

TITOLO DEL PROGETTO : Work Together to Stop Truancy Among Youth

ACRONIMO: WE-STAY

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PROGRAMMA: Settimo Programma Quadro di Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica

PROJECT REFERENCE: 241542

CONTRIBUTO UNIONE EUROPEA: 2 995 947 €

CONTRIBUTO ASSEGNATO UNIMOL: 489.020,00 €

DURATA PROGETTO: 3 anni dal 01/05/2010 al 30/04/2013

CORDINATORE: Karolinska Institutet - Sweden

ALTRI PARTNER: Univerza na Primorskem- Università della Primorska Università del litorale Slovenia Eesti-Rootsi Vaimse Tervise Ja Suitsidoloogia Instituut – Estonia Università Etsklinikum Heidelberg – Germany University of Medicine and Pharmacy – Romania Vadaskert Alapítvány a Gyermek és Ifjúság Egészségért – Hungary Universidad de Oviedo – Spain Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Nancy – France Clalit Health Services – Israel Università degli Studi del Molise - Italy

AREA SCIENTIFICA – KEY WORDS: Truancy is a serious public health problem that affects adolescents from all countries around the world. In the United States, it has been reported that up to 35% of high school students skipped one or more days of school during a school year. However, little is known on the short- and long-term outcomes of underlying psychological and mental ill-health for those adolescents who truant. Research has indicated that truancy has severe and far reaching consequences, such as maladjustment, substance abuse, delinquency and crime. Most studies, performed in the USA, proposed mechanistic and law-enforcement interventions to prevent truancy. However this approach does not take in consideration the psychological distress that is associated with this phenomenon and may even have negative consequences on adolescents well-being and mental health. The main objectives of the WE-

STAY (Working in Europe to Stop Truancy among Youth) project are to gather epidemiological information on truancy on European adolescents; to perform intervention school-based programmes for adolescents, aimed at reducing truancy rates and improve mental health of students; to evaluate outcomes of the interventions, in comparison with a control group, from a multidisciplinary perspective including social, psychological and economical aspects; to recommend effective, culturally adjusted models for preventing truancy and promoting mental health of adolescents in different European countries. The WE-STAY project proposes to implement and evaluate outcomes of three different kinds of intervention against truancy: a) a universal intervention based on an awareness program for students, teachers and parents; b) a screening intervention aimed at identifying students at risk and refer them to mental health services; c) a combination of the above interventions. A mechanistic intervention to stop truancy will be used as control. The WE-STAY project proposes to implement and evaluate outcomes of three different kinds of intervention against truancy: a) a universal intervention based on an awareness program for students, teachers and parents; b) a screening intervention aimed at identifying students at risk and refer them to mental health services; c) a combination of the above interventions. A mechanistic intervention to stop truancy will be used as control.