

Keep Me Safe

# Keep Me Safe Newsletter February 2020

Erasmus+ Keep Me Safe — Issue 2 — February 2020

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## Keep me Safe Project Update

Keep Me Safe is aimed at empowering youth workers and youth peers on safeguarding and preventing sexual abuse. To achieve its purpose, organisations in the UK, France, Cyprus, Slovenia, Denmark and Bulgaria are applying their expertise on the development of a **youth workers curriculum programme**, **youth peers' training program** and a **digital learning app** that will enhance the knowledge, awareness and understanding about sexual abuse. Over the last months, partner organisations have reached out to key stakeholders in the field of preventing and raising awareness against sexual abuse to understand the real needs emerging on a day-to-day work with young people.

Thanks to the results of these interviews the consortium defined the **role specification** of youth workers in the field of preventing and raising awareness against sexual abuse and established a **competency framework** by identifying 22 key competences for youth workers in such field.

We are now finalising the development of the **curriculum programme** to answer the needs of youth workers.

In the following pages you will find a short summary of the role specification of youth workers and the outline of the curriculum.



## A youth worker in the field of preventing and raising awareness against sexual abuse

One of the greatest professional challenges confronting youth workers, is how to support children and young people so that they can identify, tackle and support one another against sexual abuse. In order to face this challenge, professionals today need to be fully equipped in order to be able to detect, safeguard and prevent while equally empowering young people to protect themselves by making them aware of the risks of sexual abuse. Professionals in this field have to create a safe and inclusive space; to give a voice and facilitate the “speak up” process; to listen and encourage discussions and peer to peer support and to influence young people's capacity to act appropriately.

For this purpose, it is important that the youth worker, when working with young people aged 13- 19, provides them with adequate support and encourages them to communicate and challenge inappropriate behaviours and attitudes while helping them to achieve their potential and facilitate social inclusion.

### Role Specification

Four areas have been identified as essential for the youth worker to be successful in his/her work. He/she will need to:

#### 1/ Recognize and understand sexual abuse

The youth worker will need to:

- Know the legislation and stay up to date
- Be able to early recognise signs of sexual abuse
- Know the mechanisms to detect and report sexual abuse
- Cooperate among a network of professionals

#### 2/ Be competent in intercultural dialogue

The youth worker will need to:

- Know one's own cultural identity and be aware of one's own behaviour and perceptions
- Demonstrate a high level of intercultural awareness and skills
- Adapt communication and mechanisms to the clients' profile, culture and needs

#### 3/ Safeguard and prevent

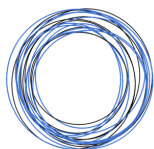
The youth worker will need to:

- Know the national safeguarding and prevention policies and procedures and stay up to date
- Provide appropriate guidance and a safe space
- Demonstrate empathy and active listening
- Know and use methods to speak up and to empower
- Create and facilitate a safe network of professionals and peers

#### 4/ Facilitate discussion and peer to peer communication

The youth worker will need to:

- Work with formal and non-formal methods



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Promote active participation, equality, respect and tolerance  
 Cultivate communication and facilitation skills among a peer to peer network  
 Know the rights and responsibilities of the target groups and stay up to date

## Curriculum Programme

Based on this role specification and the competences framework, the curriculum programme, addresses the needs of youth workers to provide specific training on topics related to sexual abuse. The curriculum is divided in 4 Modules offering a wide variety of tools and activities. Here the Module outline:

**Module 1 - Understanding sexual abuse**

**Module 2 – Cultural determinants on perceptions, attitudes and behaviours in relation to abuse.**

**Module 3 – Safeguarding in the Youth Sector**

**Module 4 – Keep me Safe Techniques: Proactive peer communication on the topic of sexual abuse**

All information about the curriculum will be uploaded on the partners social platforms and project website. If you are interested in being updated, get in touch with your local organisation or enter our website: <http://keepmesafe.eu/>

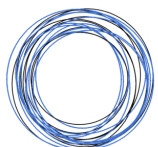
## Partner meeting in Marseille

**5-6 December 2019**

Keep Me Safe's partners held their second meeting in sunny Marseille from 5-6 December 2019. On the agenda was an overview discussion on the outcomes of the focus groups and interviews with key stakeholders, youth workers and expert sources of the field in each partner

country. During the meeting partners also discussed the outcomes of the role specification and competency framework and defined how to best develop the curriculum programme and the peer training programme. Great effort was invested in the discussion about the interface of the mobile digital learning application and how to best digitalise the learning content of the training and curriculum and make it user friendly.





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## What's next in KMS

- In February partners will finalise the Curriculum Programme for youth workers and start developing the Keep Me Safe Peers Training Programme. Whereas the Curriculum Programme for youth workers is concerned with equipping them with specific content, resources and methods to build their professional capacity to address issues of awareness raising and prevention of sexual abuse, the KMS Training Programme aims at developing an innovative empowerment methodology for young people to increase their knowledge about sexual abuse and enable them to become a multiplier for their peers.
- Soon the development of the KMS mobile digital learning application will start. The app will digitalise the learning content of the Curriculum Programme and the Peers Training Programme and will be used both by youth workers and youth peers.
- The next partnership meeting will take place beginning of June 2020 and will be hosted by SOSU in Denmark

## Project Coordinator

Laura Pescod

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## Project Partners



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