

Hubert Liebhardt, Hans Zollner

The *Centre for Child Protection* of the Institute of Psychology of the Pontifical Gregorian University

Vision and mission

The *Centre for Child Protection* was founded as a cooperation between the Institute of Psychology of the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome, Italy), the Department for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of Ulm University Hospital (Germany), and the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising (Germany). Its main purpose is the creation of a global E-Learning training centre in academic resources for the pastoral professions responding to the sexual abuse of minors, taking into account multilingual and intercultural issues. At present, the *Centre for Child Protection* has been established for three years (2012-2014) to develop and implement an E-Learning program totalling 30 hours, in four languages (English, Spanish, Italian, German). Eight partners throughout the world (in Argentina, Ecuador, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy and Kenya) will participate, taking an active role in participant recruitment, certification and the ongoing evaluation of the training program. Later on the training program will be open to other interested users worldwide, in the Catholic Church and beyond.

Structure and infrastructure

The responsibility for the project and the Centre lies with Prof. Hans Zollner SJ, Accademic Vice-President of the Pontifical Gregorian University. This university will supervise the project with Prof. inv. Dr. Hubert Liebhardt as director of the Centre – Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, deacon, educational scientist and research group leader in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at the University of Ulm, Germany (Medical Director: Prof. Jörg M. Fegert). The staff members of the Centre are psychologists, instructional designers, anthropologists, theologians and multilingual experts. The Archdiocese Munich and Freising is the host-institution and one of the main funding bodies of the *Centre of Child Protection*, located in Munich.

The Steering Committee consists of Prof. Hans Zollner SJ (Chair), Monsignor Klaus Peter Franzl (Director of Human Resources of the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising) and Prof. Jörg M. Fegert (University Clinic Ulm). The project is supported by a scientific advisory board of up to six experts from different areas of research and practice. They will monitor the development of content; they will also monitor the integration of the E-Learning service into education and training structures specific to pastoral and educational workers. The advisory board consists of Monsignor Prof. Peter Beer, Dr. Maria Pia Capozza, Prof. Sheila Hollins, Monsignor Dr. Charles J. Scicluna, and Dr. Delphine Collin-Vézina.

Target group

In this first or trial period, test-persons will be included in the development-process, the evaluation of the program, and the granting of certification, as part of the formation of priests, deacons, parish assistants, educators, catechists, volunteers and other members of the pastoral staff. A local project

manager and a “train-the-trainers” expert will therefore be selected by each partner to recruit participants locally and to train them in using the E-Learning program.

Content and Instructional Design

The E-Learning curriculum consists of six modules totalling 26 learning-units, which have a knowledge-based content in the form of texts, graphics and pictures, and also encourage in-depth, practice-oriented exercises through interactive and audio-visual elements. For each module, three to four learning-units of about 40-50 minutes are planned. The structure of each module is based upon the process of detecting cases of abuse. The learning-units will deal with understanding and preventing sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, e. g. legal consequences, self-reflecting exercises, theological and pastoral perspectives, emphasizing cultural diversity, dealing with the faithful in parish situations, closeness and distance with minors, risk-factors for sexual abuse in relation to the victim and the offender, family and institutional contexts, conspicuous signs, situations where abuse is suspected, conversation-techniques, documentation, immediate help, assistance in dealing with abused children and contact-persons for children, quality-management in institutions, and preventive measures including empowerment of children.

E-Learning makes it possible to offer information widely and quickly, but provides little opportunity for emotional learning in the purely online version. The project will therefore include didactic approaches that will allow individualised, systematic and case-based learning about child sexual abuse, both as a stand-alone solution (self-study) and as a blended-learning solution (self-study and classroom-learning). Face-to-face courses in the sense of blended learning are an option linked with the self-study phase.

For further information refer to

www.elearning-childprotection.com

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