologies (role playing, discussing in a group...)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Greatest measurable effect was on parent attitudes</li> <li>☐ Effect on children was greatest in the category of self-esteem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2,060 € tuition</li> <li>✓ + 470 (evaluation kit)</li> </ul>
<b>NO Kids in the Middle (DIALOGO LASTES NIMEL)</b>	NETHERLANDS <a href="http://www.dialooglastenimel.ee">www.dialooglastenimel.ee</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents in divorce process and their children</li> </ul>	dialogue between parents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Helping parents identify the causes and consequences of family conflicts</li> <li>❖ Helping parents spot children's needs in conflict situations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Training: 8 group meetings for parents for 3 months</li> <li>➢ Methodology: discussing in a group, practical exercises</li> <li>➢ Methods for children were interactive (pictures, dancing...)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>parental cooperation in a positive way and as a team</li> <li>☐ The improvement in parent-child relationships and conflict solving skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Total cost 200 € per parent 425 € training professional + 950 € supervision.</li> <li>✓ Estonia Study (estimate cost) 22,277.89 €</li> </ul>

### 1.2.3. ROMANIA



<b>Parenting Skills Development Programme “STRONG FAMILIES”</b>	Save the children	▪ Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Parenting skills development</li> <li>❖ Promoting positive parenting relationship, developing children’s capacities</li> <li>❖ Offering recognition and guidance to children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Group of parents</li> <li>➤ Guidelines on facilitation support groups “STRONG FAMILIES”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of positive parenting skills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improvement in building a secure environment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of limits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Positive discipline programs are easy to apply</li> <li>✓ Implementation without high costs</li> </ul>
<b>Understanding behaviour of children</b>	Save the children	▪ Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Learning what behaviour to expect from children in different ages</li> <li>❖ Identifying the needs of children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Methodology: group training (role playing, brainstorming...)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Positive parent-child interaction. (understanding, unconditional acceptance)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Low cost implementation of the program</li> <li>✓ Easy transfer</li> </ul>
<b>“THE STRICT RULES”</b>	Save the Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parents/</li> <li>▪ Teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Being able to identify the difference between flexible and strict rules</li> <li>❖ Learning to establish strict and consistent rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Training course: guideline for the establishment of strict rules</li> <li>➤ Roadmap for practical skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Development of positive parenting skills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of the use of corporal punishment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Not involving a high cost.</li> <li>✓ Easy implementation.</li> <li>✓ Easy transfer to larger groups.</li> </ul>



<b>Understanding the need and behaviour of children</b>	Save the children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Learning how to identify the needs of children. (emotions)</li> <li>❖ Learning strategies to calm down and establish firm rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Training groups</li> <li>➤ Discussion groups/modelling/</li> <li>➤ role playing...</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement of professional training (psychology, education professional training...)	✓ Unknown cost
<b>Promoting positive behaviour in children</b>	Save the Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parents/</li> <li>▪ Teachers/ Education professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Learning to differentiate between discipline and punishment.</li> <li>❖ Improving discipline</li> <li>❖ Establishing limits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Training (Role playing)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Increasing impact of the program <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement of basic training	✓ Unknown cost

#### 1.2.4. SPAIN



BEST PRACTICES	ENTITY	TARGET	OBJECTIVES	METHODOLOGY	RESULTS	OBSERVATIONS
<b>Let's Educate Not Punish.</b>	Save the children (Spain)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness campaign against physical punishment of children.</li> <li>Guidelines for parenting skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parental training groups</li> <li>Guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning basic educational concepts: "that's education", conflict resolving strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low cost of implementation</li> <li>Can be easily implemented in other environments – knowledge transfer</li> </ul>
<b>Program to grow up happily within the family</b>	Hestía Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theoretical basis for attitudes of attachment and self-control</li> <li>Promoting parental competences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experimental methodology</li> <li>Guidelines</li> <li>Group training + home visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of the general population.</li> <li>Promoting positive parenting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown data that impact the program</li> </ul>
<b>Love, Power and Violence</b>	Save the children (Spain)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professionals (teachers, police, NGOs, educational professionals)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness about negative effects of child abuse</li> <li>Promoting affective education</li> <li>Promoting non violent strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group training</li> <li>Methodology: affective and personal experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross-cultural studies: corporal transcultural punishment.</li> <li>Physical abuse patterns - association between violence and power</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It permits cross-international comparison</li> <li>It increases the knowledge about violence</li> </ul>

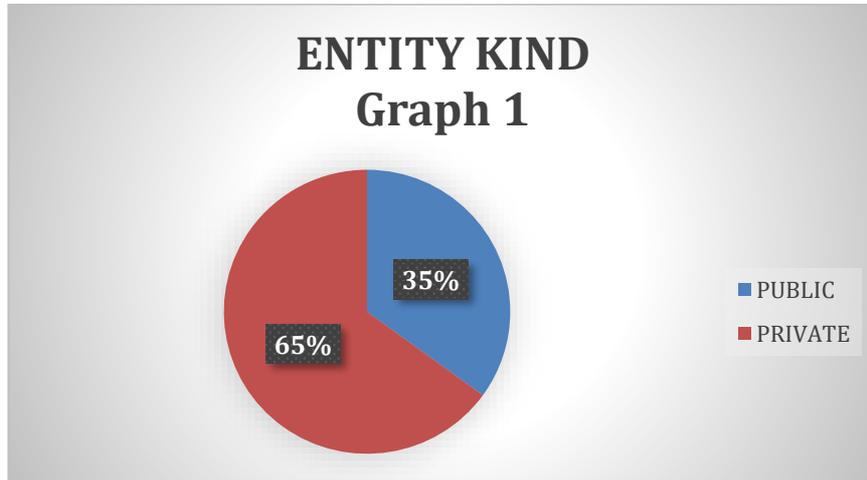


<p><b>Safe care &amp; Incredible Years</b></p>	<p>Social Public Service of Guipuzcoa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child protection professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Systematizing intervention strategies destined to families, as to ensure more effectiveness</li> <li>❖ Prevention focus, to improve parental skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Family home therapy (Safe care)</li> <li>➤ Group therapy (incredible years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Safe care: decrease in depression symptoms of mothers, child abuse risk and parental stress.</li> <li>❑ Incredible Years: decrease in depression symptoms (Significant effect of treatment)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ High cost of implementation</li> <li>✓ Special training for professionals</li> <li>✓ Total cost 2014: 2,000,000 per year</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parental education</b> as a psychoeducational resource to promote positive parenting</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality (MSSI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Defining parental education as a psychological and educational resource</li> <li>❖ Setting parental education goals</li> <li>❖ Identifying parental competences and resilience skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Home visits</li> <li>➤ Group interventions</li> <li>➤ Guidelines to implement efficient parental programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Decrease of the use of permissive-negligent practices or coercive practices.</li> <li>❑ Increase of personal self-control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Unknown data</li> </ul>

### 1.3. Graphs

The following graph represents data collected from previous tables in order to facilitate assessment and conclusions.

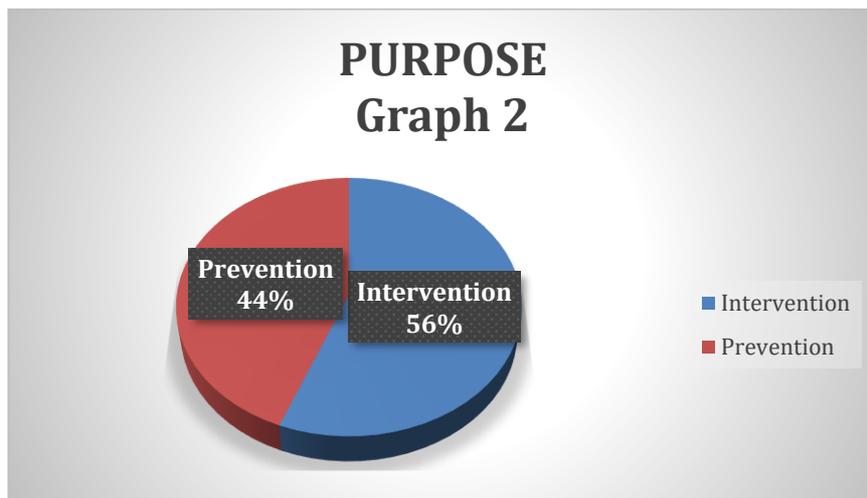
Graph 1: Type of entity implementing the initiative



Graph 1 represents the entities or institutions that implement best practices, differentiating between public and private. 65% of best practices are implemented in the private sector versus 35% in the public sector.

Data clearly shows less involvement of public institutions when tackling child abuse.

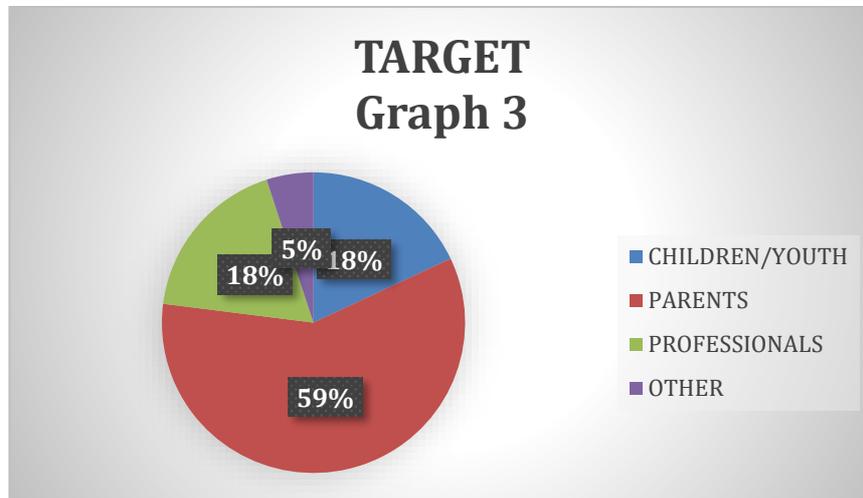
Graph 2: Purpose of best practices



Graph 3 represents best practices according to objectives: **prevention 44%**, aimed at promoting decent treatment of children (ex. respecting their rights and applying positive

discipline); and **intervention 56%** once the case has been detected. Intervention initiatives are specially targeted at vulnerable population groups.

Graph 3: Initiatives by target group

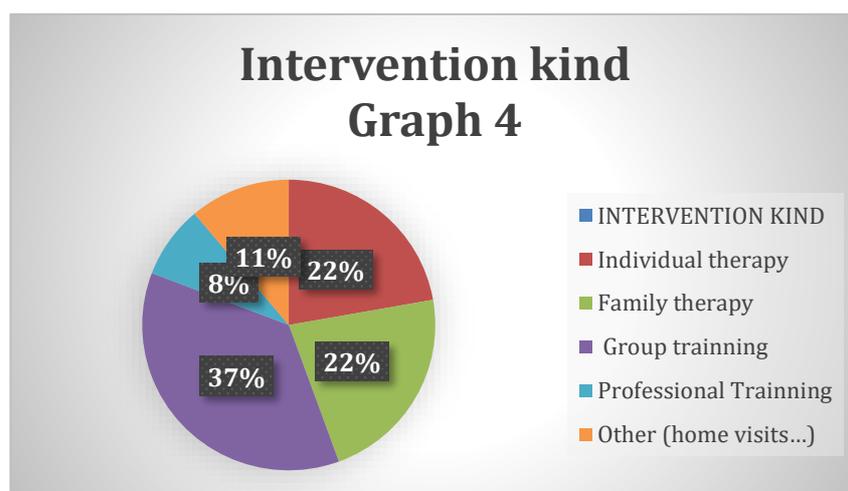


The above chart shows the main target groups detected, when analysing 20 best practices, and the initiatives destined to each target group. (some have more than 2 targets):

- 59% of initiatives for parents.
- 18% of initiatives for children or young people.
- 18% addressed to professionals, related to training.
- 5% have other target groups (ex. offenders).

As the numbers show, most of best practices are targeted at parents, seen as key figures to improve intervention and prevention. Furthermore, professionals are considered to be important, as to exponentially increase the impact of best practices.

Graph 4: Kind of intervention



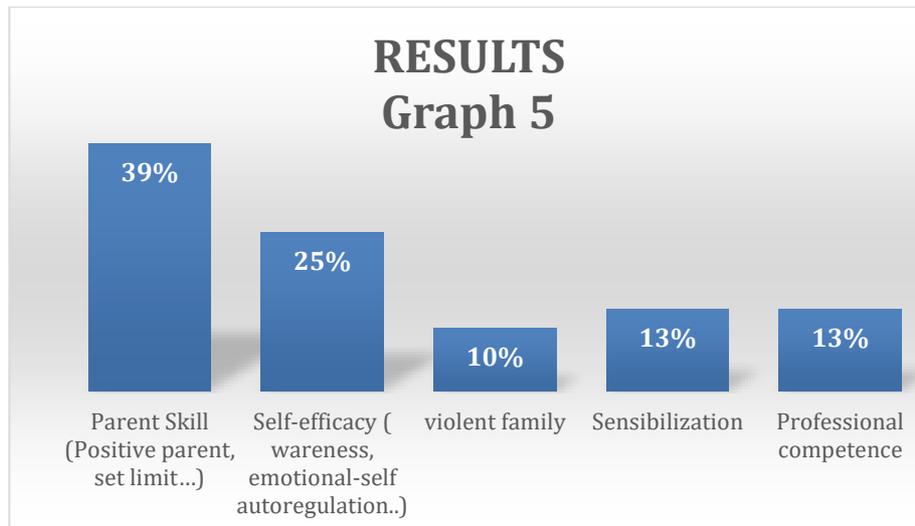


In graph 5, best practices are classified according to type of intervention. 4 areas can be highlighted:

1. **36% training and/or group workshops** for skills development.
2. **22% family interventions**, aimed at improving family relationships, parenting skills, promotion of further education, etc.
3. **22% individual interventions**, as to encourage skills and/or personal competences development, which should foster self-knowledge (self - awareness of the emotional state, self-control) etc.
4. **9% training for professionals**, for example specialised training for practitioners, both targeted at prevention and intervention.
5. **11% other**, for example domiciliary visits, and other interventions listed in best practices.

Note: some best practices can be identified in various types of intervention.

Graph 5: Results of best practices

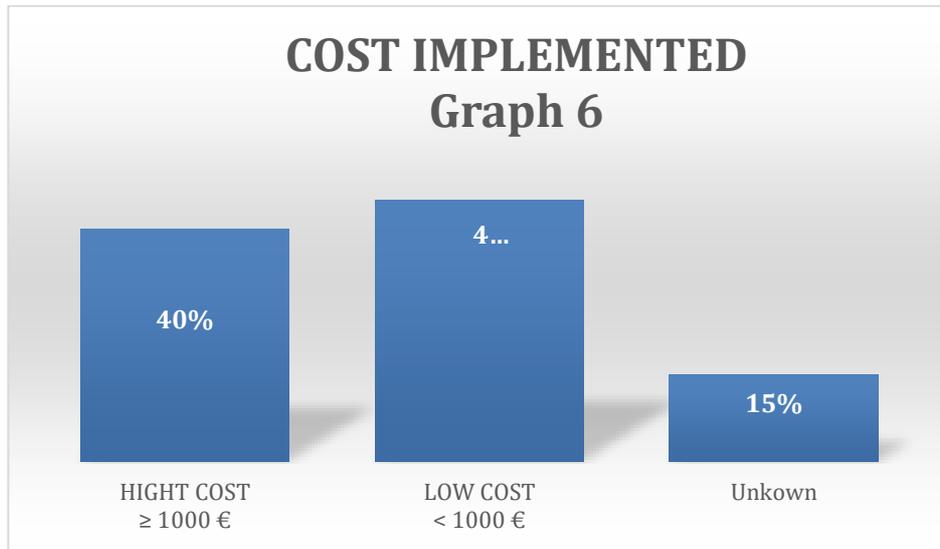


Graph 6 represents the most significant results achieved, implementing all selected best practices. Despite failing to use the same variables, they have been classified as detailed below:

1. 39% improve parenting skills.
2. 25% improve personal competences and self-knowledge.
3. 10%, contribute to a decrease of violent episodes in the family.
4. 13% foster professional skills improvement.



Graph 6: Cost of best practices



Graph 6 shows the cost incurred when implementing selected best practices. With 1000 euros established as a reference point, 40% of initiatives implied high costs, whereas 45% low costs.



## 2. Existing resources

The European Union has actively fought to defend the rights of children. The jurisprudence of the European Committee of Social Law, which monitors compliance with the European Social Charter, requires all member states to prohibit all physical punishment or any other form of punishment or humiliating treatment of children, and to promote other energetic measures administrative and measures to recognize the right to be protected.

In 2001, in a general comment, the Committee stated that Article 17 of the Letters: *"requires the prohibition in legislation of all violence against children, whether at school, in other institutions, at home or elsewhere. It also considers that any other form of punishment, degrading treatment of children should be prohibited in legislation and combined with appropriate sanctions in criminal or civil law. It is not acceptable for a society that prohibits all forms of physical violence among adults to accept that adults subject children to physical violence"*

In June 2006, the Committee adopted a general comment on the child's right to protection from physical punishment and all other forms of cruel or degrading punishment.

*"Addressing the acceptance or tolerance of physical punishment of children and putting an end to such practices in the family, schools and other settings is not only an obligation of states parties in view of the Convention, but also a key strategy for reduce and prevent all forms of violence in society (...) "* *"Once this practice is visible, it is clear that physical punishment conflicts with the equal and inalienable rights of children with respect to their human dignity and physical integrity. Children's own characteristics, their situation starts dependency and development, extraordinary human potential and vulnerability, are elements that require more, not less, legal and other protection from all forms of violence. "*

The Council of Europe has played a key role in the process of studying the United Nations and is committed to ensure follow-up of its recommendations in Europe.

The campaign of the Council of Europe against physical punishment, aims to achieve the prohibition of all physical punishment and promote a positive upbringing and a culture of non-violence, in order to a childhood free of violence for all children.

Among the measures implemented in the Global Initiative to end all corporal Punishment of Children, are divided into three areas:

- 1. Prohibition to elimination of corporal punishment.**
- 2. Positive discipline resources**
- 3. Non-violent childhoods projects.**

### 1.1 Preliminary list of measures needed to accompany/follow prohibition:

- Wide dissemination and explanation of the law and its implications.
- Detailed guidance, for all involved, on how the law prohibiting violent punishment should be implemented in the best interests of children.



- Communication of children’s right to protections from corporal punishment and all other cruel or degrading forms of punishment to children and adults
- Promotion of positive, non-violent forms of discipline to the public, children, parents, other caregivers, teachers, etc.
- Dissemination of information on the dangers of corporal punishment
- Integration of implementation/enforcement of the prohibition into the national and local child protection system.
- Identification of key public figures and a wide range of partners who can support implementation of the law and transformation of attitudes.

## 1.2. Planning for change.

A national plan should be developed by the government with other potentially active partners on how to progress from prohibition to elimination. This could be a distinct plan or an integral element in a national plan to eliminate all forms of violence against children.

What actions there has been-including development of programmes and materials-challenging corporal punishment in the home and family, local community, schools and other institutions, all forms of alternative care and day care, child labour and penal systems for children.

- a) The structures of all relevant national and local services impacting on children and families which could be used as a communications vehicle to support the move away from violent punishment.
- b) Available research on the prevalence of and attitudes towards violent punishment of children.

### 1. NON- VIOLENT CHILDHOOD.

Moving on from corporal punishment in the Baltic Sea Region. This project draws on the significant experience of states in the Baltic Sea Region in Bringing the ban from law into practice, ranging from those with over 30 years experience implementing the ban to those that have just recently embarked on this journey.

The project is led by the Children Risk unit (<http://www.childrenatrisk.eu/>) of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, in corporation with the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children. National project Right of the Child in the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in Sweden. The outcome of the initiative will be presented at a European conference in late 2018.

### 2. POSITIVE DISCIPLINE RESOURCES.

While civil society organizations can and do raise awareness about children’s right to protection and about positive discipline, ultimately, governments should take responsibility for this process, including through providing education and training for parents and professionals. For more information on promoting positive discipline in conjunction with promoting law reform, see the Global Initiative’s [Campaigns Manual](#) (2010).

1. Parenting without Punishing. ([www.nopunish.net](http://www.nopunish.net)). Website containing a book and article by Norm Lee, who has developed an approach to parenting which he calls the “New Non-Punitive Parenting Paradigm”, based on the principles of



respect for children as thinking and feeling human beings with full memberships in the family and on “democratic discipline”.

2. Positive discipline (2007). Manual Positive Discipline. What is and how to do it. By save the children Sweden and the Global initiative to end all corporal Punishment of Children. (Global Initiative to end all corporal punishment of Children).
3. **The Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly**, which brings together representatives from all 47 member states’ parliaments, has adopted a Recommendation calling for Europe to become a “corporal punishment-free zone”.

Member States who have abolished corporal punishment are encouraged to share with the Council of Europe good practices they have developed to promote non-violent parenting. This can be audio-visual and campaign materials, publications, training materials and other useful tools, which brings together representatives from all 47 member states’ parliaments, has adopted a Recommendation calling for Europe to become a “corporal punishment-free zone”. The social and legal acceptance of corporal punishment of children must come to an end. The campaign „Raise your hand against smacking” provides member states with awareness raising material to promote the abolition of corporal punishment and encourage positive, non-violent parenting.

4. **CONTRIBUTION TO ERADICATION OF USE OF CORPORAL PUNIHSMENT ON CHILDREN WHITIN FAMILY AND INSTITUTIONAL FIELDS.** JUST/2010/FP3/AG/1337  
<http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/results/daphne-toolkit/en/content/contribution-eradication-use-corporal-punishment-children-whitin-family-and-institutional>. The aim of the project was to contribute to the eradication of the physical punishment on children through the elaboration of programmes, material for raising awareness and training material addressed to parents and professionals from social and school fields related to methods alternative to the use of physical punishment.
5. **Educate, do no punish. Just/2010/DAP3/AG/1274.**  
The Educate do not Punish project created and tested awareness raising materials to promote the ban of corporal punishment and positive parenting both at European level and in the national context where the project was implemented.
6. **Be supportive, not violent! Positive parenting for happy children.**  
<http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/results/daphne-toolkit/en/content/be-supportive-not-violent-positive-parenting-happy-children>  
The project “Be supportive, not violent! Positive parenting for happy children”, Aimed at raising awareness on the negative effects of corporal and verbal punishment of children, as well as at promoting positive parenting and non-violent raising of children in all environments (home, school or any other institutional or non-institutional setting).



### 3. Conclusion

Currently there are very few studies about corporal punishment in childhood, it is a social phenomenon that has not attracted sufficient interest as to deepen study and find out what lies behind. Perhaps the most important conclusion is the need for rigorous study to allow elaborating an explanatory definition, determine factors of specific risks and provide effective responses for prevention and intervention. It is expected that, within the cycle of child violence, corporal violence occurs before severe physical violence. Therefore, identification of indicators and trained professionals, sensitive to this problem, can contribute to respond in a preventive way.

Corporal punishment, as a manifestation of child abuse, is part of what is described as physical abuse. The lack of a common consensual definition makes it difficult to draw conclusions and to carry out cross-national comparative studies. Taking this into account, the report still shows that physical abuse is frequent, especially in Estonia and Romania. The report also shows common risk factors such as, family conflicts, domestic violence, drug abuse by parents and low economic and educational level. No specific laws regulate corporal punishment in children, even if it is prohibited in all countries by the civil code (Spain) or by laws aimed at preventing domestic violence (Estonia, Netherlands and Romania). All countries, represented in this study, adhered to the International Convention of the Rights of the Child, although the economic and administrative endowment for fulfilment is very different from one country to another.

Regarding the measures and resources implemented by the different administrations, we found that only in The Netherlands there is a specific body dedicated to child abuse, "Centre for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse" (AMHK), as well as a standardized action protocol and network; In the rest of countries we detected important deficiencies. There are coordination difficulties in Spain (different competences assigned to different administrations: duplicity of efforts resulting in low effectiveness) and lack of public resources in Romania and Estonia, where especially NGOs develop and implement initiatives.

In the educational field, we detected the need for specialized training for professionals, a need for greater coordination with other institutions and reinforcement of prevention work beyond existing awareness campaigns.

Analysing 20 best practices, we found that private entities implement a greater number of programs in response to corporal punishment and child abuse than public institutions. There is a need for greater involvement of public entities. The actions are especially focused on preventive work, whereas, the necessity to develop specific intervention programs to combat abuse in families should not be forgotten. (standardized and proven programs that allow replication and carrying out comparative studies).

To develop best practice manuals, as well as structuring intervention, it is necessary to work within a multidisciplinary and broad-spectrum, targeting parents (positive parenting, communication skills, self - control skills, resilience), the educational community (teacher



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training and awareness sessions) and the general community (social services, police and the health sector).



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