

Evaluation of the training programme “Gambling - everything you need to know about addiction” 20-21.09.2024 Kutaisi, Georgia.

Gambling addiction is a problem present all over the world. In recent years there has been a sudden increase in the scale of addiction. It affects adults, but it does the most damage to young people, who are particularly vulnerable to addiction. Gambling has become one of the most dangerous addictions in recent years. Very many people lack knowledge and do not realise that uncontrolled entertainment such as gambling has a number of negative consequences, including death.

The participants in the training were 16 female teachers, working with young people in secondary schools in three regions of Georgia (Guria, Imereti, Shida Kartli), where gambling among young people is growing extremely rapidly.

The aim of the project was to provide intensive training in the prevention of gambling addiction and other behavioural addictions, sharing experiences and good practices.

Evaluation plan

1. Tool for participants - surveys before and after the training programme
2. Satisfaction questionnaire for participation in the project - after the training programme

Surveys were carried out according to the schedule. Pretest was conducted on 20.09.2024, while the post-test and satisfaction survey and evaluation of the training on 21.09.2024, after the end of the training.

Research methodology

The aim of the evaluation activities was to find out whether there were changes in the participants after participation in the project.

Key questions for the evaluation process were identified:

1. How did the participants evaluate the training programme?
2. How were the trainers evaluated?
3. How was the organisation of the training assessed?
4. Was there an increase in knowledge of participants regarding prevention and addiction to gambling?

Results of evaluation research

Surveys carried out before the start of the project diagnosed the knowledge possessed by the participants. The questions concerned various areas of training. Respondents answered

whether they were able to recognise the symptoms of addiction, the different forms of gambling, the scale of the addiction, and whether they knew what preventive measures to take. The data obtained showed that prior to the training, not all respondents were able to identify significant symptoms of addiction (12%), did not realise how popular online gambling is (15%), and had some difficulty in indicating the extent of the problem among young people (22%).

The post-test showed that all participants gave the correct answers to the questions included. After the training and the test, the data obtained indicated that all participants had a satisfactory knowledge of gambling addiction. All participants were able to identify both the symptoms indicative of addiction, knew how popular online gambling was, were able to determine the scale of the problem, and knew and were able to identify the most popular forms of gambling. Importantly, they also had knowledge of prevention and psychoeducation in the broadest sense. Obtaining such results may indicate that participants were highly motivated to explore the proposed issues.

As part of the project summary, an evaluation of the training programme was requested. Here, high scores were obtained in all indicators surveyed. According to the participants, the training objectives were clearly defined and achieved. All respondents (100%) stated that the objectives were fully achieved - indicating the highest score - an average score of 5.0. The acquired knowledge and the possibility to use it in daily work with young people was rated very highly - 5.0.

An evaluation of the trainers was also requested. In all surveyed aspects were given the highest ratings. They were asked about their professional preparation, their commitment during the training, their ability to establish and maintain contact with the trainees. As well as the forms of work.

Another evaluated element was the organisation of the training. The training venue was rated with the maximum score of 5.0, while there were comments on the duration of the programme, as respondents felt the training should have been longer.

As indicated earlier, the problem of gambling addiction is an increasingly common problem both in Europe and worldwide. Particular attention should be paid to young people as they are more vulnerable to addiction and the problem is exacerbated by easy access to the Internet.

Conclusions and recommendations

After analysing the data obtained, it can be concluded that:

1. The participants rated the training very highly - giving the maximum mark,
2. The analysis of the obtained data shows that the trainers received the highest possible ratings.
3. The whole organisation of the training was evaluated in a positive way.
4. An increase in knowledge of gambling addiction and gambling addiction prevention activities in this area.

Taking into account all the statistical data obtained, it can be concluded that the stated objectives were achieved. An important recommendation for the future is to extend the duration of the training and increase the number of participants.

The questionnaires for the surveys and the evaluation of the project were prepared by Dr Katarzyna Nawrocka of the Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education in Warsaw.

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