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**OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY**

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## **ERICA: Stopping Child Maltreatment training programme and evaluation**

Dear colleague,

Oxford Brookes University is developing child protection training as part of a pan-European study (funded through a European Commission grant) called ERICA which aims to prevent child maltreatment in the family; a major public health issue. All forms of maltreatment pose a significant risk to the child's physical, emotional and social health and well-being, both in the short and the long term.

We would like to invite you to undertake the training, which will take place over two days, and to evaluate the programme for future development. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the project is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

### **What is the purpose of the study?**

As part of the ERICA project, we are developing a training programme for professionals working with children to help protect against maltreatment in the family. The training programme has been informed by a training needs analysis and reviews of existing evidence and good practices.

### **What will happen if I take part?**

The training will be offered over two separate days. There are three anonymous online training evaluation questionnaires: pre-training, post-training and 4 weeks after the training. If you are happy to offer feedback you will be provided with a link to follow to take you to the questionnaires. You will need to provide a few basic details about yourself and will then need to follow some simple instructions and work through the brief questionnaire. Each should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. The feedback questionnaire has been approved by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee at Oxford Brookes University.

### **Why have I been chosen and do I have to take part?**

We are sending this invitation to participate in this training programme to health care, social care, early years services and University staff who work with children and families. Giving your permission, by following the link and completing the questionnaire, is entirely voluntary.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Feedback from the pre- and post-training questionnaires will inform future development of a web based training programme on risk assessment in child protection practice and engagement in multi professional working practices. By completing the questionnaires you are helping us to learn more about how we can improve the training that is offered to health, social care, early years services and University staff working with children and families. An additional benefit of participating includes giving you the opportunity to let us know your views and providing a space for reflection.

**What are the possible benefits and disadvantages of taking part?**

Child abuse and neglect is a sensitive and challenging area of practice and it is possible that the training could bring difficult memories and experiences to mind. There are organisations that can provide support if you do feel distressed and these are listed at the end of this sheet and at the end of the questionnaires. Remember you do not have to complete the questionnaires and can decline to participate in the training at any time up until you return the questionnaires.

**Will my responses be kept confidential?**

All the feedback you provide in the questionnaires will be kept confidential, subject to legal limits. Your opinions will be completely confidential, and we will not collect any identifying information such as your name in this feedback. However, while we will make efforts to protect your anonymity, there is a small risk that you may be identified (for example, you may unwittingly identify yourself through free text answers you may give).

**Where will the information be kept and who will have access to it?**

This is a seven country European project and the pre and post training questionnaire are being administered by Synergia Srl, Italy, which is a research institute in charge of the outcome evaluation of the ERICA Project. Data will be downloaded and stored on a password protected drive accessible only to the research team and collaborators. Synergia Srl will aggregate and analyse the quantitative data from the questionnaires from the seven countries involved: England, Scotland, Finland, France, Germany, Italy and Poland. Data from open ended questions will be returned via a password protected drive to each relevant country to analyse in local language. Following the training programme, the information generated will be kept securely for a period of ten years in line with Oxford Brookes University policy.

**What will happen to the feedback from the training programme?**

At the end of the training programme a summarising report will be available on the ERICA project website – this will be freely available to everyone who has taken part in the training. The training programme feedback will be combined with evidence from the research literature and used to inform development of the training programme on risk assessment in child protection.

**Who has reviewed the training programme evaluation?**

This evaluation has been approved by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee, Oxford Brookes University. If you have any concerns about how the programme and evaluation has been conducted, you can contact the Chair of the Faculty Research Ethics Committee at Oxford Brookes University at [FREC@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:FREC@brookes.ac.uk). Please do not hesitate to contact myself Prof. Jane Appleton or Dr. Sarah Bekaert with any other questions or queries about this study. Our contact details can be found on the top of this letter.

**What should I do if I would like to undertake the training and evaluation?**

If you would like to undertake the training and evaluation, please follow the link to the pre-study questionnaire in the email.

You will be asked to record your consent on the questionnaire. If you follow the simple instructions, you will be directed through the short questionnaire. Answers will remain anonymous. Responses will be analysed by country and professional groupings but we will not be able to identify individuals who respond. You may stop your participation at any time by closing your browser and none of your responses to earlier

questions will be stored. However, once you submit your response you will not be able to withdraw your feedback.

Following the training and evaluation, you may wish to read further about child abuse and neglect. To access local information on policies, protocols and training opportunities please visit:

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board <https://www.oscb.org.uk/>

Or contact your organisation's Safeguarding Children lead. You might also like to download resources from the NSPCC.

We appreciate that child abuse and neglect is a sensitive and challenging area of practice. If you are concerned about a child or young person's safety or well-being, contact your supervisor/line manager, your organisation's Safeguarding Children Lead, the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 050 7666 or if the child is at risk of immediate harm, the Police. There are also a number of groups that offer help to adults who were abused as children e.g. NAPAC <https://napac.org.uk>

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Professor Jane Appleton and Dr. Sarah Bekaert.