

Applied Research Partnerships with Developing and Transition Countries

Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences and Universities of Teacher Education

Project title

Influence of different contexts of socialization on the development of juvenile delinquency in postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thematic focus

Inter- and trans-disciplinary cooperation, social planning, soci

Year

2010

Project location

Tuzla, Canton Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Swiss Institution

lic.phil. Barbara Schürch, barbara.schuerch@fhnw.ch
University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland,
School of Social Work, Basel, www.fhnw.ch/sozialearbeit

Partner Institution

Prof. Dr. Esmina Avdibegovic, Esmina@bih.net.ba
University of Tuzla: Department of Social Work, Faculty of
Medicine, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, www.untz.



Description

The aim of this research project is to analyze the influence of different contexts of socialization (refugees, displaced, local, care institutions, family situations) on the development of juvenile delinquency in postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The project team is consisting of representatives of the University of Tuzla (Faculty of Philos./Dept. Social Work, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Special Educ. and Rehab.), the NGO Vive Zene, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of Tuzla Canton, and the University of Applied Sciences of Northwestern Switzerland (UASNW). The investigation on the topic 'juvenile delinquency' addresses an urgent problem of the postwar and transition context and will be investigated

from the perspective of the different disciplines represented by the stakeholders. The results of this study will lead to recommendations for prevention and interventions and be useful to persons in charge of social policy and social planning, the state institutions, and private players in this field. At the same time, this project will serve as an example of a cooperative and collective learning process in the field of social planning which foster the transfer of knowledge between different interest groups, in particular between state and civil society. Based on the project experience a model that promotes the transfer of experience and knowledge between state, research and NGO sector will be developed.

Development relevance

Through our project we try to enhance the capacity of the social policy and of the players in the social field. Therefore the contribution of the swiss research group is on the structural level. The multidimensional approach and the integration and participation of all interest groups in the social planning process boosts solutions that are context based, needs oriented and therefore sustainable. The project

demonstrates a way to create innovation in the social field of countries in transition.



Tuzla



Joint development of project design

KFH

Rektorenkonferenz der Fachhochschulen der Schweiz
Conférence des Recteurs des Hautes Ecoles Spécialisées Suisses
Conferenza dei Rettori delle Scuole Universitarie Professionali Svizzere
Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Main features of the project

In BiH, the context of the postwar situation and the transition from a socialist state to a federal democratic republic has created new challenges for the institutions and organizations working in the social field. Whereas the state structures lack qualified staff, since the war a powerful private sector with thousands of NGOs has developed through international aid. Coordination between the state and the private sector regarding priorities and strategies is urgently needed, as is also knowledge transfer from the NGO sector to the state institutions. Providing guidelines or a model for a multi-sectoral approach and cooperation processes in the social fields and making use of synergies will be helpful for the implementation of such processes and therefore strengthen the social sector.

One important challenge for institutions in the social field and for legislation concerns juvenile delinquency. The number of juvenile delinquencies has increased significantly in postwar BiH, and neither prevention nor intervention measures are adapted to the needs. Causes are assumed to lie in the new contexts of socialization connected with the consequences of internal migration, the challenges of (re)integration, the search for identification, and last but not least the effects of trauma within the family. Hardly any research has been done on the influence of different context realities on socialization in postwar society. Because of the complexity of the issue of juvenile delinquency, a multidisciplinary approach and cooperation between state and civil society is needed.

The research project will be a successful example and therefore provide motivation for inter- and trans-disciplinary cooperation and innovation processes. The inter- and trans-disciplinary cooperation, the mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods, and the multidimensional approach to this topic will be a new experience for all the different Bosnian stakeholders involved.

As a partner from abroad, the UASNW can play the role of a facilitator of these processes.

The main tasks planned are:

- Collection of literature and development of a theoretical framework.
- Compilation of existing prevention and intervention programs.
- Workshops on qualitative research methods and tools.
- Collection of quantitative data on juvenile delinquency; analysis and conclusion.
- Qualitative research, inquiry, semi-structured interviews with 2 main groups:
 - Delinquents and their families
 - Communities, representatives of institutions, municipalities, police, court, etc.

• Qualitative data analysis;

analysis of data separately from each perspective and joint conclusion and recommendation, plan for implementation.

- Analysis and assessment of research and cooperation process and development of a model and guidelines based on the project experiences.

- Transfer into teaching activities.

- Presentation and discussion of results in BiH and CH.



Exchange of perspectives and building trust



Coffee break for informal exchange