

Keep Me Safe

Keep Me Safe Newsletter

September 2020

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PROJECT UPDATE

Sexual abuse has significant detrimental effects on young people, leading to long-term problems that cause social exclusion and negative impacts on their mental and emotional health, development and well-being, throughout their whole lives.

Through the development of youth workers and young people, Keep Me Safe project is currently developing a **peer-to-peer approach** in addressing and raising awareness and preventing sexual abuse amongst youth.

The project increases youth worker understanding, awareness and skill sets, ensuring they have the knowledge both in safeguarding and in development of a **youth-led peer-to-peer strategy** in addressing sexual violence issues experienced by young people.

The Keep Me Safe project is achieving the project goals through the creation of **three innovative intellectual outputs** designed to increase the youth sector knowledge, awareness and civic participation in addressing sexual abuse amongst 13 to 18 year olds.

The main expected project **outputs** are as follows:

- ✓ **Youth workers development curriculum**
- ✓ **Youth peers training programme**
- ✓ **Mobile digital learning app**





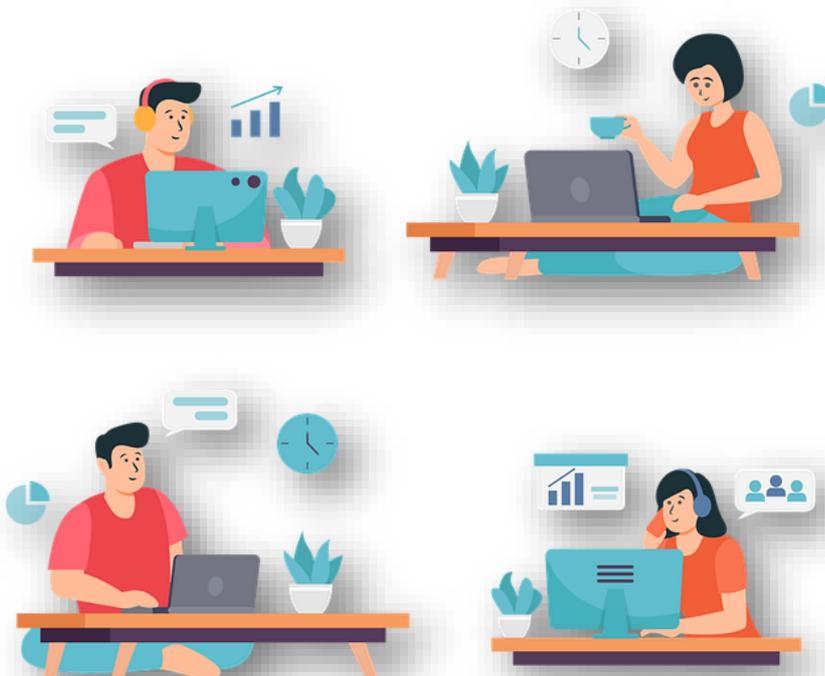
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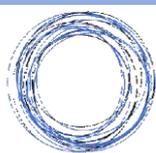
Working During the COVID-19 Pandemic

At the beginning of 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic started and this made the whole world stay at home. Nevertheless, this didn't stop the partnership from working- all of the project partners started working from home.



Despite the objective obstacles that quarantine creates for the project: it prevents the fruitful face-to-face communication with the target groups, the modern means of communication, which are also the subject of the project, help the partnership gather information and prepare the content of the **project products**.





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Finalization of the First Two Project Products

The first two project products, Youth workers development curriculum and Youth peers training programme, are already developed by the partnership.



At the moment the partners are working on the pilot testing of the two project products with youth workers and youth peers. The aim of the testing is to receive feedback regarding the content of the **curriculum** and the **training programme** and improve their content.

The topics, content and exercises of the first two project products will be found on the project website www.keepmesafe.eu

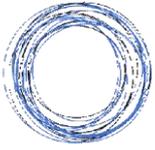
Development Curriculum for Youth Workers is at the heart of the Keep Me Safe programme- it:

- ✓ Designs its learning programme to develop the capability of the Keep Me Safe youth worker in the field of awareness and prevention of sexual
 - ✓ abuse of young people
- ✓ Constructs this learning programme, in the form of a modular, learning outcomes-based approach implemented through facilitated action learning
 - ✓ sets and supported by learning materials
- ✓ Validates this learning programme in a non-formal context, through an extensive pilot testing programme in each of the partner countries

The Youth Peers Keep Me Safe Training Methodology is central the Keep Me Safe programme- it:

- ✓ Designs the learning programme to develop the capability of the Keep Me Safe Youth Peers to deliver first Youth Peer development programmes preparing young people to be active peers in situations of prevention, awareness and support in relation to sexual abuse
- ✓ Constructs this learning programme aligned to a defined Youth Peer Volunteer role specification for the Keep Me Safe youth worker
- ✓ Validates the Keep Me Safe youth worker and peer learning programmes through an extensive pilot testing programme in each of the partner countries





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Working on the Third Product

At the moment the partnership is developing the third project product- Keep Me Safe Mobile Digital Learning App

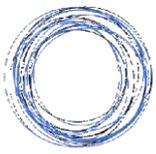
The third product is already being developed by the partnership. The partners have already developed the design of the application, as well as the preliminary content. The application will be available both for Android and iOS.



The Keep Me Safe Mobile Digital Learning APP is a mobile learning resource that can be used both by **youth workers** and **youth peers**, in which the learning and content produced by the project will be digitized and contextualized, with new and complementary learning content and navigation guidance through a new user interface, accessible and utilized in mobile (laptop, tablet, smartphone) contexts.

The Mobile Learning App requires brand new content and a completely new interface, mapping out new pathways and entry points to the content, while drawing upon relevant content developed through interactive exercises and learning content in the **Keep Me Safe Youth Peer and youth worker training methodologies**.

The materials developed will be adapted in a new editorial framework for placing the materials in an appropriate navigational structure and interface in the APP online so that youth worker, educationists and wider child protection workers are in a position to access them in mobile locations.



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Meetings and Future Activities

Because of the COVID-19 situation, instead of a classic face to face meeting, an online partner meeting was held on the 9th and 10th September 2020.

During the meeting there were discussions about all aspects of the project so far such as development of intellectual products, financial issues, management, dissemination of the project results, etc.



The final project conference and meeting are scheduled for May 18 and 19, 2021.

This event will serve both as a national stakeholder dissemination and promotional programme, and a multiplier event in the form of a conference with transnational inputs and perspectives from all of the project partners, who will be in Nicosia for the final transnational meeting that will be held co-terminus (the day before or after) this conference. It will be held in Nicosia (Cyprus), and it will be centered upon an active dissemination of Keep Me Safe outcomes and results, with an emphasis on cooperation, succession and legacy.

The conference will include **panel sessions with presentations; open round table discussions** between decision-makers, practitioners and representatives involved in child protection and youth peer strategies. Consideration will be given to the feasibility of streaming the event and networking with participants from each of the partner countries.

As well as a showcase of the Keep Me Safe results, and the Keep Me Safe methodologies/training, the conference will encourage a broader discussion of the situation of Youth Peers in relation to young people affected by sexual abuse. Representatives from partner organizations will be present to enable transnational debate, although the attendees will be overwhelmingly from Cyprus.

In that context, the target groups of the conference will be:

1. Public authorities responsible for child protection
2. Youth organisations and educational bodies
3. NGOs working on the child protection agenda and other relevant representatives. Youth workers and young people who have participated in the programme as youth peers
4. Youth work services funding entities and managers

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