



DAPHNE III PROGRAMME
Project "Transnational Cooperation Against Violence"

N° contract JUST/2009-2010/DAP/AG/1259

DESCRIPTION

Municipality of Genova's expertise and projects for minors

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There are nine ATSS in Genova, covering specific areas of the city with different demographic and socio – economical needs. These ATSS are under the authority of the Municipality and provide the social services available to every citizen on urban ground. Within every ATSS operates a staff consisting of social workers, an educationalist and a psychologist.

In the whole area of the city ATSS take care of 6.691 minors, 2328 of which are foreigners.

ATSS' services for minors mainly operate along two lines:

1. Services that support the minor and its family;
2. Services that protect the minor's rights.

The first type of services include:

- **Individual educational support:** an educationalist visits the minor at his house and checks on him on a regular basis;
- **Socio-educational centres:** these facilities open in the afternoon and are run by a small group of social workers who support the minors in their scholastic career as well as their family situation.

The second type of services include:

- **Mother-Child support:** this service aims to support single parents in order to prevent a future separation from the minor;
- **Services preventing child abuse.**

If necessary, minors are moved to:

- **Residential educational centres:** in these facilities a staff of educationalists

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- provide the minors with a professional educational service in a family-like environment;
- **Foster care:** a system of foster families take care of minors whose parents are temporarily unfit.

These and other services are not only carried out by the aforementioned operators, but also by many other entities, such as schools, volunteers, congregations, associations and so on.

Major issues can all be traced back to a general lack of funding and resources, as in the past few years Italy has seen a consistent and continuous decrease in interest, and consequently in financing, for the social services field.

By the other token this forced parsimony has allowed the thriving of those services which prevent social discomfort.

One of these prevention projects is P.I.P.P.I., which focuses on people's competence and potential to change their situation. The core idea is that some families, if continuously and properly followed by social services, can learn new, more functional ways to contribute to their children's growth.

Still, this project requires a huge effort and contribution, especially in terms of time and workload, while a general lack of resources makes it obviously hard to