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PARTNERSHIP
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... WORKING
TOWARDS
SAFER DAILY
LIVING FOR
CHILDREN
THROUGHOUT
EUROPE



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European Consumer Safety
Association



United Nations
Children's Fund (UNICEF)



EUROPE

World Health Organization (WHO)
Regional Office for Europe



and with the support of the
European Commission



Child Safety Action Plan

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Child Safety Action Plan



project aims

The aim of the Child Safety Action Plan (CSAP) project is to develop action plans to enhance child safety in 18 countries within the European Union.

This large-scale project will use standardised tools and processes and build on the work of many previous projects from the European Commission, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO), European Consumer Safety Organisation (ECOSA), European Child Safety Alliance and partnering countries. It is important for the following reasons.

1. Injury is the leading cause of death for children in Europe and is responsible for more deaths than all other childhood diseases combined. Further, it is the largest environmental burden for children compared to outdoor/indoor contaminants, water, sanitation and hygienic issues, or lead contaminants.
2. The preparation of action plans for child safety provides Member States' governments with an opportunity to make a stronger commitment to the injury issue.

3. Standardised reporting of child injury indicators will be established to provide a consistent way to assess the state of child safety in individual countries. This will also facilitate inter-country comparisons and benchmarking to allow target setting for future improvements.

4. The CSAP project will contribute directly to the commitments made by EU Ministers taking part in the Conference on Environment and Health in June 2004 in Budapest. The project provides direct deliverables to the Declaration and action plan approved at that meeting by 52 European countries and will provide a vital contribution towards promoting a coordinated and consistent approach to action to reduce child injury across Europe.

The project will run from July 2004 to December 2007. Funding comes from the European Commission, ECOSA, the expert group organisations, and participating countries.



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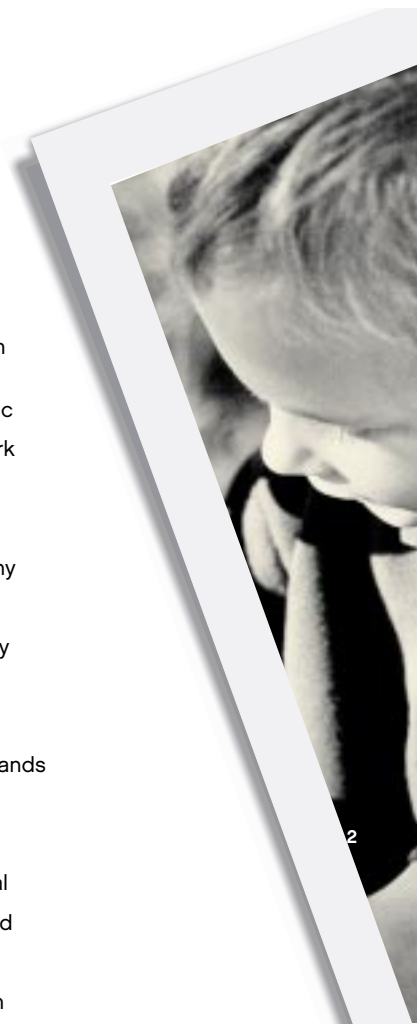
project partners

The lead partner for the project is the European Child Safety Alliance, an initiative of the ECOSA. The Alliance focuses on strategies aimed at bringing about reductions in injury-related deaths and disability amongst children from 0 to 18 years of age in the European Union. It works with a network of expert partners and stakeholders from various disciplines involved in child injury prevention.

A seven member Expert Group provides advice and guidance. Its membership is made up of representatives of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), UNICEF and the WHO – Regional Office for Europe together with experts in best practice and health indicators from two universities, the University of the West of England and University of Keele.

Eighteen of the 25 member countries of the European Union took up the opportunity to participate in the Child Safety Action Plan project. The Alliance's partner countries are:

Austria
Belgium
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Scotland
Spain
Sweden



project process

The project is divided into three inter-related parts. Taken together, these will assist countries in developing national indicator and evidence-based child safety action plans.

1. Establishing a set of indicators and standardised data collection tools focussing on child injury

Building on previous indicator projects, two standardised sets of indicators will be assembled – one core, and one extended. The sets of indicators will address child injury (exposures, outcomes and actions). These standardised collection and benchmarking tools will serve to identify a baseline level of child injury burden and action in the 18 countries. They will also provide a means of evaluating progress in reducing injury as the individual countries plan and implement action.

2. Identifying and distributing examples of Best/Good Practice in child injury prevention

Building on existing best evidence, examples of best/good practice will be identified and compiled into a good practice guide. Included will be an analysis of key factors in successful implementation. The guide will be shared with all EU countries to encourage and support evidence-based action as part of national action planning. A standardised tool for collecting good practices will be made available for capturing future examples.

3. Child Safety Action Plan development

Although the Project Secretariat and Expert Group will work hard to support the activities of Member States', the most important efforts will take place at the country level. Therefore, an action plan development and mentoring process will be implemented to assist countries through three planning stages:

Stage 1: Countries will conduct an assessment and collect a baseline of child injury indicators, including information on national capacity and infrastructure needs, using standardised collection tools.

Stage 2: Countries will use the results of their assessment together with the good practice guide to develop a national vision, national goals, and priorities for action with measurable objectives.

Stage 3: Countries will develop plans for the concrete tasks required to reach each of the objectives.

Completion of the three stages will result in national level Child Safety Action Plans. Countries will be encouraged to engage government departments and a wide range of partners throughout the entire process. This will ensure that the plans are truly national and multi-disciplinary.

Finally, the European Child Safety Alliance will examine the national plans collectively to provide direction for a European Child Safety Action Plan.

project deliverables

During the course of the project, updates, tools, processes and deliverables will be posted on the European Child Safety Alliance website at www.childsafetyeurope.org as they become available.

By the end of the project, the following deliverables will be available.

- Core and extended sets of indicators addressing child injury and associated standardised data collection tools.
- A baseline of national child injury indicators in 18 Member States.
- A standardised tool for collecting examples of best/good practice.
- A guide to good practice in child injury (electronic and hard copy versions).
- An on-line directory of child safety practitioners and researchers in Europe.

- A capacity building seminar addressing:
 - the indicator assessment/ benchmarking tools,
 - an overview of good practice and a process for transferring good practices to a new setting and
 - an orientation to the Child Safety Action Plan development process.
- National Child Safety Action Plans in 18 Member States.
- A summary report of the 18 National Child Safety Action Plans with recommendations for future Alliance activities and priorities for European-level action.

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