

EUCPN Flash December 2013 – And the winner is...

On 11 December 2013 this year's European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) was awarded in Vilnius, Lithuania during the Best Practice Conference (BPC). It was again a great success since 18 countries participated with their best national crime prevention projects, focusing on the theme 'Prevention in domestic violence'. The winner received a check of 10 000 euro, while two other projects were also awarded with an honourable mention and a check of 5 000 euro each.

SE – Relationship violence centre (RVC) – Winner ECPA 2013

Project description

A large proportion of those who report domestic violence to the police either do not want to, or are afraid or don't have the strength to participate in the police investigation, which makes the work of the police and the prosecutor more difficult. This leads to a large proportion of such police investigations being discontinued without prosecutions due to a lack of evidence.

The Relationship Violence Centre (RVC) was initiated in order to 1) provide support to the victims of domestic violence at the critical time subsequent to the registering of the police report so that they have the will and the strength required to participate in the police investigation 2) to facilitate the collaboration between the police, prosecutors and the social services in cases of domestic violence and 3) to ensure that more reported cases of domestic violence also result in prosecutions. The RVC is comprised of two trained social workers who, within 48 hours of a police report on domestic violence, contact the victim and provide support in the form of five counselling sessions. The RVC shares the premises of the police and works in close collaboration with the police, prosecutors and the social services. In the critical phase following the incident being reported, the RVC serves as a link between the agencies involved and provides contacts to protective accommodation, the subsequent police investigation, possible healthcare needs etc. The support provided by the RVC is intended to motivate the victim to participate in the police investigation and ensure that the victim receives the information she/he needs about the legal process.

Feedback jury

Led by the Social Services Administration of Stockholm City. The project was praised by the jury for its scientific approach, its direct focus on the victim and its integrated approach. The project has clear and specific goals and a modest investment, which makes it more capable of replication in other cities and regions. An external evaluation found that there was a real increase in the prosecution rate where the RVC was involved, which shows its effectiveness.

More information?

To read the project, [click here](#).

HR – Living life without violence – Best early prevention

Project description

The project focuses on the prevention of all forms of violence (but predominantly domestic violence) and is targeted at children and young people between the ages of 13 and 14. This project, which is aimed at creating a culture of nonviolence and tolerance, is comprised of three components: 1. Interactive workshops; 2. Conceptual art programmes; and 3. Interactive youth debates. These

components should support young people to acquire knowledge on the causes and consequences of violence as well as on the necessary steps which need to be taken when violence occurs. Youngsters are encouraged to choose the proper reactions on negative incidents and to create their connection with individuals, friends and the whole environment, through a personal nonviolent engagement. It is at the stage of youth development, when their identity is becoming fully formed, that a positive attitude in society and a constructive approach to solving violence issues are instilled. The police is involved in every aspect of the project implementation, in collaboration with an international organisation, civil society organisations, artists and the local community.

Feedback jury

This project is led by the Ministry of Interior and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Croatia, and in cooperation with some local NGOs and government. Its focus on early prevention of young people was very much appreciated by the jury. The project tries to tackle the traditional view on women and, therefore, tries to break the generational cycle, which is very valuable. Some more information on actual impact would be useful to get a more solid evidence base.

More information?

To read the project, click [here](#).

BE - CO3 – Best cooperation

Project description

Violence in the family is a social issue which staff members of different organisations are often confronted with. A case study carried out among different services of the City of Antwerp showed that on average, six organisations are in contact with the family concerned. To be as efficient as possible, a better harmonisation between the services was necessary..

Hence, in the City of Antwerp a permanent inter-agency collaboration has been set up between (1) the police and judicial authorities; (2) the aid and social care services; and (3) the local administrations. These partners are brought together as part of one client-oriented organisation: CO3. By collaborating on the basis of a chain model, the different working methods are being tuned in to one another in a common action plan in which the family (the client) is at the centre. Each family is assigned to a 'case manager' who follows up the cooperation between the different organisations. Not only the violence which occurred is discussed, but also the underlying problems inside the family. In order to prevent repetition, emphasis is laid on the protective factors. The strengths of the family (e.g., social network, day spending, relationship with the children) are the starting point of the action plan.

Feedback jury

This project is led by the Province and the City of Antwerp. Despite it currently being only a pilot and seemingly quite costly, the jury praised it as a good example of how harmonisation between services working on domestic violence can be achieved. It is methodologically solid, has done an impressive problem analysis, and focuses not only on victims and perpetrators, but on the entire family. It is a promising project and it would be interesting to look at it again in a year or two.

More information?

To read the project, click [here](#).

The other 15 ECPA projects

To read the project descriptions of the other 15 submitted ECPA projects, [click here](#).

To read the projects in detail, [click here](#).