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## Investing in the development and implementation of different programmes based on risk and need factors related to behavioural disorders

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### **Abstract**

*The processes of planning interventions for young people who are at risk for developing behavioural disorders begin with the identification of the risk or need factors. The results of such research show and give guidelines for interventions in relation to factors of risks. They also provide guidelines for investing in the development and implementation of different programmes at the state and local levels. This study points to some of these needs and changes in the past decade.*

Keywords: behavioural disorders, risks, needs, the city of Pula, Croatia, interventions

### **1. Introduction**

The identification of a problem in an area is the beginning of solving it. Such knowledge gives us extremely valuable information about which interventions are worthy investing in when it comes to young people with behavioural disorders, and which are effective in suppressing such disorders. Only interventions aimed at specific risks and young people of a certain local community's needs can give results in suppressing the occurrence and development of behavioural disorders. In this sense, each community has the responsibility to identify various behaviours and needs declared by their locality young people, as well as to invest in the development and implementation of appropriate interventions.

In regard of the aforementioned, Colney (2010) has defined social investments as strategies directed toward the investment of public means into the power and ability of individuals, families and communities and into binding together economic development and the society members' welfare, to secure a fair participation and access to economic development benefits.

### **2. Previous researches' results and discussion**

In the past twenty years the scientific community has paid particular attention to estimates of risk, need and responsivity factors that have set the conceptual frameworks which explain the effects of such factors, or the insight into them is applied in different conceptual frameworks of behavioural disorders prevention.

In this context Hoge, Andrews and Leschild (2002) have given importance to different areas of risk/needs, but also to other needs and circumstances relevant for coming to the decision about the intervention which is not necessarily connected to criminal activities of a young person. Namely, the authors have given importance to factors of risk which are relative to the young person's needs and make possible the relation between the intervention and the case management plan. They have based this on the RNR model (Risk-Need-Responsivity; Andrews et al, 1990; Andrews and Bonta, 2006) which supposes that the factors of risk are related to individuals and their environments, that needs are dynamic and can change during the treatment (which can contribute to the decrease of persons' criminal activities), and that the type of intervention, not the crime, should be in focus. The intervention has to stem from the personal characteristics of the young person, his or her learning style, intelligence, self-esteem and motivation (Hoge and Andrews, 2006).

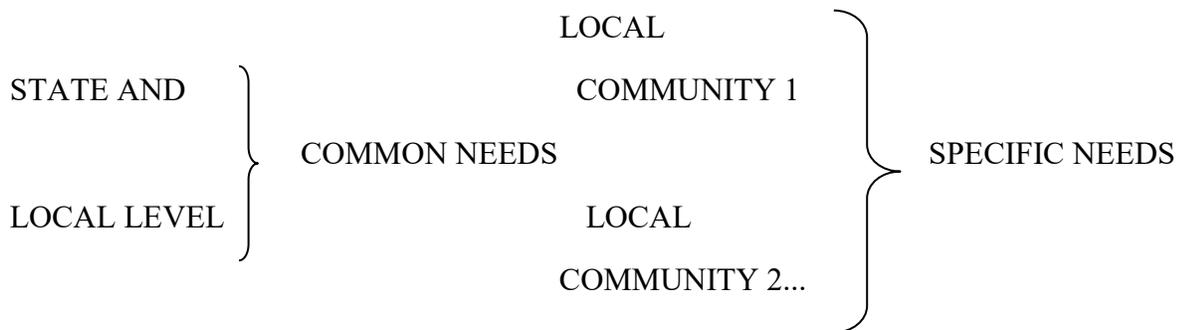
Many researches have been conducted in the area of various behaviours and needs shown by young people of the Republic of Croatia and they gave us valuable guidelines to the risky environments which should be invested into, on both state and local level (Žižak, Koller-Trbović, Lebedina-Manzoni, 2001; Radetić-Paić, 2003; Radetić-Paić, 2010; Radetić-Paić, 2012).

To be more specific, about fifteen years ago these risks were present in the Republic of Croatia as a hole in the area of education, earlier delinquent status, addictive substances abuse and inadequate attitudes and behaviours (Žižak, Koller-Trbović, Lebedina-Manzoni, 2001), while for the city of Pula the specific risks cumulated in the fields of free time activities, peer relations, as well as problems in a young person's personality and behaviour (Radetić-Paić, 2003).

As phenomena in social sciences change in line with changes in the society, in a research conducted almost in the same way, but ten years later, some changes in the fields of risk occurred. Today, the Republic of Croatia risks include the field of personality and behaviour, family and school, while for the city of Pula they are the fields personality and behaviour, addictive substances abuse and peer relations (Radetić-Paić, 2010; Radetić-Paić, 2012).

It is thus possible to recognise similar risks at the state and local community level, and specific risks for a certain local community. This enables more sources of finance based on the identified young people's needs (Scheme 1).

**Scheme 1.** The strategy of social investment from more sources



### **3. Conclusion**

The research results have given guidelines for investing in the development and implementation of different programmes based on risk and need factors related to behavioural disorders. This is possible on a state, but also local level, as has been shown on the example of the city of Pula.

Taking into consideration austerity measures, the need appears to plan and invest in programmes which can encompass as many different fields on as many levels as possible, which is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** The plan for the development and implementation of adequate programmes (without the analysis of expenses and economic refund)

<b>Interventions directed toward:</b>	<b>Level of risk/need</b>	<b>Areas of risk encompassed by the intervention</b>	<b>Concrete forms of intervention</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Expenses/economic refund</b>
individual	Moderate/high	Addictive substances abuse, problems with personality and behaviour, peer relations difficulties	Counselling, school prevention programme, centres for the protection of mental health, centres for the prevention of addictions, ...	Solving various growing problems, problems linked to addictive substances abuse, peer violence, difficulties linked to sexual development and similar	/
family	Moderate/high	family	Parents' schools, quality parenthood courses, various supportive programmes	Encouraging family interactions, reinforcing pro social values in the family, support after divorce, ...	/
school	Moderate/high	School, family, personality and behaviour, peer relations, addictive substances abuse	Pre-school and school programmes, social skills trainings (teachers, pupils, parents), aimed programmes of early interventions	Developing social skills, more attention for special categories of risk (pupils with poor school achievement, addicts' children, children from multi problem families, neglected and maltreated children, aggressive children and similar	/
Local community's subsystems	Low/moderate	Free time organisation, addictive substances abuse, family, school	Organising free time, free prevention programmes, programmes for the inclusion of peers into interventions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, associations,...	Encouraging the wider public for the prevention of behavioural disorders, coordination programmes, creation of a good global strategy with a continual evaluation	/

In the end, some open questions remain for practice and reflexion:

1. How much do people from the community use such and similar analyses on the state and local level during the reallocation of funds for the development and implementation of specific interventions based on needs when it comes to young people with behavioural disorders?
2. If we take a further step, social investments' basic aim is reaching the economic efficiency of social interventions or reaching the economic refund of invested means. Do we have entire expenses analyses and analyses of certain interventions' usefulness on the state and local level?

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