



against children's corporal punishment

## JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY

### EXPERT GROUPS

The SAPI held a number of meetings to coordinate measures aimed at eliminating corporal punishment. It also presented an opinion on the frequent cases of corporal punishment of children in public institutions and kindergartens.

## PARENTING AND POSITIVE PARENTHOOD

### TEA TALKS

At the end of January, two group programs under the "Hands Up" project were completed. They met a great interest from parents in the Sofia Public Support Centers, managed by SAPI. In the Ilinden region and in the Nadezhda region 22 parents actively participated in the trainings, which enabled them to build up their parental competencies.

Particularly useful was communication between the parents themselves, discussing and sharing the difficulties in communicating with children and responding to unacceptable child behavior.

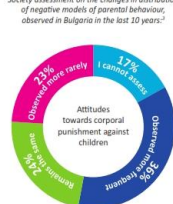
At the end of the meetings, the participants were relieved to have received support and confidence to cope with their role as parents.



#### Does the ban work?

- 39% of parents support slapping as an educative approach. These parents would use some form of corporal punishment in cases where they cannot cope with their child's behavior.
- Only 6% of them firmly claim that they have no alternative in a difficult situation.
- 50% of the respondents reported that they have witnessed slapping of children and have heard about it from other people.
- 18% of young people without children and 63% of parents say they have seen visibly beaten children with injuries.
- Between 10% – 12% of the respondents say they had intervened in cases where an adult was beating a child.
- 85% of the youth without children and 80% of the parents state their readiness to report.
- Over 80% believe that the attempts to interfere with family disputes only bring negatives.<sup>1</sup>

Society assessment on the changes in distribution of negative models of parental behaviour, observed in Bulgaria in the last 20 years:<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.emkcorporalpunishment.org/>  
<sup>2</sup> Survey conducted by INEC and ESTAT in 2013.  
 © Demotix survey, SAPI, 2018



Coordinator:



Partners:



Evaluator:



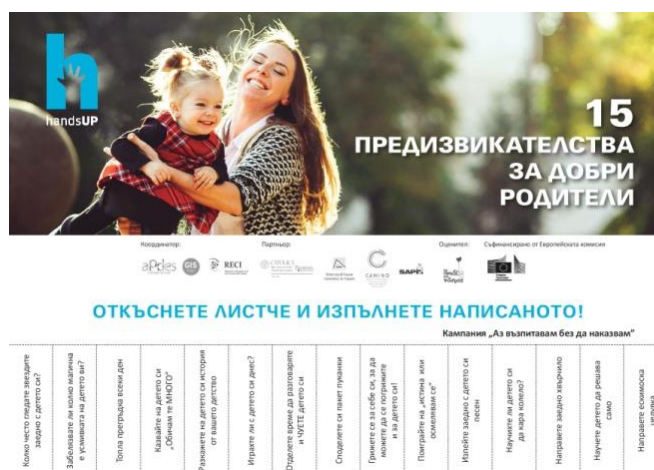
co-funded by European Commission



## COACHING and AWARENESS

### CAMPAIGNS

SAPI has organized several meetings with parents in the main schools in Sofia, where every participant could cut one piece of “challenge” from the poster “15 challenges for good parents”. The SAPI experts also explained to the authority the positive discipline, then share some experience from their work. The meeting has ended with a discussion between parents, teachers and experts in social work.



### FACEBOOK GROUPS and YOUTUBE

We distributed the forum for positive discipline to the most popular parents groups in facebook with 36 000 likes. We also posted the Forum in groups for teachers and alternative educational methods.

We have adapted the text of the body punishment song from the original video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1dq0Tagn6Q>

### HANDS UP APP

The HandsUP app (available Android) was also created; the app is useful to provide tips and information on Positive Parenthood practices, according to the children's different stages of development.



### EUROPEAN POLICY DIALOGUE MEETING

On 26 - 27.03. 2018 in Brussels, the third international meeting was held on the project "Hands Up for Effective Abolition of Corporal Punishment Against Children" with the participation of organizations from Portugal, Spain, Germany and Bulgaria.

On the first day, partners provided feedback on work packages and activities, and on the second, each team presented national evaluation reports and national action plans in the European Parliament.

The Hands up project was presented in the European Parliament by Emilio Puccio, coordinator of the Intergroup on the Rights of the Child. MEPs also attended the meeting.



Coordinator:



Evaluator:

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