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Press release

Subject: Second Managerial Meeting of Balkan Epidemiological study on Child Abuse and Neglect (BECAN) – Train the Trainers Workshop

Source: Institute of Child Health. Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare – Centre for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Head G. Nikolaidis.)

The second Managerial Meeting of Balkan Epidemiological study on Child Abuse and Neglect (**BECAN**), the **largest epidemiological study on the subject ever conducted in the Balkan region** will take place on **17th-18th April**, in **Tirana, Albania**.

BECAN is a co-funded project by European Commission's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and participating organizations. The research involves applying I-CAST questionnaires (created by the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect with the support of UNICEF) to a representative sample of the general population of children, aged 11,13 and 16 years old and their parents in Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, FYROM, and Turkey. At the same time there will be a study on the reported or detected Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) cases from existing data bases in the same 9 Balkan countries.

After 5 months of preparatory work, which among others included sampling, adapting and translating research tools, research planning and network building, the BECAN consortium representatives from 9 Balkan countries, will gather for the second time, since the Kick off meeting in Athens, in order to discuss:

- their progress in planning the field as well as the data base research
- activities and initiations taken at national level in order to promote BECAN project and to establish mechanisms (i.e. networks, website and forum, etc) that will help the implementation of the research and the sustainability of its results
- conclusions and suggestions from Focus Groups implementation to control research tools in each country
- problems up until now faced in the development of the project
- ways and methods they have been used in order to work out any difficulties or barriers

In the margins of the managerial meeting there will also be held bilateral meetings with representatives of the Albanian government as well as professionals and experts that work on the CAN study and prevention field.

Two days prior to 2nd Managerial Meeting the Coordinator of the project (ICH-MHSW, Greece) along with the Scientific Supervisor (Kevin Browne, an international expert on the CAN field, who actually participated in the process of creating ICAST tools), will undertake the training of partner countries' representatives, in a two-day closed session, called **Train-the-Trainers" Workshop**. During the Workshop detailed instructions and specific guidelines on overall methodology of both the questionnaires and interviews based research and the reported/detected case based surveillance will be given, opting for a harmonized implementation of the survey. Conducting research with unanimously trained researchers and harmonized tools will help so that in the future CAN problem will be measured in a unified manner, which will produce reliable and comparable data.

BECAN collaboration network provides news and information on child abuse and neglect research and prevention via www.becan.eu website.