

LOST2

e-NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 1 | May 2023

Welcome to the first LOST2 project e-Newsletter!

In this issue, LOST2 partnership shares information about the main purposes and expected results of the project and about the most relevant activities and main milestones achieved so far, in the first six months of LOST2 implementation.

LOST2 partnership comprises nine partner organisations coming from Belgium, Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain, experienced in the missing persons and children phenomenon and in the implementation of Erasmus+ funded projects.

ARLAB Regional Agency for Employment and Learning in Basilicata – IT
(Coordinator)

p-consulting.gr – EL

SIULP Union of Italian Workers Unitary Police – IT

OMNIS – IT

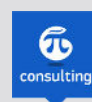
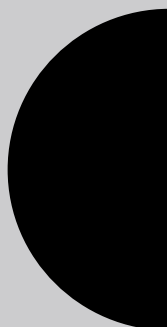
Asociación SOS desaparecidos Missing Person – ES

EfVET European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training – BE

The Smile of the Child – EL

EUROMASC AS – NO

APCD Associação Portuguesa de Crianças Desaparecidas – PT



ABOUT LOST2 PROJECT

LOST2 is based on a previous Erasmus+ funded project considered as Best Practice among the Programme's Strategic Partnerships, in 2017: LOST Learning Opportunities, inStruments and Investigation Techniques.

The main findings of this project provided the opportunity for LOST2 partners to resume the work previously carried out and to address the growing phenomenon of Missing People in Europe, as well as the need for:



- Improving the investigation processes by carrying out an in-depth analysis of the subject, providing more information, raising social awareness and offering training for risk groups and operators involved;
- Flexible training programmes focused on the development of specific competences connected to the research approach to cases of missing adults and missing children, for improving the response to disappearance cases (which are lacking in all Member States).

LOST2 partners will work collaboratively until May 2025 to contribute to the definition of an "European Vocational Core Profile" by developing a new modular Qualification, rooted on the Learning Outcome's approach, focused on a new professional – Expert in the Research of Missing People & Minors.

LOST2 will foster its formal recognition by National Qualification Agencies across the EU, while facilitating the recognition of skills acquired through non-formal and informal learning contexts, and validation and certification of learning, which will ultimately provide visibility and transparency of the Qualification at national and European levels.

LOST2 Expected Results



Analysis and recognition of the findings resulting from an European survey focused on the professional profile associated to the missing people research.



Assessment report of the training package experimentation, following the testing of some of the Units part of the Qualification by LOST2 partners and target groups in a blended modality.



LOST2 Platform, the focal point of a Community of Practice (CoP) where the project Partner Organisations and other national and European institutions and associations working with the Missing People phenomenon and working in Education and Training sector can share experiences and network.



Preparatory documentation / dossier for the recognition of LOST2 new Qualification in each EU country.



Joint training programme rooted on a modular approach, with defined skills, knowledge and competences (Learning Outcomes approach), aligned with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

LOST2 Target Groups

- Technical operators and Vocational Education and Training (VET) trainers part of LOST2 partner organisations;
- VET Providers interested in improving their training supply;
- Members of the Police forces and police officers;
- Firefighters and Civil Protection agents;
- Secret Service agents and private investigators;
- Lawyers from Missing People Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);
- National Qualification Agencies and other authorities with competences in verifying, validating and recognising Qualifications;
- Local and National authorities in charge of populating the recognised national/regional registration of the job profiles and professional qualifications, and ESCO European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations;
- Members/volunteers of Missing People Associations supporting families and helping both the law enforcement services and public institutions (judicial bodies).

Other individuals, groups or organizations who are not part of the target groups of LOST2, but may indirectly benefit from the project's results, they are:

- Law enforcement services and public institutions (judicial bodies);
 - Families and local communities;
 - Hotline operators;
 - Migration authorities and Associations working with the immigration phenomenon;
 - Child protection NGOs and guardianship institutions;
- EU institutions' representatives such as Members of the European Parliament, representatives from the European Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, members of Research Services and of the EU Commission in charge of Justice and Children's and People's rights.

LOST2 ACTIVITIES & RESULTS

KICK-OFF MEETING: A GREAT START OF LOST2, IN MATERA (IT)

by EfVET

LOST2 project Kick-off Meeting (KoM) gathered all its partners in Matera, Italy, between January 17th and 18th, 2023.

Hosted by the project coordinator, ARLAB, this meeting aimed to officially present the consortium of LOST2 and to make an overview of the project implementation (December 2022 – May 2025).



During both days of the meeting, all partners had the opportunity to discuss their own expectations about the project, present the current situation of the Missing People and Children phenomenon in their own countries, and go through each Work Package (WP) in terms of main purposes, activities and expected results to be achieved.

But the KoM was not all work! Partners enjoyed a visit to Matera city, organised by ARLAB, and had the opportunity to taste Materani exquisite food – a chance to strengthen relations between all partners for a successful project!

TALK, AWARENESS IN SCHOOLS ABOUT MISSING PERSONS

By SOS desaparecidos

During the implementation of LOST2, SOS desaparecidos will engage in a series of activities involving professionals working on the missing people and children phenomenon and general public, in order to raise their awareness to the project.

SOS desaparecidos was invited to the Juan XXIII School, in Santander (ES), to talk about the predicament of missing people and the difficulties their families go through, and the resources that are mobilized to search for a missing person.

Nerea Cachorro, SOS desaparecidos coordinator, also spoke about the importance of the LOST2 project, funded by Erasmus+, to train professionals with the knowledge required to help the families, law enforcement and associations/NGOs.



The association was backed up by the work done by the Real Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios de Santander (Royal Brigade of Volunteer Firefighters of Santander), represented by Valeria Ortiz, and her dog Enzo. Valeria explained how she mobilizes and how a search and rescue operation takes place with search dogs.



Iván González and Diego González from Protección Civil (Civil Defense) at Corvera de Toranzo (ES), explained what ground and air bound means are involved when a disappearance alert is activated, and how to psychologically help the family of a missing person.

75 people attended this session, including teachers. SOS desaparecidos would like to thank Rocio, head of studies and the Juan XXIII School for the chance of raising visibility of young people about the reality of disappearances. To their highest satisfaction, representatives from SOS desaparecidos were given handmade wood souvenirs by students, produced in an environmentally friendly fashion, a value that is shared with SOS desaparecidos which aims to be a vehicle for respecting the environment and promoting a reduction of the carbon footprint in its talks and travels made in the scope of LOST2 project.

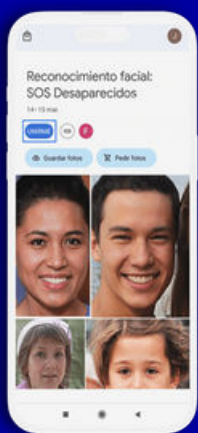
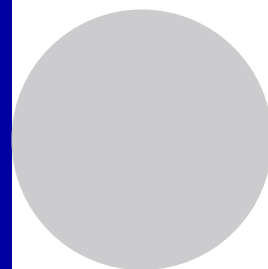
MISSING PERSON IDENTIFICATION FACIAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

By SOS Desaparecidos

The SOS desaparecidos has launched a volunteering initiative that promotes the search for missing persons through facial recognition – [The missing persons album](#).

This is a pioneering initiative in Spain which, in addition to promoting the value of solidarity, is characterized by respecting the privacy and individual liberties of citizens.

The procedure to contribute for this initiative is simple: citizens who wish to volunteer just need to upload images of missing persons on The missing persons album that has been created by the Association, and send those images to info@sosdesaparecidos.es. When the facial recognition system (available for Android smartphones) has identified a missing person, the application will define the person being searched for as a new contact. Subsequently, once the snapshot has been received by SOS Desaparecidos, its members will immediately and privately report it to the State Security Forces and Corps.



According to the SOS Desaparecidos, the creation of this new search procedure is due to the fact that Google Photos has 2 000 million users worldwide and respects their privacy, since no other Internet user can access the gallery of images of these people. This is why it will be the volunteers themselves who will send to SOS desaparecidos those photographs, so that the facial recognition system identifies missing persons. Another advantage highlighted by the Association is that the album hardly consumes any memory in volunteers' devices as it is stored in the cloud.

"We understand that the right to life is the origin of all other rights" said the President of the SOS Desaparecidos, Joaquín Amills, who also highlighted the importance of continuing to improve search processes: "Science advances, and with it also the way to search for those who have disappeared. It is clear that our memory is limited, but technology can process and identify thousands of faces. I am convinced that if we use these advances responsibly, we will be able to resolve cases sooner and with better results for the families and the disappeared persons themselves."

The President of SOS desaparecidos also pointed out that the Association will share the link to the album with those responsible for other international entities that SOS desaparecidos collaborates with in search programs, both in Europe and in other parts of the world. "With this we intend to increase the possibilities that a person who is missing outside our borders can be located, in addition to continuing to promote the value of solidarity".

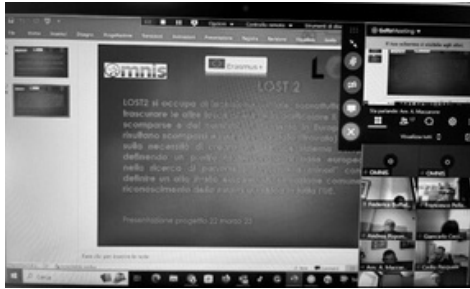
In this sense, the Association also invites organizations from all over the world that have among their main purposes the location of missing persons to join this initiative: "In less than ten minutes an entity from Germany, Brazil or India could create an album like ours so that their volunteers can help them solve disappearances. Of course, from SOS desaparecidos we are willing to guide them in whatever is necessary", said Joaquín Amills.



The problem of disappearances at a national and European level demands the planning and development of this type of initiative. In 2021, in Spain, there were 22 285 reports of disappearances, with 5 411 still active as of December 31st of that same year. Likewise, every year 300 000 European citizens disappear in Europe, 100 000 of them are children and adolescents.

WHY LOST2: PROJECT OBJECTIVES

By OMNIS



OMNIS presented the LOST2 during a Workplace Safety Course, implemented by this project partner on March 22nd, 2023.

During the course, attended by 30 civil servants with ages ranging between 30 and 60 years old, OMNIS presented the objectives, consortium and stages of implementation of the training course to be developed in the scope of LOST2, a work based on the results achieved with the previous LOST project (also funded by Erasmus+ programme, implemented between 2017 and 2019).

The Course was carried out using gotomeeting platform, so this presentation was conducted online.

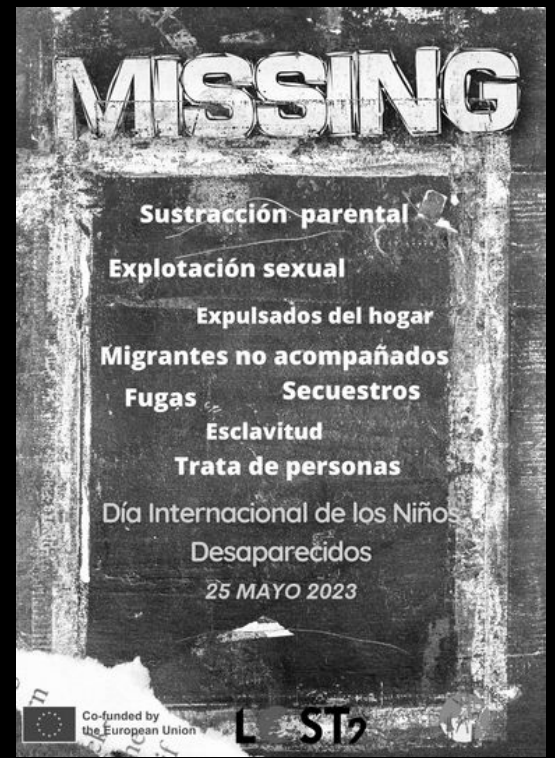
MAY 25TH: INTERNATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

By SOS desaparecidos

May 25th is the day to remember all the children that are missing. 7 million children disappear every year around the planet, 250 000 only in Europe.

In Spain, in the absence of official data, there is more than 8 000 missing unaccompanied migrant minors and more than 300 parental abductions.

To raise awareness for this important day and for what it stands for, SOS desaparecidos prepared a banner to be shared at national level with professionals from organisations working in the missing people and children phenomenon, and with the Spanish citizens, also making reference to LOST2 project.



... and be part of LOST2 Community!



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