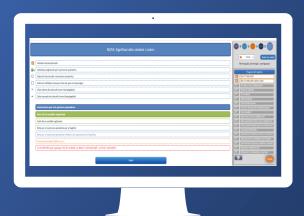




# D3.6 Report on Operators' training for CAN-MDS









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#### Preface

This report addresses the context and objectives of the CAN-MDS application registration system, developed within the framework of the project "Coordinated Response to Child Maltreatment with a Minimum Data Set: From Planning to Practice", [GA No. 810508 CAN-MDSII] and co-funded by the European Union's Daphne III programme, which aims to contribute to the protection of child victims of abuse and those at risk by creating the scientific basis and the necessary tools and synergies to establish national monitoring systems on child maltreatment through a minimum data set and common methodology and definitions across all sectors.

Data on child maltreatment usually comes from a variety of cross-sectoral sources involved in the management of child maltreatment cases, with the result that the monitoring of victims is not sufficiently coordinated between the services involved, both nationally and internationally. The lack of common operational definitions or common recording practices and the use of different methods and tools for data collection and dissemination to stakeholders are obstacles to an effective monitoring of child maltreatment.

#### CAN-MDS aims to:

- provide comprehensive, reliable and comparable information on child and adolescent victims or alleged victims of abuse, who have appealed at, both national and International, social, health, education, justice and law enforcement services (who provide information for action, linked to public health initiatives).
- serve as a tool, that should be available at all times, for the investigation and follow-up of children and adolescents who are survivors of abuse or who are at risk of (re)victimisation, in compliance with national legislation and applying all the necessary provisions to guarantee the ethical collection and management of data (information on cases and link to the follow-up of individual cases).

Finally, the CAN-MDS system has the following objectives:

- To function as a communication channel between sectors involved in the management of child abuse cases.
- To facilitate the follow-up of each case.
- To serve as an instrument available at all times during the investigation of new or potential cases by the involved authorities.
- To provide information to the services about the cases already known.

The CAN-MDS system targets potential operators in the 27 EU member states and beyond: agencies and services active in the fields of welfare, health and mental health,



justice, law enforcement and education working in child maltreatment case management, as well as professionals in the field of secondary and tertiary prevention of maltreatment cases, and professionals in the fields of science, epidemiology, health and social care. However, the main target group of the application should be the operators of a potential CAN-MDS application.

The system consists of three main elements:

- a. a minimum dataset, currently consisting of 18 variables that are the result of a multiple and circular process of qualitative and reliability assessment involving international stakeholders; an electronic and a print version of the tool is available (mainly for educational purposes);
- **b. the Protocol for data collection** (annexed to the Manual for CAN-MDS operators), drawn up on the basis of the template and which proposes a step-by-step procedure for using it; this protocol can be used by any professional who has already been trained to be an operator of the application;
- c. the Operator's Manual, which includes all the necessary information for professionals who meet the profile and prerequisites (such as having completed a training course) to use the tool. In addition to the information needed for the registration of a maltreatment of a child in each country, the manual also includes a special section on ethical, privacy and confidentiality issues related to the collection of child maltreatment data. The main part of the document is devoted to the detailed presentation of the variables included in the tool, with technical specifications and definitions of the variables.

Therefore, the aim of the CAN-MDS system is to give the best possible picture of the extent of the problem, and to this end it includes not only cases coming from the judicial or legal protection systems, but also those cases identified on the basis of services received, i.e. cases received by any non-judicial service. The potential operators of the tool - in particular, the professionals in charge of collecting and recording the data - could be professionals from the social and health sectors or from other disciplines working in the field of child protection or with child survivors or alleged victims. Consequently, suspected cases of maltreatment and cases under investigation can also be recorded in a system based on a minimum data set.

The actions under CAN-MDS II want to:

- ensure the availability of the necessary resources, training modules and manuals to strengthen the capacities of professionals working with/for children to detect, report and record cases of CAN;





- test the CAN-MDS system in real-life conditions at different levels in six Member States to confirm to which extent the system is able to improve cooperation of professionals within and across child-welfare sectors, increase the level of reporting and facilitate the management of CAN cases;
- at a case level to provide comprehensive and reliable data that is essential to be used by these services: prevention, identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment, judicial involvement and follow-up
- at population level- provide aggregated data essential to identify trends, measure responses and to obtain an overview on policy development.

#### SUMMARY

A total of 4 training seminars were held from March to November 2020. During this time and bearing in mind that the planned schedule had to be adapted due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 59 professionals from different child and adolescent care entities in Catalonia completed the training.

The training seminar for the participating professionals followed the indications of the CAN-MDS Training Module of the project, using materials adapted to the Catalan context and framework of implementation, as well as to the profile of the participants. Additional material has also been developed to enrich and facilitate the learning processes, as well as incorporating participatory methodologies to add dynamic and boost the motivation and initiative of the participating professionals. This was achieved by fostering the identification of the contents and practices and bridging them with the professional's daily work tasks, as well as by promoting their active participation, and by gathering their professional experience as elements of quality and strength of the project.

The training has also promoted intersectoral contact and communication, which is a key aspect of the general approach of the project, aimed at promoting and optimising the work between the different sectors and enteties that intervene with children at risk or in situations of abuse.

#### BACKGROUND

The background of the project can be found in CAN-MDS I, the initial edition of the project developed between 2013 and 2015. In this period, research was carried out in eight European countries (Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and Cyprus), which consisted of:



- National study of the extent of child maltreatment and registration systems.
- Analysis of minimum indicators according to the characteristics of each state.

In this initial edition, the CAN-MDS Tool kid was also created, with the following elements:

- Policy and Procedures Protocol
- CAN-MDS Manual Framework and methodology for adaptation to the states.
- National CAN-MDS Manuals containing: Manual for Services and Professional Operators and System Operators and Protocol for Data Recording.
- Training module for CAN-MDS system operators.

In the first edition, the CAN-MDS registration app was created, initially available in Beta version in English, German, French, Italian, Bulgarian and Romanian (<a href="http://app.can-via-mds.eu/">http://app.can-via-mds.eu/</a>).

A feasibility study of the CAN-MDS system was also carried out with the participation of 137 experts from 17 European countries. This study facilitated:

- The identification of current policies and practices.
- The Identification of challenges to the viability of the system from a transnational perspective.
- The identification of common barriers that can be addressed by the CAN-MDS system.

A SWOT analysis was used as a supporting tool to decide whether to deploy the CAN-MDS system in the EU countries. It took into account the "internal environment" (strengths and weaknesses of the system), as well as aspects of the "external environment" (i.e. opportunities or enablers and threats that could impede the initiative). A total of 136 responses from 12 EU member states (BE, BG, DE, EL, ES, FR, HU, IE, IT, PL, RO, SI) were collected on the basis of a tool that asked respondents to assess these two axes; the current and potential situation for the implementation of CAN-MDS in their countries.

The results are available at the following link: <a href="http://can-via-mds.eu/content/ws1-preparatory-phase">http://can-via-mds.eu/content/ws1-preparatory-phase</a>

The current edition of the CAN-MDS II project (2018-2021) contains the following actions that have been developed:

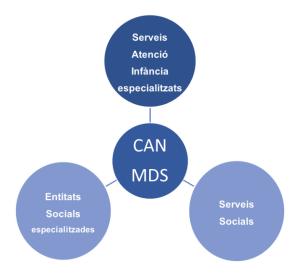




Translation and cultural adaptation of the Toolkit



- Training: theoretical and practical training about the use of the CAN-MDS system (operation of the system, variables, ethical aspects, etc.) aimed at 59 professionals from the services and entities that are going to participate in the piloting.
- Piloting phase: 2-week-period of local pilot of the CAN-MDS system to evaluate
  its efficiency, applicability and usability (the reduction of the expected duration of
  the pilot has been described in detail in the Monitoring Reports and the Pilot Test
  Report). In the case of Catalonia, the pilot territory was the province of Barcelona
  with the participation of all agents that can potentially act in the detection or
  monitoring of cases of child abuse.







# TRAINING MODULE FOR FRONT-LINE OPERATORS, CAN-MDS APPLICATION

# **Preparation of the training**

# **CAN-MDS** application training seminars for operators

The CAN-MDS system is designed to involve professionals working with and for children and young people with different roles, responsibilities and backgrounds, and who work in entities related to the sector but also different sectors (such as helplines, health services, justice, social services, education and NGOs, among others) in various EU countries. To become operators of the application, professionals must have awareness and knowledge of a wide range of issues related to child maltreatment as well as knowledge and practice with the recording of cases in the application. The training is carried out based on a training module that includes material from the CAN-MDS toolkit, prepared to meet needs and provide knowledge. Thus, the training of professionals proposed by CAN-MDS considers that the different professional groups can be diverse in relation to their awareness, training and information on the issue of child abuse, and particularly focus on the recording and reporting of cases.

The training provided was aimed at professionals working with children and adolescents and with the possibility of detecting and reporting situations of child abuse. Therefore, the seminars developed, included various topics related to the subject: from definitions, signs of detection and protocols for action in situations of child abuse, to the operation of the application for registering new cases, updating information on cases already registered, procedures for making referrals to other services, description of the services already provided and extraction of the information available (depending on the level of access to information according to the role, competences and responsibilities of the professional).

The aim of the training in Catalonia was to contribute to the capacity building of the participating professionals and was focused on the testing of the application within the scope of the project.

The training activities of CAN-MDS are in line with the recommendation made in the art. 26 "Cooperation and coordination of services" of Directive 2012/29/EU, as well as the §63 (reporting) and the §64 (commitment to achieve better data recording).



#### **Target groups and professionals**

The **target group** of the CAN-MDS training included professionals of entities involved in intervention with children and adolescents in Catalonia at different levels and in different areas, with the potential to identify and report cases of child maltreatment. The work of defining the participating professionals has been linked to the participation and commitment of the different entities participating in Catalonia. Worth noting that the initial forecast of training 150 professionals had to be revised and redefined in response to the final involvement and collaboration of the different entities invited to meetings to involve them in the project.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis had a significant impact on the participation of the entities. At the beginning of this crisis, meetings were held and the coordination of the different sectors relevant to the project was finalised so that, in many cases, the response and adaptation to the exceptional situation, as well as the alteration of the normal functioning of their services, had an impeding effect on the involvement of the entities, especially on the institutional entities, and therefore affected the participation of the potential professionals and operators.

The entities of the key sectors on intervention with children and adolescents in Catalonia to whom the project was presented and participation requested, and with whom various meetings and communications were held, and who have not expressed or mobilised collaboration actions, or have expressed their refusal to participate, are:

- Síndic de Greuges de Catalunya (Ombudsman).
- Security/ Police forces (Mossos d'esquadra).
- Education department.
- Department of Justice (Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences of Catalonia).
- Local Health Care Service.
- Barcelona Urban Police.
- Child Promotion Barcelona.
- Social Services Department (Government of Catalonia).

Several bilateral meetings have been held with different entities, firstly to present the project and its approach to the objectives defined by the European Commission and, subsequently, specifying the collaboration and involvement of the entities. More than 60+ meetings have been held between the Aroa Foundation and the selected entities of



different sectors in Catalonia, which are described in the project monitoring reports that describe in detail the status of the conversations in relation to the concrete actions for the collaboration agreements at different times of the project.

Finally, the entities with whom a collaboration agreement/ terms of reference (ToR) was signed and who became involved in the project are the following:

- Municipal Institute of Social Services of Barcelona City Council (IMSS).
- General Directorate of Children and Adolescence Support (DGAIA).
   (this agency's ToR has yet to be signed and has provide a signed document justifying this situation and its participation in the project as National Administration Agency)
- Worker cooperative and social initiative EDVIC (NGO).
- Association for Welfare and Development ABD (NGO).

The aforementioned entities, through the signature of the ToR, were involved as participating members in the CAN-MDS intersectoral meetings, and committed to send their professionals to the training seminars and then carrying out the pilot test of the application. This commitment was in line with the terms established that were based on the project model and the adaptations to the Catalan regulations and following the entities' legal indications. Once the participating entities were defined, a total number of 59 professionals participated in the training and 45 took part in the piloting of the CAN-MDS.

In relation to the provisioned period of the pilot, it should be noted that the initial planning was delayed due to the impact of the pandemic on the services and entities involved. Consequently, the initial forecast of the 6-month duration of the pilot test was affected, so that the total time of the test had to be readjusted and adapted to the project's deadlines. Additionally, the steps to integrate the application on the server of the local entity DGAIA who has the permissions and the obligation to exercise the role of National Administrator of the system.in Catalonia, have been laborious and have taken longer than initially planned. Finally, to meet the project completion date of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the piloting phase was only 2 weeks long as all IT issues were resolved upon June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

# **Profiles of the professional operators in CAN-MDS**

The profiles of the professionals participating in the training and in the piloting of the CAN-MDS application, although not all of the Catalan entities were involved in the notification and management of cases of child maltreatment due to the circumstances





described, include a range of relevant sectors with a great deal of involvement and intervention in the issue of child maltreatment, both in the preventive part and in the care and response to situations of child maltreatment. The profiles of participating professionals include:

• Specialised Municipal Social Services for children and adolescents (within this sector, different teams with different tasks and responsibilities).

EDEIAR (demand team for the childhood and adolescence at risk study): this is a team that is centralised at city level and has specialised professionals. Its role is to complement the work carried out at the public social centres (Centres de serveis socials), with the aim to centralise the demand register for children and adolescents at risk in the city, preparing the risk study and issuing the response to the requesting and competent bodies (Public Prosecutor's Office, courts and DGAIA) within the established deadlines.

ECEIA (Central Team Specialised in Childhood and Adolescence) - EAIA (Childhood and Adolescence Care Team): receive cases that indicate a situation of neglect, or a risk of neglect detected by the primary social services, judicial or police bodies or the General Directorate for Childhood and Adolescence Care (DGAIA). They provide the diagnosis based on an assessment of the children and their social and family environment and propose the most appropriate measures for each case.

The team draws up improvement plans for the child or adolescent and their family, and monitor and treat them once the proposed measures have been applied, whether they are in the family nucleus, in a centre or in a foster family. They coordinate the other teams and services in their territory that also intervene in the care of children in danger, as well as giving advice to the primary social services.

 General Directorate for Childhood and Adolescence Care of the department of social rights of the Government in Catalonia (DGAIA):

The General Directorate for Childhood and Adolescence Care Catalunya (DGAIA) is a body that promotes the welfare of children and adolescents at high risk of social marginalisation that could negatively influence their personal development. They exercise the protection and guardianship of children and





adolescents in situations of neglect. Their functions are:Planning the policies for children and adolescents, programme services and resources in the area of protection and production of guidelines in the field of child protection.

- Promote the rights of children and adolescents in Catalonia, especially their right to participate as active citizens and to promote their welfare.
- Promote and draft collaboration plans and protocols that guarantee the organisation of actions for the detection, prevention, assistance, recovery and reintegration of children and adolescents who are survivors or victims of abuse and to ensure comprehensive action in accordance with the Law 14/2010, 27 of May, on the rights and opportunities of children and adolescents.
- Promote and provide specialised public services to deal with child and adolescent abuse, in accordance with Law 14/2010.
- To plan and execute the competences attributed in the area of children and adolescents at social risk.
- To protect children and adolescents in situations of neglect and assume guardianship in the cases established by law and to execute the measures of care and protection proposed in each case.
- Promote orientation and social integration programmes for children and adolescents in situations of guardianship or ex-guardianship.
- Implement the recommendations of the Observatory for Children's Rights.

**INFÀNCIA RESPON/ Childhood responds** (public service run by the entity **INVIA** – Non-profit organisation, aimed at the integral promotion of people in situations of vulnerability and risk of social exclusion, working on the prevention and eradication of the conditions of inequality that generate violence and discrimination, from the attention and integral attention of women, children, general youth, families and vulnerable groups). They offer exclusively telephonic public, free of charge, which operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and aims to prevent and detect abuse of children and adolescents, while paying special attention to cases of bullying in schools, cyber-bullying, male violence in adolescents and sexual abuse. Through this service, the General Directorate for Child and Adolescent Care (DGAIA) can activate the corresponding protocols, and mobilisation of the appropriate teams to act (depending on the type of call).

#### Non-Governmental Organisations and Entities (NGOs):



**EDUVIC:** a cooperation specialised in social action regarding children, adolescents and families, with more than 20 years of experience. They promote, generate and manage projects, programmes and services in the following areas: education, fostering and adoption, positive parenting, family consultancy, socio-educational prevention, family therapy, and more. The entity manages and provides professionals of a Shelter Centre for girls in Barcelona (Atalaya), a service promoted and contracted by the Consortium of Social Services of Barcelona, formed by DGAIA and the City Council of Barcelona.

Professionals from a Residential Centre for Educational Action (Kairós) are also participating. This is an urban residence located in Barcelona, which provides care and temporary accommodation for 20 adolescent girls aged between 14 and 18 years old under the guardianship of the DGAIA. In addition, professionals from the programme "Yo vuelvo a casa" ("I'm coming back home") contribute. This programme accompanies girls, boys and adolescents who are under the guardianship of the administration or living in residential centres, in the process of returning to their families.

ABD – Association for Welfare and Development: a non-governmental and non-profit organisation that defends people in situations of social fragility. They have been founded more than 30 years ago, and they accompany people at different points in their life trajectories, individually or in groups, and act in their community. They promote personal autonomy and social coexistence through clear ethical principles of proximity and quality. They have developed more than 90 programmes, linked to: dependency and older people, inequality, intellectual disability, drugs and health, gender equality and childhood and family.

The profiles of the professionals from the entities, who have received training and agreed to carry out the piloting, are as follows:

- Psychologists.
- Social workers.
- Social educators.
- Family therapists.
- · Pedagogues.
- Nurses.
- Administrators working in participating services and entities.
- Heads of the different services and entities.





- Coordinators of the different services and entities.
- Directors and deputy directors of the participating entities.
- Section heads of the participating public services.

The participating professionals and users of the CAN-MDS system work in the areas of care for children and adolescents covered by the project, and are therefore involved in detecting and dealing with cases of child abuse, as well as in the field of secondary and tertiary prevention, research in social or health environments and in epidemiology.

Therefore, and as established by the project, the stakeholders are professionals involved in the detection and management of cases of child maltreatment according to defined competences and legal responsibilities (such as mandatory reporting) in the context of their regular work tasks in entities, services and organisations belonging to sectors relevant for the detection, the reporting, the coordination and the management of child abuse and/or neglect situations, as well as the recovery the situation.

# Implementation of the training

# **Description of the CAN-MDS training:**

One of the objectives of the CAN-MDS project is the training and capacity building of multidisciplinary professionals who work with children and adolescents at different levels and who are able to identify and report cases of child maltreatment, through collection and recording of information which will be fostered by a training given by qualified facilitators who have as a premise an effective evaluation scheme. As CAN-MDS aims to collect standardized data on the basis of a minimum data system from all potential sources, a common training module has been designed and offered to all stakeholders and actors involved, adapted to each participating country.

#### **Learning Objectives**

The aim of the training is to ensure that professionals working with children in all relevant sectors involved in the project are able to:

- ✓ have all the information to understand what child maltreatment is and understand and its different types.
- ✓ know the operational definitions of child maltreatment based on CRC, art. 19 and GC 13 of UNCRC (2011).
- ✓ have all the information on how to recognise signs of child maltreatment in children.





- ✓ know the procedures to follow after the identification of a case of (suspected)
  child maltreatment: recognise, report, register, provide services, refer and
  communicate with other entities, follow up cases.
- ✓ be aware of their role and responsibilities in managing a case of maltreatment and know under what circumstances a case should be reported to the authorities in charge or professionals in the network through the application.
- ✓ have information on what the law provides, as well as on the obligations of their
  professional area.
- ✓ have a common understanding of the ethical principles governing the collection
  of child maltreatment data, including the importance of data confidentiality,
  legislative provisions, codes of conduct and ethic in different professional sectors.
- ✓ have all the information about the CAN-MDS application and how it works, i.e.:
  - · what are the variables need to be included for the minimum data set.
  - which cases can be recorded in the application.
  - what is the data entry procedure (incident/suspect registration, child and family information, service response (institutional response and referrals, how to communicate and provide feedback to other practitioners and operators at case level).
  - how to use the application (working in real time with examples of child abuse).
- ✓ to know what is expected of professionals as operators of the application and the benefits it brings to their daily practice, in line with their roles and responsibilities.

### Format and method of the training

Both the format and the methodology of the training seminars were based on and developed upon the indication from the Toolkit, specifically the:

- CAN-MDS Training Module
- CAN-MDS Guidelines for trainers

Based on the materials described, adaptations were made to make the content coherent with the Catalan framework of care for children and adolescents in a situation or at risk of maltreatment. This implied a global analysis of the existing care systems, as well as an in-depth knowledge of the different sectors involved and the professional's profiles of involved in the tasks of prevention, detection, care and recovery of children and adolescents in or at risk of maltreatment. This initial analysis was fundamental to





understand the reality from which we start when we face a professional training such as the one proposed by CAN-MDS at local and national context.

As mentioned earlier, the Catalan Law 24/2010 on the Rights and Opportunities of Children and Adolescents (LDOIA) governs the institution with the greatest responsibility in this area, DGAIA. This entity promotes the welfare of children and adolescents at high risk of social marginalisation, and they have the objective to contribute to the children's personal development, therefore they act as protectors and as a guardianship of children and adolescents in situations of neglect. Within the same law and its adjacent regulations, the creation of several inter-sectorial protocols has been promoted, oriented to ensure an integral action of the different Catalan services, departments and administrations with responsibility in cases of child abuse, related to the sectors of health, education, leisure, law enforcement, etc. Within this framework, and in the preparation for the CAN-MDS training of the professionals, it has been taken into account that, in Catalonia, and despite the shortcomings and weaknesses identified in the *Operator's Manual*, there is a consolidated system of care for children and adolescents and the professionals of the different sectors have shown knowledge and awareness of the project's subject matter.

The above factors have been considered when defining the content of the training programme that has been developed in the Catalan context and therefore explains some smaller deviations from the other plans. For example, given the knowledge, training, professional experience and profiles of the participating professionals, the planned timetable for the training was reduced **to 8 hours** (after consulting this possibility and receiving approval from the lead entity).

The following trainings were scheduled, but could not be carried out due to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- ⇒ 16 and 23 of March 2020
- ⇒ 18 and 28 of March 2020
- ⇒ 16 and 30 of April 2020

Regarding the **format** of the seminars, two different formats had to be carried out to meet the safety standards that had been applied throughout the COVID-19 break-out.

The training sessions have been carried out as described in the table below:

| FORMAT                                    | DURATION | LOCATION  | # OF GROUPS<br>& SESSIONS  | # OF<br>PARTICIPATING<br>PROFESSIONALS |
|---|----------|---|--|--|
| IN_PERSON                                 | 8H.      | Headquarters of the<br>General Directorate for<br>Children and<br>Adolescent Care<br>(DGAIA): |  | 14                                     |
|   |          | Address: avinguda<br>Paral·lel núm. 52.<br>Barcelona<br>and                                   | 1 group, 2<br>sessions of 4<br>hours each  |  |
|   |          | Department of Labour,<br>Social Affairs and<br>Families in Catalonia:                         |  |  |
|   |          | Address: Passeig<br>Taulat, 266-270,<br>Barcelona   |  |  |
| ONLINE                                    | 8H.      | PLATAFORMA<br>DIGITAL ZOOM  | 3 groups (2 in<br>the morning and<br>one in the<br>afternoon)<br>4 sessions per<br>group of 2h | 45                                     |
| ADDITIONAL<br>SESSIONS                    | 2h       | DIGITAL PLATFORM:<br>ZOOM   | 4 sessions<br>between<br>November 2020<br>and May 2021   | 36                                     |
| TUTORIALS<br>AND<br>INDIVIDUAL<br>SUPPORT | 15h      | DIGITAL PLATFORM:<br>ZOOM   | After closure of training through the piloting   | 15                                     |

The online training was a response to the restrictions on mobility and social interaction defined by the health authorities. It was carried out in a format of 8 hours and 4 sessions, and the AROA Foundation offered the option to schedule additional and optional sessions of 2 hours for further training and support in the use of the application. Additionally, individual tutorials were offered to the operators. The reduction of the initial planned duration of the training, as well as the partly changed format from face-to-face to online were consulted with the lead entity and the European Commission. The modification of the duration and the possibility of the online format are therefore due to two reasons:





- The experience gained after the first training confirmed the possibility of continuing the training with this reduced duration considering the professional profiles of the participants, who showed specialisation and knowledge in the subject matter of the project and a high sensitivity or involvement towards it.
- The impact on child care services and teams as a result of the COVID-19 crisis has generated a situation of increased socio-economic risk for the population in general and specifically for the most vulnerable groups, such as children. Therefore, it was decided to adapt the training to an online format and to extend the number of days with a reduction in the daily dedication per session, to allow the participation of professionals in a situation of overload due to the increase in cases and demands for care.

The **methodology** used in the training, based on the objectives described above, had an active and participatory approach, promoting the involvement of professionals by highlighting their experience and knowledge, encouraging their contributions and sharing their impressions of the CAN-MDS system as a factor that adds value to the project. At the same time as transmitting the contents and practices with the programme's registration application, the participating professionals were able to identify with the topics presented. They were encouraged to broaden their knowledge and to contribute with their proposals and opinions to enrich the project by applying it in the reality and local situation and to the professionals involved in the protection of children and adolescents.

The format of each session combined the explanation of contents with the support of presentations (power point) of the training module, participatory dynamics and individual and group activities. During the group work in the face-to-face sessions the participants were split in different groups. In the online training sessions, groupwork was also carried out through the virtual room distribution tool were the participants were assigned to a different room.

Another aspect to highlight is that the participating professionals were given indications to practice on their own and outside the formal spaces of the seminars, which is why they have been provided with mock cases to familiarise themselves with the application and the recording of cases. The professionals were able to resolve doubts both individually through tutorials and in training groups with the rest of the participants.

At the same time, the professionals have been offered permanent support throughout the training and once it has finished, they were given different channels of contact (email and telephone) and access to the material of the seminars have been given to them.



#### **Training groups**

As far as the groups are concerned, we have tried to diversify their composition as much as possible and, given that in the end it has not been possible to involve all the sectors even though multiple contacts and bilateral meetings have been held, the heterogeneity of the groups has been conditioned by the participation of a reduced number of professional areas of care for children and adolescents in a situation of / or at risk of maltreatment. However, the groups have been as diverse as the circumstances allowed and, in addition to the work developed in the sessions, it has been ensured that the professionals could work and interact with other sectors and with professional profiles different from their own.

It is worth highlighting the interest and participation in the training sessions of professional profiles with responsibility in the sectors and services involved, such as:

- Head of the Department of Family and Child Care of the Directorate of Social Intervention Services in vulnerable population sectors of the Municipal Institute of Social Services of the Barcelona City Council;
- Head and Coordinator of the "Childhood Responds" Service of Catalonia;
- Presidents and Directors and Deputy Directors of the participating entities.

#### The **final composition of the groups** was decided upon the following criteria:

- Involvement of the different services and entities of the participating sectors in the project.
- Possibility of contributing a specific number of professionals to the training and contribution to the piloting by the management and coordinators of the participating entities.
- Availability of the professionals on the proposed dates and time slots (it should be noted that different options and widths have been provided to facilitate the participation of the different professional teams as much as possible).

| COMPOSITION OF CAN-MDS TRAINING GROUPS |                              |  |  |  |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Seminar                                | Dates                        | Entities, services and number of professionals participating |  |  |  |
| In-person<br>March 2020                | 2 and 9<br>(14 participants) | IMSS (4)   |  |  |  |
|  |                              | EDUVIC (6)   |  |  |  |
|  |                              | ABD (1)  |  |  |  |
|  |                              | FUNDACIÓ AROA (3)  |  |  |  |
| Online                                 | 2, 9, 16 and 23              | IMSS (5)   |  |  |  |





| November<br>2020 | (group A, 16<br>participants)                  | DGAIA (4) - Infància Respon |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------|
|                  |  | EDUVIC (2)                  |
|                  |  | FUNDACIÓ AROA (5)           |
|                  | 4, 11,18, 25<br>(group B, 16<br>participants)  | IMSS (4)                    |
|                  |  | EDUVIC (3)                  |
|                  |  | FUNDACIÓ AROA (9)           |
|                  | 6, 13, 20, 27<br>(group C ,13<br>participants) | FUNDACIÓ AROA (13)          |

## **Training programme for the CAN-MDS operators**

The training programme implemented for the professionals was designed according to the content of the Training Module and the CAN-DS Trainer's Manual. The programme has been adapted to the Catalan context and to the profile of the participating professionals. In this context, it is important to bear in mind that in Catalonia, there is a consolidated system of care for children and adolescents at risk, articulated according to specific legislation (such as Law 14/2010, of 17 May, on the rights and opportunities for children and adolescents) and developed through the bodies responsible for child and adolescent policies in Catalonia, such as the Directorate General for Child and Adolescent Care (DGAIA).

This Catalan territorial context provides CAN-MDS with sectoral profiles and profiles of professionals working with children who, in general, are specialised in the field and therefore have in-depth knowledge of the subject. Even so, the Catalan system is diverse and presents needs for improvement in terms of the implementation of the existing protocols and with respect to the registration and notification of cases of maltreatment. Shortcomings are manifested in the lack of unification and inter-sectorial coordination and, therefore, prevent optimisation of all the professional teams with respect to the approach, prevention, and care on child maltreatment.

In this line, and focusing specifically on the entities participating in the project, all of them belong to sectors that could be called "strong" in the sense of being highly specialised in the subject, such as the specialised social services or the DGAIA entity itself, which at the same time exercises the function of national administrator of the application within the project as it is the entity with the obligation and authority to do so in Catalonia. With all this information, the training has been adapted to the specialised professional's profiles. On some subjects, such as the conceptualisation of child abuse or under-





reporting and the obligation of notification, the professionals already had a very good knowledge, which has allowed for a reduction in the time load of the training, which in turn has facilitated the participation of professionals, especially in the context of the work overload that they have experienced because of the crisis situation generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the exceptional situation that we have experienced during the course of the project, as mentioned previously, the training has been developed in two different formats: *in-person* during the pre-pandemic period and *online* once the restrictions on face-to-face social interactions established by the health authorities.

The crisis has generated an increase of more than 200% in the demand for child and adolescent care, which has put considerable pressure on the teams involved, so it was considered advisable to adapt the training to the reality of the overload of professionals, adjusting the duration to the minimum necessary to achieve the objectives set and to facilitate the participation of the different entities.

Therefore, the training in the CAN-MDS system for participating professionals has been carried out according to two programmes designed and adapted to the pre-pandemic and pandemic situation using the in-person and online formats presented below:

#### Training programme – *in-person* - March 2020



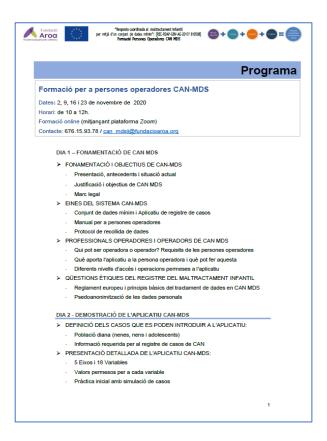






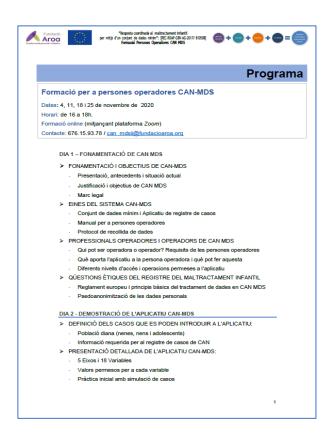
# **Training Programme - online - Novembre 2020**

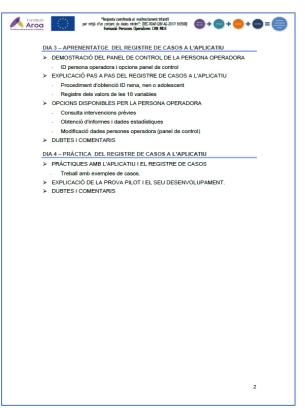
#### **GROUP A:**





#### **GROUP B:**

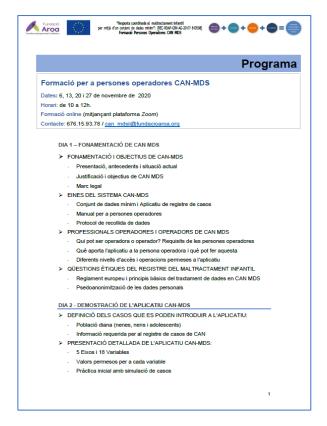


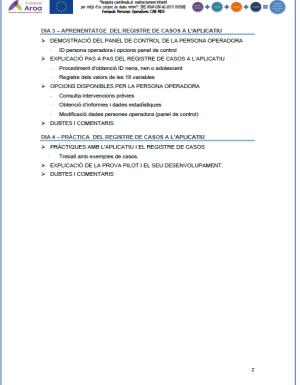






#### **GROUP C:**





#### Roll-out of the CAN-MDS training for operators

## In-person training (March 2020)

One group has been carried out with two sessions of 4 hours each (8 hours in total), one held at the central facilities of DGAIA and the other one at the Department of Labour, Social Affairs and Families of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

The sessions were developed by the project's reference team of the Aroa Foundation, and the content was distributed as follows:

- i. Contextualisation and presentation of the CAN-MDS project and its background: by the coordinator.
- ii. Legal, ethical and confidentiality aspects of CAN-MDS: by the coordinator.
- iii. Content and participatory dynamics: by the researcher..
- iv. Practical exercises with applications and mock cases: by the researcher.

The training has been developed in an active and participative format, promoting the interaction of the professionals from the different entities, organising the work in heterogeneous groups to promote them as a space for mutual enrichment between professionals, facilitating their contributions as specialists working with children and



adolescents at risk or in a situation of abuse, and promoting the active sharing of their experiences. The sessions included the following types of activities:

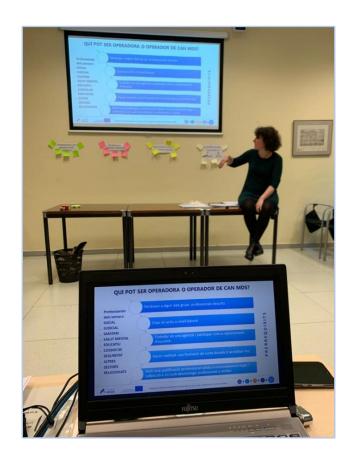
- Explanations with the support of power point presentations.
- Presentations of the professionals and collection of expectations for the training.
- Participatory dynamics in pairs or groups of 4 to 5 people.
- Group debates on the topics worked on, incorporating the Catalan framework into the project.
- Practical case studies in pairs and in large groups with all participating professionals.
- Collection of contributions and proposals for improvement on the application for its adaptation to the Catalan context.
- Autonomous casework by the professionals outside the formal training spaces with the support of the Aroa Foundation team.

The collected images below reflect the work carried out during the in-person training indication the interactive Dynamics of the groups at all times:



Working the dynamics of CAN-MDS: axes, variables and values







Explanations of programme's content supported by presentations





Practical training using the application with mock cases



Handover of certificates as a sign of achievement to several participants



# **Online Training (November 2020)**

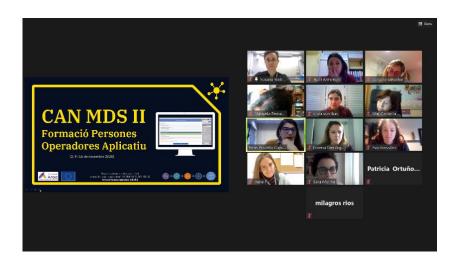
Three online-groups were established, two in the morning and one in the afternoon, so that professionals could choose according to their preferences and availability. In this format, four sessions of two hours each were held with each group, with the intention of making it as easy as possible for the professionals to participate, taking into account the current situation of overload and the good knowledge base of the specialised care teams, as mentioned earlier in this report.

In this case, the training sessions have been held through the *Zoom platform* and we have worked with different didactic formats:

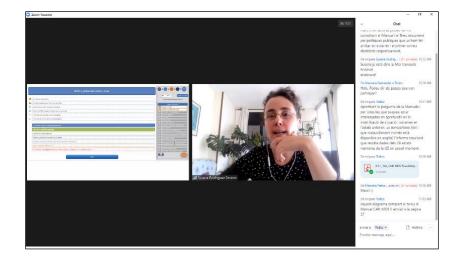
- In large groups, i.e. with the whole group working together during the parts of the training relating to explanations of content, resolving doubts and an initial example of the application and its options.
- In groups distributed in virtual rooms, with 4 or 5 people in each group, to carry out dynamics and activities.
- Individually to practice directly the introduction of cases in the registration application.

As in the in-person group, and as a characteristic of the foundation's work methodologies, in the online format, the training maintained a participative and dynamic character to stimulate the participation of the professionals, facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and create a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere that facilitated interactions between the participants, promoting their impact and recognising their experience as an element of value for the project.

The below images were collected during the trainings and show some of the participants and break-outs that were carried out during the online training:









Below we present the results of a group activity in which professionals were encouraged to reflect on the following questions:





# WHICH COORDINATIONS SHOULD BE ESSENTIAL?

Health, Education, Social Services, Social Entities and Law Enforcement. Communication circuits and joint work on cases should be activated.

All the groups agree that coordination between teams should be essential and a priority.

Most of the professionals agree that the specific teams for children should unify the coordination of the cases registered. In general, they mention that there is a need to involve the Health sector more, referring to the different medical teams, such as Primary Care, the CSMIJ (Child and Juvenile Mental Health Centre) and Hospitals.

There is also consensus on the importance of including the Security/Police Forces and the Justice sector (Public Prosecutor's Office, Courts...).

The need for the participation of schools and educational centres is highlighted and informal education centres (such as leisure and free time centres where children have activities outside school hours).

Coordination between the different levels of Social Services is also emphasised.

# ¿WHO SHOULD BE ABLE TO REGISTER DATA AND WITH WHAT LEVEL OF ACCESS?

- 1- The first person who detects the case (with a basic level of access),
- 2. and then the person in charge of the service with a second, more in-depth level of access.

In general, there is agreement that all professionals working in the detection and care of children in risk should be involved in the register.

The majority agrees that it should be the children's teams and those who initiate action on cases of child maltreatment.

The majority of professionals indicate that all professionals in contact with children should be involved in the case registration, specifically those who are in charge and competent to carry out the diagnostic assessment (i.e. specialised services).

There is general agreement that it should be ensured that all those who have contact with children can easily report suspicions or actual cases, but that not all can have the same level of access to data, due to data protection issues.

# ¿HOW SHOULD CASE COORDINATION BE DONE?

The suggestion is that the coordination via a face-to-face route with all the agents involved (taking into account the family) is important.

The participants mention that the coordination of cases should be done in a network between all the professionals,

# THE CURRENT CATALAN SYSTEM: WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS

#### Strengths:

- Training of the professionals.
- Existence of specialised services for children at risk.
- Legislation (Law 14/2010, 27 of May, on the rights and opportunities for children



sharing the objectives and the focus of the intervention to avoid re-victimising the children.

The process should facilitate the definition of work plans with a continuous and shared evaluation of progress.

The coordination of cases should also unify information to avoid duplication.

The children's teams should have a system of shared alerts via digital channels.

It is important that coordination is multidisciplinary and a multi-service.

- and adolescents) and protocols relating to child protection (there are different protocols for each sector).
- Good awareness of the problem of child abuse.
- A specific system for dealing with child maltreatment in place.
- Availability of a portfolio of specific services in relation to child protection.
- Networking between the services.

#### Weaknesses:

- Need to increase the number of professionals (high work overload).
- Increase the specialisation of professionals.
- Require the accreditation of certain experience to work in some of the specialised services.
- Need for increasing and improved work with families.
- Facilitate and guarantee the training of law enforcement and legal bodies.
- Improve working conditions (regarding change of professionals, mobilities, trainings, etc.).
- Improve specialisation in child and maltreatment and update the training of professionals.
- Improve communications between professionals of the different departments.
- Lack of coordination and unification of the registers, and duplication of work.
- Improve the detection, intervention, notification and effectiveness of networking in cases of child abuse.
- Attend and improve the care to professionals (burn-out).
- Improve the existing registration applications in terms of the options they offer and their capacities.
- Optimise the coordination of files, especially in the protection and justice sectors, as they operate independently.





Finally, in both, in-person and online training, the participating professionals were offered individualised support and advice by means of:

INDIVIDUAL TUTORIALS AVAILABLE
THROUT THE COURSE OF THE PROJECT

Through the e-mail adress and via phone: <a href="mailto:can\_mdsii@fundacioaroa.org">can\_mdsii@fundacioaroa.org</a>
676 15 93 78

## **Training material**

## **Presentations on the CAN-MDS Toolkit**



Abordatge de la infranotificació dels casos de maltractament infantil

Protects.

\*\*Implication dependence of the first of the control of





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Aroa

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#### **CAN-MDS Toolkit**

The Data Collection Protocol toolkit and the Operators' Manual and the Policy Briefs on Child and Adolescent Protection in Catalonia were translated and adapted to the Catalan context and delivered to the trainees beforehand to be used as materials during the training and afterwards. The materials were delivered in paper and digital format in the case of the Policy Briefs, and in digital format.











# Additional presentations that were elaborated by the Aroa Foundation









In addition to using the CAN-MDS Toolkit that has been translated and adapted to the Catalan context, two PowerPoints for the presentation of the project and the ethical and legal aspects of the project were prepared for the in-person training, which served to facilitate the content and understanding for the participating professionals.













For the online training sessions, specific material was developed to facilitate the sessions and to reinforce the transmission of the content of the CAN-MDS Toolkit.

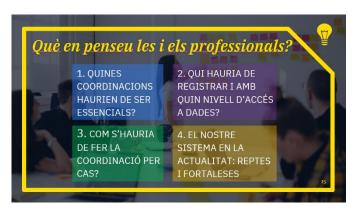
The images of the presentation below show the integration of the participatory dynamics with the professionals, such as the one carried out to collect the assessment and expectations for improvement of the current system of registration and management of cases of child abuse in Catalonia (slide "What do the professionals think?"). These activities were very positively valued by the groups, and were perceived as a relaxed and participative atmosphere that enriched the project by gathering criteria and experience of the professionals of the participating entities.













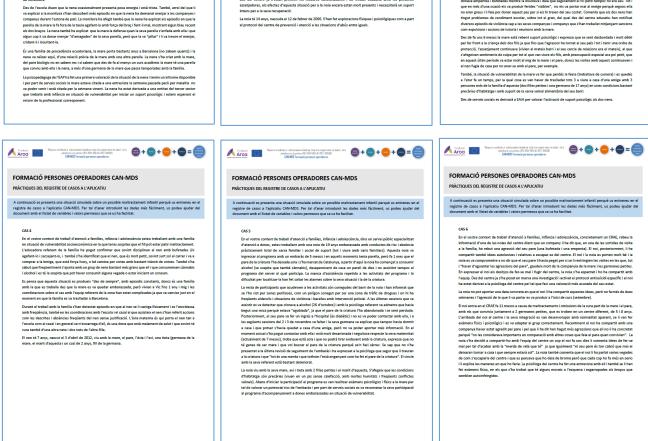




# Mock-cases to gain practice with the application

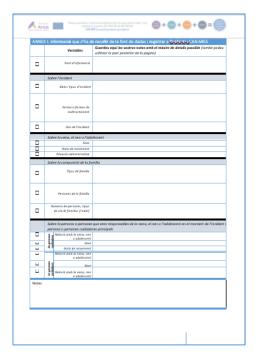
To gain practical experience with the application 6 mock-cases were developed based on the CAN-MDS training kit and adapted to the context and profiles of the professionals of the entities participating in the project. The aim was to identify the variables of child maltreatment defined by the CAN-MDS system, and to facilitate and understand the registry of the values of these variables in the application. The below examples have been created based on the identification of casuistry and typologies of child maltreatment that the participants encounter in their daily work, including proposals that differ from the usual cases they face to show the diversity of possibilities that can occur, whatever the usual context and precedents of each professional in their entity.

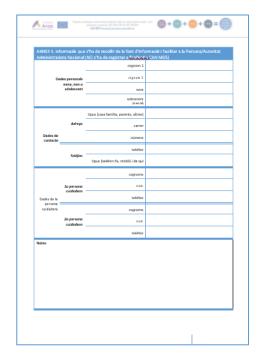






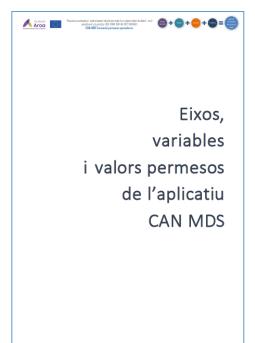
## Variables checklist



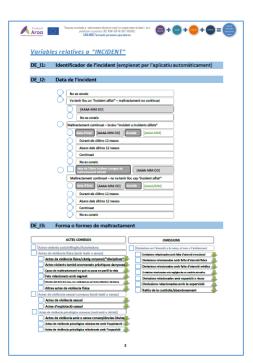


# Support material for the training developed by the Aroa Foundation

To familiarise the participants with the set of axes, variables and values, as well as to help the practice with the registration of cases in the CAN-MDS application, this document was elaborated and delivered to the professionals participating in the training. This small guide has allowed, especially in the initial phases of the presentation and during the detailed explanation of the variables, to offer a panoramic and accessible vision of the content of the application, facilitating its consultation and integration.











### **Evaluation of the training**

The operators' capacity building training seminars were evaluated by two points of measurements based on a pre- and post-seminar questionnaire. The tools implemented were aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of the seminars in terms of improvement. The achievements, including the training objectives evaluated, were as follows:

- knowledge of the participants (e.g. definitions of child maltreatment, children's rights, relevant legislation, etc.).
- ethical aspects of handling cases of child maltreatment, such as mandatory reporting, etc.
- awareness raising on e.g. the roles and responsibilities of professionals working with children, the importance of reporting child maltreatment, etc.
- skills acquired through case simulations (e.g. recognition of cases of child maltreatment through identification of signs, reporting procedures, etc.).
- registration of cases through the use if the CAN-MDS application.
- attitudes (e.g. on corporal punishment).
- identification and transformation of erroneous beliefs about child maltreatment and integration of anticipation of actions in case of suspected cases of child maltreatment.

#### **Evaluation method: initial and final questionnaires**

The evaluation of the training's objectives described in the previous chapter was carried out by means of two questionnaires. The questionnaires included in the CAN-MDS Toolkit were used, with appropriate translations and adaptations to the local context. The questionnaires were printed out and handed out on paper, for the in-person training sessions and, for the online training sessions, the questionnaire was incorporated into an online survey tool.

51 of the 59 training participants completed the initial and final questionnaires correctly. Some respondents did not fill in the questionnaire at all and some did not fill it in correctly, so they had to be discarded.

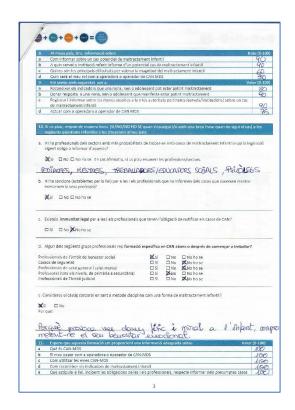
The following pictures show the questionnaires in the two formats used:

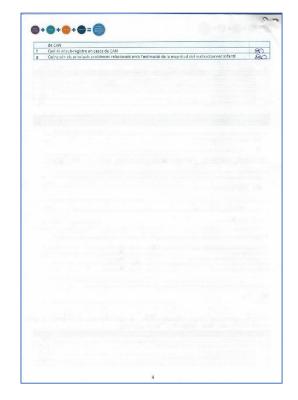


### Paper questionnaire pre-training:



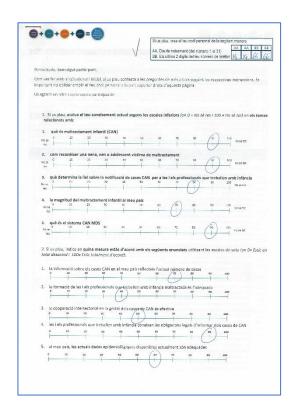








### Paper questionnaire, post-training:

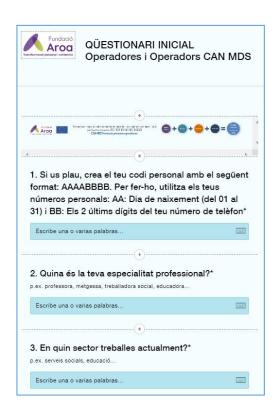


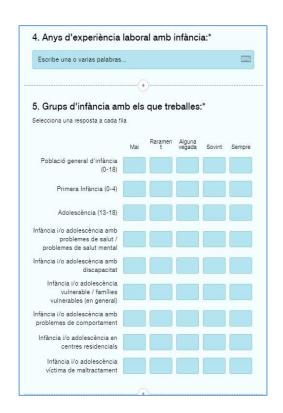


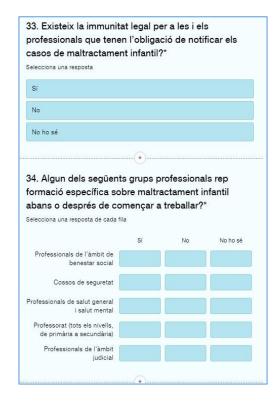




### Online questionnaire, "pre-training"\*:



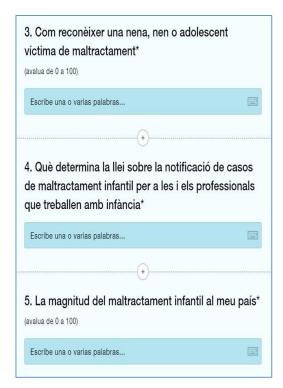


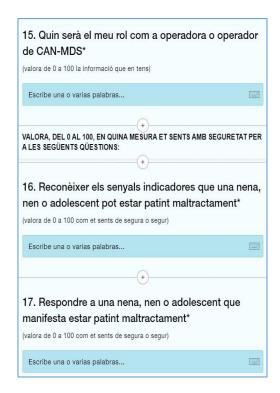


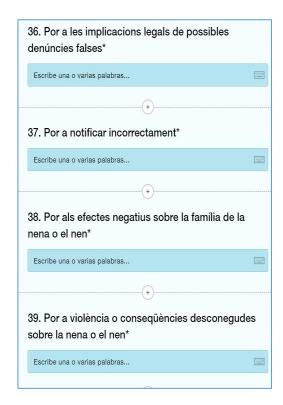


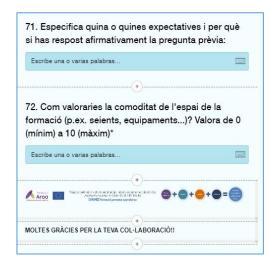


### Online questionnaire, post-training\*:











\* Only a selection of the questionnaires has been attached above. Below are screenshots of the completed questionnaires:

### Pre-training



### Post-training



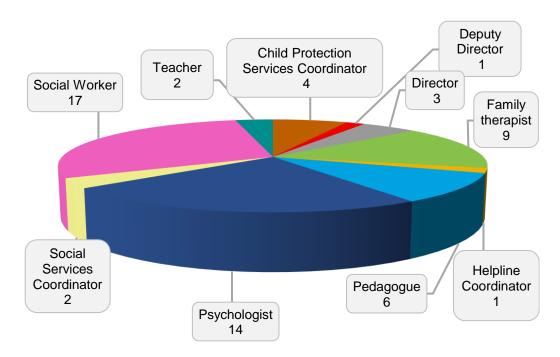


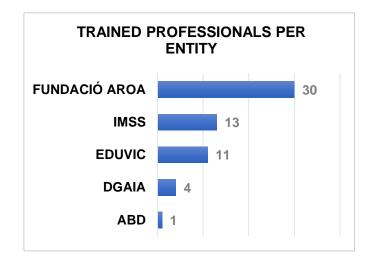


### **Evaluation of results**

The following chapter outlines a selection of the answers to the initial and final questionnaires filled in by the professionals who have received the training. This selection has been made on the basis of the question's significance for this report and according to the objectives of the project.

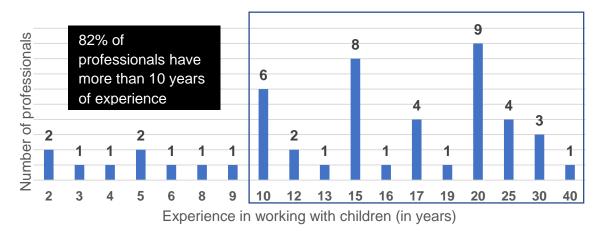
### EMPLOYMENT PROFILES OF THE PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE DONE THE TRAINING:







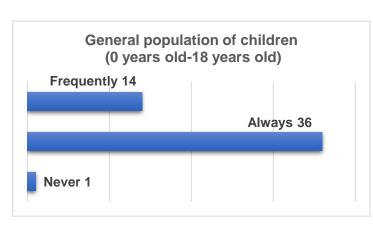
### **WORK EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN**

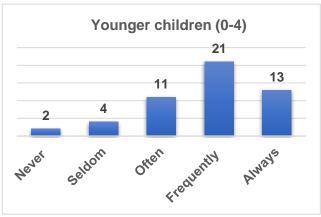


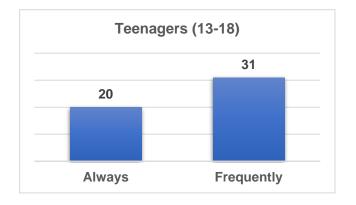
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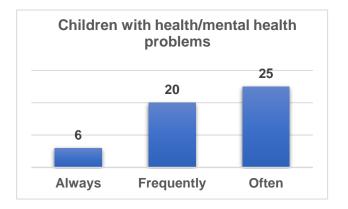
- ✓ The most experienced person has been working with children for 40 years and the least experienced for 2 years.
- ✓ The professionals have an average of 15 years of experience with children.
- ✓ Most professionals have 10, 15 or 20 years of experience

### PROFILE OF CHILDREN THEY ARE WORKING WITH:

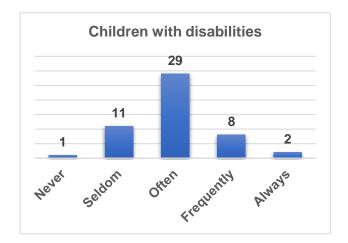


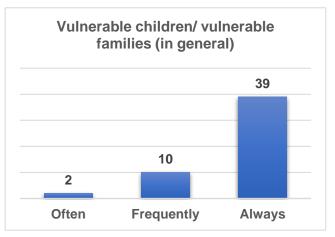


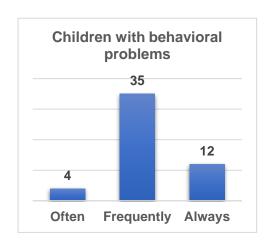


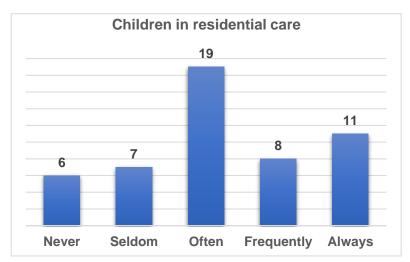


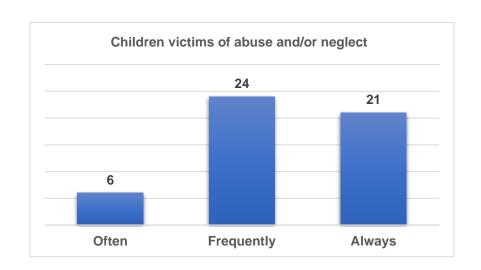








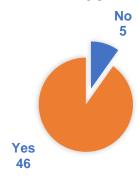








# PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE REPORTED AT LEAST ONCE A POSSIBLE CASE OF CHILD ABUSE/ OR HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT OR WITNESSED ONE

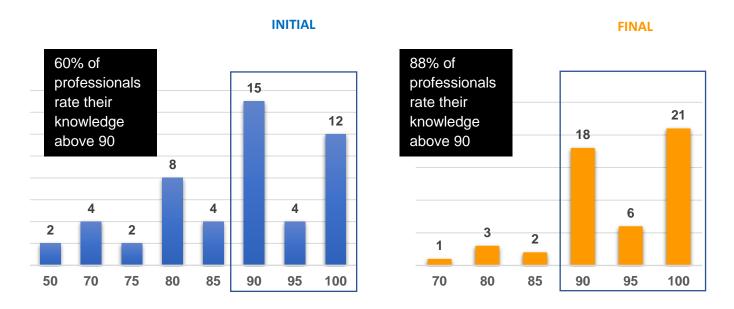


VERBATIM ANSWERS EXPLAINING WHAT KIND OF **INFORMATION WAS IN THE SUSPECTED CAN INCIDENT** THEY WERE INFORMED ABOUT, SPECIFIC DIMENSION OF THE CASE THAT STOOD OUT THE MOST TO THEM AT THE TIME TO LIKELY INDICATE CAN:

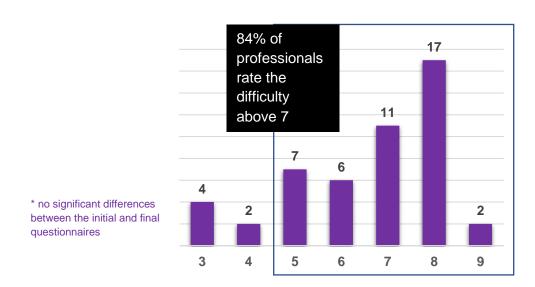
- The risk itself and the defencelessness of the child, are the ones I was most concerned about.
- Working with children and families, the past and current incidents of abuse seem like they emerge recurrently as in the form of discipline and physical punishment. In some cases, the children share these incidents, and in others it comes up during the work with family members who care for the child.
- Physical signs; psychological (witnessed) abuse, changes in the child's mood, fear, sadness; lack of motivation.
- Vulnerability. In a family therapy a child shared the abuse and the parents admitted that they lost control.
- Child abuse of a teenage mother to her 11-month-old daughter. The mother was overwhelmed with the demands of her baby, and she lost control and shook the baby.
- Normally the child informs the police, the school or health services about the abuse.
   I always try to find out whether there is a medical record of injuries and also understand the child's experience of this abuse.
- The normalization of abuse as an educational tool and the difficulty of raising awareness to the family. In another case it was a neglect linked to the burden of the mother who was in a socioeconomic vulnerable situation.
- To use aggressive methods of discipline and unwillingness to respond to the care service's attempts to redirect these behaviours. Also exercised violence by the father against the mother in front of the children, leaving the children as eyewitnesses.



### **KNOWLEDGE ON "WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE" (0-100)**

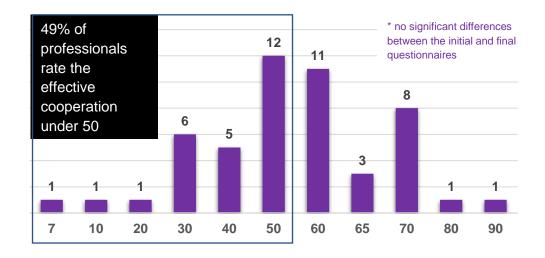


REGARDING THE **DIFFICULTIES OF REGISTERING CASES** OF CHILD MALTREAMENT, PROFESSIONALS RATE "**THE PROCESS TO FOLLOW TO MAKE A NOTIFICACION**" ON A SCALE FROM 0 TO 100.

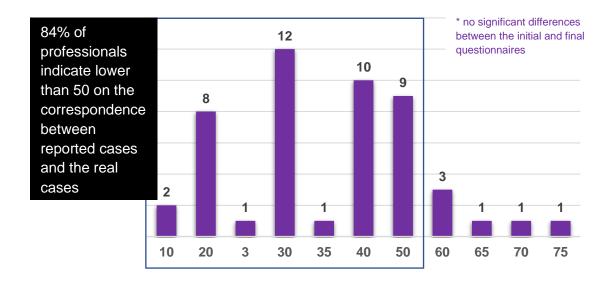




PROFESSIONALS RATE ON A SCALE FROM 0 TO 100 THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING ISSUE: "INTER-SECTORIAL COOPERATION IN ADMINISTRATION OF CAN CASES IS EFFECTIVE"

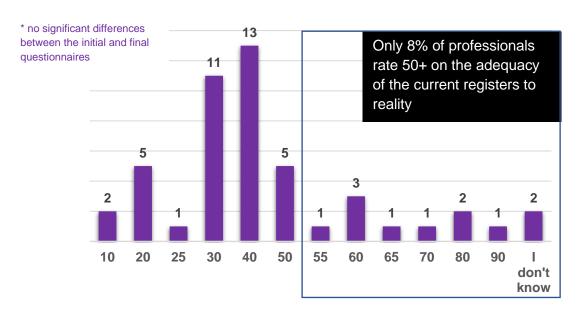


PROFESSIONALS RATE ON A SCALE FROM 0 TO 100 THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING ISSUE: "REPORTING OF CAN CASES IN MY COUNTRY REFLECTS THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF CAN"

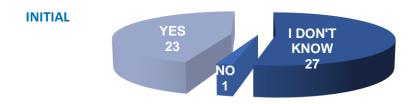




PROFESSIONALS RATE ON A SCALE FROM 0 TO 100 THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING ISSUE: "CURRENTLY AVAILABLE EPIDEMIOLOGIC DATA FOR CAN IS ADEQUATE, IN MY COUNTRY"



ARE THERE PENALTIES, **MANDATED BY LAW,** FOR THE PROFESSIONALS WHO DO NOT REPORT CAN INCIDENTS THAT HAVE COME TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE WHILE ON DUTY?



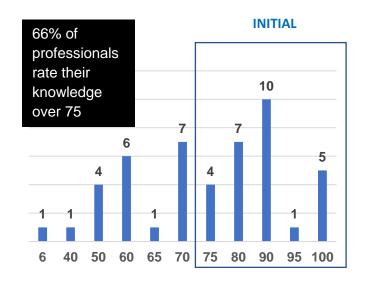
WHAT IS **PROVISIONED BY THE LAW FOR REPORTING CAN** CASES BY PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH/FOR CHILDREN

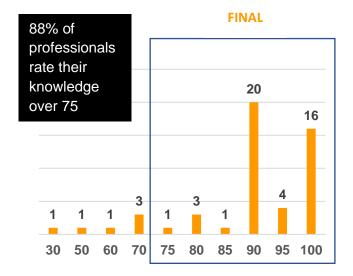
**FINAL** 86% of 21 professionals rate 80+ their 15 knowledge at the end of the training 1 1 30 **50** 60 **70 75** 80 85 90 95 100



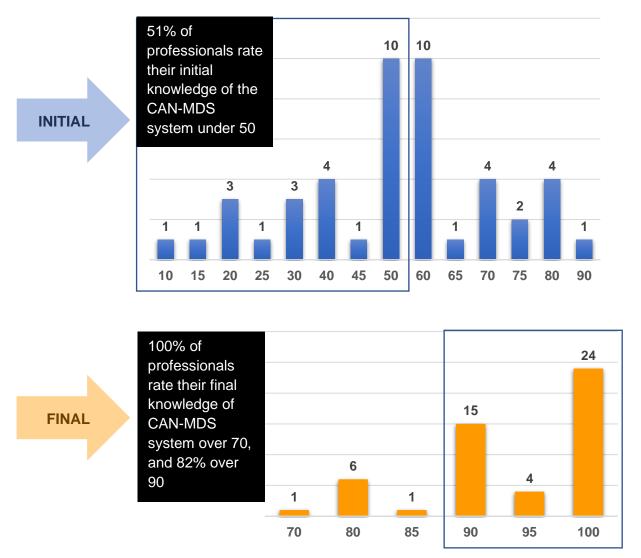


# KNOWLEDGE ON **WHAT IS PROVISIONED BY THE LAW FOR REPORTING** OF CAN CASES BY PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH/FOR CHILDREN (0-100)



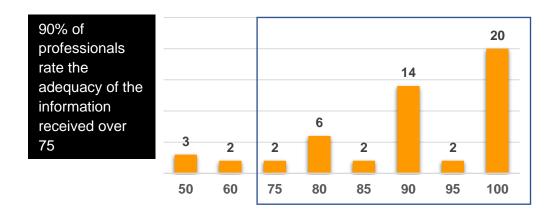


### CURRENT KNOWLEDGE RATE FROM 0 TO 100 ON ISSUES RELATED TO "WHAT THE CAN-MDS SYSTEM IS"

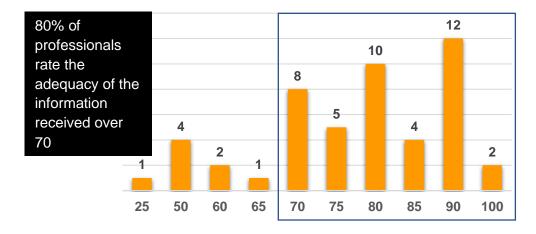




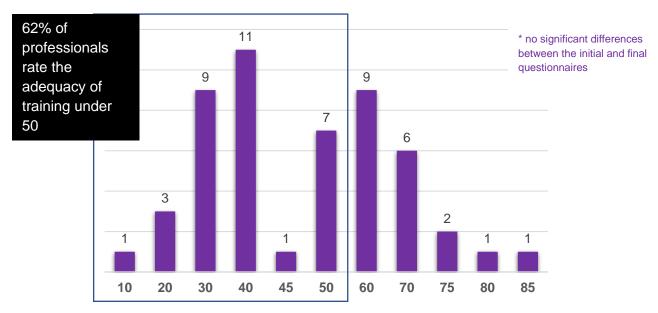
### THE TRAINING PROVIDED THEM WITH **ADEQUATE INFORMATION OF WHAT UNDERREPORTING IS?**



# TRAINING PROVIDED THEM AN UNDERSTANDING OF **WHAT THE MAIN**PROBLEMS RELATED TO ESTIMATION OF THE MAGNITUDE OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ARE?



### THE TRAINING OF PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ISSUES WAS ADEQUATE



# PROFESSIONALS' RATING OF FACTORS THAT HINDER OR PREVENT THE DECISION TO REPORT SUSPECTED OR ACTUAL CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT



Regarding the previous chart, it is important to point out that professionals' answers have been kept in assessment's intermediate areas in relation to the different statements.

There are no extreme outliers in the evaluation of each of the statements and the replies of the 51 professionals are kept in a moderate range of values of the suggested scale from 0 to 10 which can be seen as a tendency towards coherent responses regarding Catalonia's current situation. Much progress has been made in terms of facilitating the decision to report a suspicion or existing child abuse, although there are still aspects to be adjusted to reduce the difficulties and to improve the reporting to optimize the process.

The chart also shows that professionals are aware of their duty to report cases as they have the resources to identify cases of child abuse and they are conscious of the legal framework related to children's protection. Additionally, the assessments reflect that lack of responsibility does not have an influence on fewer registrations, so we can conclude that consciousness amongst the professionals exists and they are aware about the need to report, although the average values lead to the conclusion that there is room for improvement.

The higher values of the chart vary between 6 and 6 '7 and they refer especially to issues related to already existing notification processes, inter-sectoral cooperation and case management. It is clear that the Catalan professionals value the existence of a consolidated system for detection, notification, attention and coordinated response to child abuse. However, they identify some weaknesses and the necessity to improve the system in relation to some of the points that are shown in the chart, such as:

the reporting of information after the notification of a case and the lack of feedback on the follow-up actions and response to it; or the improvements of the processes needed to make a notification, among others.

On the top of the chart, it also stands out that professionals worry about violence and the unknown consequences for the child after the notification itself, which leads to the assumption that there may be a greater need for case coordination and the improved and strengthened work with families, as expressed by the professionals in other areas of the training.





#### WHAT IS MOST VALUABLE OF THIS SEMINAR?

The following verbatims are a selection of responses from professionals on what they value the most and the least about the training they have received:

Its possibilities, although some changes would have to be made to adapt it to all situations that may exist Possibilities to do practical part and the option to make consultations during the process.

The knowledge of this new tool and its possibilities. I believe that we must move towards a unified abuse's registration system that incorporates all sectors involved in children and adolescents at risk.

Knowing the application and knowing how to use the tools for the introduction of cases or suspicions of IM. It can become a good tool for early detection and management in the different states involved.

The practices performed and that the registration is very intuitive, being able to find drop-downs with the information, what makes it easy to fill in the form.

It has potential, but it is complicated to incorporate...

That it has been very concrete and focused on the programme.

It makes the scourge of child abuse visible and offers tools and information to confront it from the different professional sectors.

That the application can be used so that the cases of children and adolescents are registered correctly and background information is taken into account when something happens.

#### WHAT IS LEAST VALUABLE OF THIS SEMINAR?

Some content is already known to us and it has made some parts of the training less interesting.

That it does not reach the entire network of professionals who work with children.

Not knowing if the pilot test

could be in coordinated

actions (possible lack of

usefulness).

I think it is difficult to incorporate this system because it is ambitious and requires many sectors to work together.

The answer of the questionnaires. I understand that there is a need to know the acquisition of knowledge for the use of the application, but the contributions on all services involved with childhood would not apply to me and it is excessively long.

It may conflict with current systems and some variables need changes to adjust to the Catalan

Some things in the app should be better defined The items of ill-treatment and negligence do not have a total correspondence with the current screening used in Catalonia, and that there are variables that are not taken into account and they depend on the subjectivity of "who" registers. I think definitions should be





### Conclusions

The conclusion that can be drawn after the completion of the CAN-MDS training with the operators, in general is very positive. The participants, belonging to sectors of care for children and adolescents at risk in Catalonia with a high degree of experience and knowledge, have been able to achieve the objectives set for the seminars, and specifically with regard to the use of the registration application, they have developed appropriate independence and skills to carry out the pilot test that started on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2021.

In addition to deepening and broadening the knowledge on the CAN-MDS training toolkit, the professionals were able to play an active role as specialists in the field of children and adolescents at risk of maltreatment, which has been an important element for their motivation and has facilitated their identification with the project's objectives. It is worth highlighting that the methodologies used for the seminars were positive for the interaction. They facilitated interaction and build a shared space for the professionals for debate, reflection and integration of the content presented, and the professionals were able to contribute with their specific knowledge and background, while at the same time being made aware of the value of CAN-MDS as a proposal for improvement of the approach to child abuse based on the analysis that the groups have made on the needs and shortcomings of the Catalan model.

The professionals' feedback on the content methodology of the training was very positive. Although they indicated that the overload of work they experienced has made it difficult for them to participate, they recognised that it was positive for them to have the possibility to reinforce and broaden their knowledge, as well as having a space to contribute reflections on the challenges and strengths of the Catalan system in relation to the registration and coordination in the management of cases of child maltreatment. As such the CAN-MDS system was evaluated as a good option with a view towards a unified European model, as it offers an interesting response to the identified needs for improvement. The professionals have also been able to identify and describe the improvement points for the CAN-MDS system, which were described in this report, and which can be considered as a high value outcome.

Nevertheless, the training has not reached the number of professionals and agencies that was initially planned (N=150) despite the efforts that have been made through more than 60 bilateral meetings with different institutional entities. We interpret this reality as a reminder that there is still a long way to go to achieve a coordinated response to child maltreatment, as intended by CAN-MDS.