CONSENT

Berta Vall Ph.D
Faculty of Psychlogy, Sports and Education Sciences,
Blanquerna, URL
Research and Development Manager (WWP EN)

CONSENT: Combating ONline early access to Sexually explicit material and ENhancing Tools to foster youngsters' healthy intimate relationships

Project information

❏ **Funding entity/program:** Funded by European Commission, Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC), H2021. (REC-RDAP-GBV-AG-2021), project number 101049565

❏ **Duration:** 2 years – 02/2022 to 02/2024

❏ **Budget**: EUR 540,460.71

❏ **Partners:**

- FUNDACIÓ BLANQUERNA (FB)

- UNIZON (UNIZON)

- CENTRO DI ASCOLTO UOMINI MALTRATTANTI ONLUS (CAM)

- ASSOCIACIO CONEXUS ATENCIO, FORMACIO I INVESTIGACIO PSICOSOCIALS (CONEXUS)

- EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR THE WORK WITH PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (WWP EN)

- KASPERSKY LAB SL (KASPERSKY)

Background

❑ **Pornography** is an industry that **normalize** violent and abusive attitudes towards women, such as aggression, degradation and sexual objectification.

❑ The UNICEF (2020) stated that during the **COVID-19 crisis** children and adolescents **have increased their online activity** due to the lockdown and school closures, which resulted in pornography consumption skyrocketing.

❑ As a part of the response on the European level, we see the **need to raise awareness** and **enhance the key role of parents/caregivers and teachers/educators** in developing children's essential digital skills to increase their safety and security.

Needs and analysis

❏ According to Kaspersky's Family Report (2019), more than a quarter (28%) of parents with a child aged between 7 and 12 consider harmful (violent or sexual) content as the most important risk facing their children while they are online.

❏ UNICEF (2020) and EU Kids Online (2012) have pointed out that parents and caregivers should set boundaries to establish in order that can help to mitigate them and protect them (antivirus, parental control, etc.).

Therefore, there is **the need to raise awareness of parents and caregivers** about the easy access to pornography by youngsters and its related effects, and enabling them to hinder the access of children to sexually explicit material, and to foster youth sexual and emotional healthy development (specific objective 1).

Needs and analysis

❏ Following the report of the Spanish Ministry of Equality (2020), 57,5% of teachers do not feel skilled to work on such gender-based violence prevention, and 26,7% refers no considering it to be their function.

❏ In Italy, the National Adolescent Observatory referred that 36% of children received information about sex talking with friends, 25% did not speak to anyone, 18% found them on the Internet and only minimally from parent's school. Additionally, online pornographic movies are viewed by 24% of teens, starting at a very early age, and they often learn sex information directly from these sites.

❏ Therefore, there is **the need to improve the knowledge of teachers/educators** about the phenomenon of online pornography among youngsters, and their capability to detect and tackle this issue with youth, to improve affective development, promote sexual-affective education and prevent gender-based violence.

Needs and analysis

❏ Save the Children (2020) have pointed out that 17,5% of the adolescents between 13 and 17 years old have accidentally accessed online pornography, through involuntary exposure browsing, searching or downloading files that are initially completely innocent, they come across sexual material. Furthermore, 28,5% of the asked youngster have accessed online pornography by active searching.

❏ Therefore, we have identified a third need to **raise the awareness of youngsters about gender stereotypes and roles, and about consent, and empowering them to become critical agents**, and a fourth need to **enhance the engagement of public institutions and key IT experts** on the issue of easy and early access to pornography among youngsters, to target sexual and affective health of youth and to safeguard online security of children, through **developing tools and policies**.
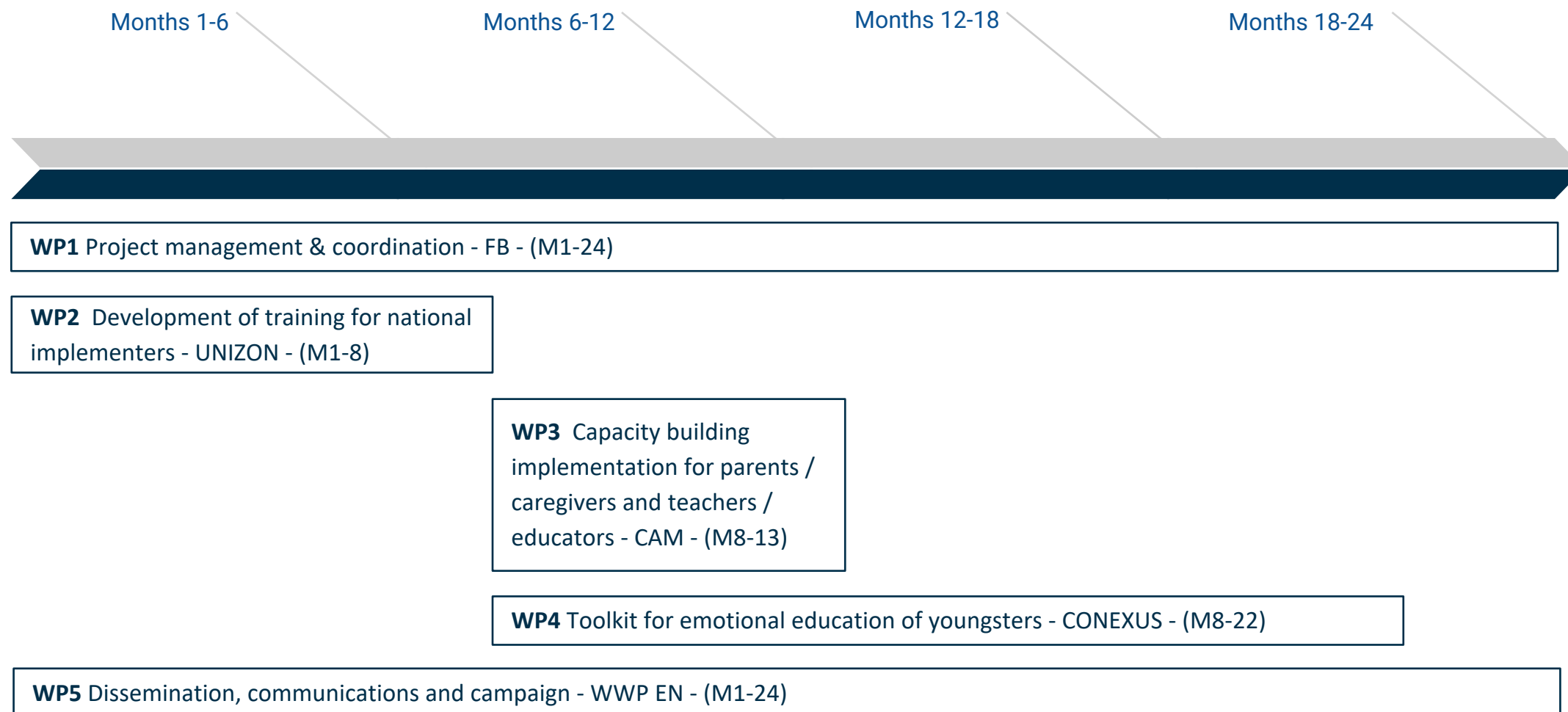
Aims

The CONSENT project aims **to address the negative impacts of pornography on children and youth** by combining the efforts and practical experiences of specialized women's GBV support services, perpetrator programmes for violent men, researchers and IT-specialists from Spain, Italy, Sweden and Germany, through:

1) **Promoting** healthy gender roles, equality and consensual behaviors among youngsters in peer relationships to safeguard their emotional development and wellbeing.

2) **Preventing** all forms of GBV with a special focus of sexual violence and consent among youngsters, specifically online sexual violence.

3) **Hindering** the internet's impact on premature sexualization, hyper sexualization and sexism, among children and youngsters.

Project structure

Months 1-6   Months 6-12   Months 12-18   Months 18-24

WP1 Project management & coordination - FB - (M1-24)

WP2 Development of training for national implementers - UNIZON - (M1-8)

WP3 Capacity building implementation for parents / caregivers and teachers / educators - CAM - (M8-13)

WP4 Toolkit for emotional education of youngsters - CONEXUS - (M8-22)

WP5 Dissemination, communications and campaign - WWP EN - (M1-24)

Main Outputs / activities

1. Capacity building implementation for parents/caregivers and teachers/educators	**2. Emotional Education Program for youngsters**	**3. Dissemination, communication and campaign**
• Needs Assesment • Manual Development • Implementation	• CONSENT GAT • CONSENT emotional and sexuality education programme manual and toolkit • Implementation	• CONSENT youth campaign for critical agents and adult readiness campaign • CONSENT institutional recommendations

Main Outputs / activities

1. Capacity building implementation for parents/caregivers and teachers/educators

a) *Needs Assesment*

b) *Manual Development*

c) *Implementation*

Needs assessment

Sample descriptives

	Parents (n=74)	Teachers (n=68)
Age	47.22	43.28
Gender	16.2% masculine, 83.8% feminine	22.1% masculine, 77.9% feminine
Sexual orientation	98.6% heterosexual, 1.4% bisexual	91.2% heterosexual, 4.4% homosexual, 4.4% bisexual
Country	44.6% Spain, 55.4% Italy	58.8% Spain, 41.2% Italy
Child age referred	10-12 y.o.	15-16 y.o.

Teachers experience and type of educational center

- Years of experience as a teacher: between 1 and 40 years. M= 14.86; SD= 10.42.

- Educational center: Public (55.9%), Private (2.9%), Charter (41.2%).

Needs identified I

INTERNET USE

- ❖ Need of tools to combat online risks → Most dangerous: Accessing to porn content and Sharing images or videos.

- ❖ Lack of knowledge about existing prevention tools for minors → P (ES: 21%; IT: 34%). T (ES: 48%; IT: 41%).

- ❖ Lack of previous IT online security trainings → P (ES: 64%; IT: 68%). T(ES: 59%; IT: 69%).

- ❖ Minors are not mature enough to identify online dangers.

- ❖ Watching violence and pornography → children negative online experiences most reported by parents.

PORNOGRAPHY

- ❖ Need of tools to talk about pornography → Lack of previous affective-sexual education trainings.

- ❖ Both parents and teachers (in ES and IT) feel more prepared to discuss about online security than pornography (P > T).

- ❖ Boys are considered by parents and teachers (in ES and IT) as early porn users than girls. Higher age range: After 11 y.o.

- ❖ Spanish parents and teachers are more concerned about minors' porn use than Italian.

- ❖ Teachers (in ES and IT) tend to perceive the earlier, more risky and more frequently use of the Internet and pornography than parents.

Needs identified II

AFFECTIVE-SEXUAL EDUCATION (ASE)

❖ Parents (in ES and IT) disagree with sexuality discussion at school and at home → Possible resistances in implementation training.

❖ Need of ASE in concepts such as: Sexual consent, Gender stereotypes and Sexual orientation.

❖ Need of more knowledge in: Affective aspects of sexuality and intimacy, Sexual consent and Use of pornography and its effects.

❖ Main difficulty → Lack of references/models on how to deal with it.

❖ Main concern → Causing confusion.

PARENT-CHILD SEXUAL COMMUNICATION (PCSC)

❖ Need of guidelines to improve quality and child management of PCSC.

❖ Need to enhance PCSC about positive aspects of sex.

❖ Need to promote PCSC in terms of frequency (sex physiology and sexual risk), specifically in fathers.

Affective-sexual education

Difficulties and concerns:

"Things that make it difficult to talk about sexuality with my child/pupil"

"Aspects that worry me about talking about sexuality with my child/pupil"

Parents	Cause of the difficulty (OR)	Teachers
1st	Lack of references/models on how to deal with it	1st
2nd	Lack of knowledge/tools	2nd
3rd	Not having had sexual communication during my childhood/adolescence	4th
4th	Taboo issue	3rd

Parents	Concerns related to talking about sexuality	Teachers
1st	Causing confusion	1st
2nd	Arousing their sexual curiosity/desire in a precocious way	3rd
3rd	Being asked and not knowing the answer	2nd

ES = IT

Main Outputs / activities

1. Capacity building implementation for parents/caregivers and teachers/educators

a) *Needs Assesment*

b) ***Manual Development***

CONSENT manual for parents/caregivers and teachers/educators training for implementers and multipliers, including a toolbox for parents/caregivers and teachers/educators 50 pages for Handbook (for the parents/caregivers and the teachers/educators). Electronic, downloadable in EN, IT, ES, CAT, SE, DE

Main Outputs / activities

1. Capacity building implementation for parents/caregivers and teachers/educators

a) *Needs Assesment*

b) *Manual Development*

c) ***Implementation***

- For parents/caregivers: Two training pilot will be carried out for parents/caregivers in Italy and Spain. There are two sessions of 3 hours each and a follow-up of 2 hours 3 months apart. It is intended to reach around 6-10 schools for each country (3 to 5 schools from primary and 3 to 5 schools from secondary level in each country), around 150 – 200 parents per country; 300-400 in total.

- For teachers/educators: Two training pilot for teachers/educators will be carried out in Italy and Spain. There are two sessions of 3 hours each and a follow-up of 2 hours 3 months apart. It is intended to reach around 20-25 total teachers for each country (6 to 10 schools for country); 40-50 in total.

Main Outputs / activities

1. Capacity building implementation for parents/caregivers and teachers/educators

- Needs Assesment
- Manual Development
- Implementation

2. Emotional Education Program for youngsters

- CONSENT GAT
- CONSENT emotional and sexuality education programme manual and toolkit
- Implementation

3. Dissemination, communication and campaign

- CONSENT youth campaign for critical agents and adult readiness campaign
- CONSENT institutional recommendations

Main Outputs / activities

2. Emotional Education Program for youngsters

a) CONSENT GAT

- Developed for the evaluation of the youngsters pilots to be used by project beneficiaries as a self-assessment tool

b) CONSENT emotional and sexuality education programme manual and toolkit

c) Implementation

Main Outputs / activities

2. Emotional Education Program for youngsters

a) CONSENT GAT

b) **CONSENT emotional and sexuality education programme manual and toolkit**

- Youth Advisory Panel Meetings

- Focus groups with youngsters

- Co-construction with teachers/educators

c) Implementation

Main Outputs / activities

2. Emotional Education Program for youngsters

a) CONSENT GAT

b) CONSENT emotional and sexuality education programme manual and toolkit

c) **Implementation**

- CONSENT programme delivery in the implementation countries (ES, IT), online or face to face, with 7-8 groups of youngsters, 150-200 each country; approximately 300-400 total.

Main Outputs / activities

1. Capacity building implementation for parents/caregivers and teachers/educators

- Needs Assesment
- Manual Development
- Implementation

2. Emotional Education Program for youngsters

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Main Outputs / activities

3. Dissemination, communication and campaign

a)   CONSENT youth campaign for critical agents and adult readiness campaign

- *CONSENT campaigns delivery, including illustrations, videos, cards, quiz, etc, to be disseminated on social media in EN and all partners countries / languages, reaching at least 3.000 youngsters and 6.000 adults and general public.*

b)   CONSENT institutional recommendations

BertaVC@Blanquerna.url.edu

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