

# Work Together to Stop Truancy Among Youth



## PROJECT DETAILS

Funding Programme:  
7th Framework Programme  
(FP7)

Sub-Programme:  
Health

Funding Scheme:  
Small or medium-scale  
focused research project

Project Reference:  
241542;  
UE-10-WE-STAY-241542

Project Duration:  
36 Months (from 2010-05-01  
to 2013-04-30)

Total Project Value:  
€ 3.670.569

EU Grant-Aid:  
€ 2.995.947

Funding to UniOvi:  
€ 258.080

Website:  
<http://www.we-stay.eu/index.php/en/>

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Truancy is a serious public health problem that affects adolescents from all countries around the world. In the United States, it has been reported that up to 35% of high school students skipped one or more days of school during a school year. However, little is known on the short- and long-term outcomes of underlying psychological and mental ill-health for those adolescents who truant. Research has indicated that truancy has severe and far reaching consequences, such as maladjustment, substance abuse, delinquency and crime.

Most studies, performed in the USA, proposed mechanistic and law-enforcement interventions to prevent truancy. However this approach does not take in consideration the psychological distress that is associated with this phenomenon and may even have negative consequences on adolescents well-being and mental health.

The main objectives of the WE-STAY (Working in Europe to Stop Truancy among Youth) project are to gather epidemiological information on truancy on European adolescents; to perform intervention school-based programmes for adolescents, aimed at reducing truancy rates and improve mental health of students; to evaluate outcomes of the interventions, in comparison with a control group, from a multidisciplinary perspective including social, psychological and economical aspects; to recommend effective, culturally adjusted models for preventing truancy and promoting mental health of adolescents in different European countries.

The WE-STAY project proposes to implement and evaluate outcomes of three different kinds of intervention against truancy: a) a universal intervention based on an awareness program for students, teachers and parents; b) a screening intervention aimed at identifying students at risk and refer them to mental health services; c) a combination of the above interventions. A mechanistic intervention to stop truancy will be used as control.

## UNIOVI TEAM

Julio Belarmino Bobes García <sup>1</sup>  
[bobes@uniovi.es](mailto:bobes@uniovi.es)  
Pilar Alejandra Saiz Martínez <sup>1</sup>  
[frank@uniovi.es](mailto:frank@uniovi.es)  
Manuel Víctor Bousoño García <sup>1</sup>  
[bousoño@uniovi.es](mailto:bousoño@uniovi.es)  
María Paz García-Portilla González <sup>1</sup>  
[albert@uniovi.es](mailto:albert@uniovi.es)  
Juan María Fernández Domínguez <sup>1</sup>  
[jmfernandez@uniovi.es](mailto:jmfernandez@uniovi.es)  
Luis Jiménez Treviño <sup>1</sup>  
[jjimenezluis@uniovi.es](mailto:jjimenezluis@uniovi.es)  
Pedro Alberto Marina González <sup>1</sup>  
[marinapedro@uniovi.es](mailto:marinapedro@uniovi.es)  
Julia Rodríguez Revuelta <sup>1</sup>  
[rodriguezjulia@uniovi.es](mailto:rodriguezjulia@uniovi.es)  
Susana Al-Halabi Díaz <sup>2</sup>  
María Teresa Bascarán Fernández <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Medicine  
<sup>2</sup> CIBERSAM

## PROJECT PARTNERS

Project Coordinator  
Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Slovenia  
Univerze na Primorskem  
Estonia  
Eesti-Rootsi Vaimse Tervise ja  
Suitsidoloogia Instituut  
Germany  
Universitaetsklinikum Heidelberg  
Romania  
University of Medicine and Pharmacy  
Hungary  
Vadaskert Alapitvány a Gyermekek Lelki  
Egészsegeert  
Spain  
Universidad de Oviedo  
France  
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de  
Nancy  
Israel  
Clalit Health Services  
Italy  
Università degli Studi del Molise