



PORTUGAL 2007



European Crime Prevention Award
and
EUCPN Best Practices Annual Conference 2007

Project Entry Form

The theme for this year's European Crime Prevention Award and EUCPN's Best Practices Annual Conference is **Prevention of Domestic Violence**.

The following are some areas that the projects may focus on:

- Role of the community and partnerships in the prevention of domestic violence;
- Role of the police in addressing domestic violence;
- Alcohol, drugs and domestic violence;
- Juvenile delinquency and domestic violence;
- Cultural/educational issues and domestic violence;
- Prevention of domestic violence against women, children and elderly people;
- Victim support, psychological rehabilitation and prevention of revictimization in domestic violence (both direct and indirect victims);
- Use of technologies in the prevention/deterrence of recidivist offenders in domestic violence;
- Prisons, community sanctions and rehabilitation of domestic violence offenders; and
- Alternatives to shelter programmes for victims of domestic violence.

The list is not exhaustive. The projects may address any question relevant to prevention of domestic violence.

Please complete the attached form (the boxes are expandable). Note that the last page is for a one-page description of your project.

Entries should be in English, but may be accompanied by a version of the entry in the national language if wished. Each country may enter one project as its ECPA entry and up to two other projects to be presented at the conference. Projects should be submitted only through the National Representatives. The full ECPA rules may be found at www.eucpn.org

The deadline to send in your entries is **10 November 2007**.

Send your entry or entries to: eucpn.pt@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please contact us at the above email address or paulo.vgomes@gmail.com



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ECPA/BPC 2007

Please answer the following questions in English.

1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project? (Only one ECPA entry per country plus up to two other projects.)

This is my country's ECPA entry.

2. What is the title of the project?

BIG - Berliner Interventionszentrale bei häuslicher Gewalt (Domestic Violence Intervention Centre Berlin)

3. Please give a short general description of the project.

Since 1995 BIG has brought together all different professions concerned with domestic violence as well as political decision-makers. As a result of the co-operation of more than 150 experts BIG has developed new and effective measures and strategies against domestic violence. This had a great impact on German federal policies: The First and the Second Action Plan to Combat Violence against Women – formulated by the German Federal Government – integrating 133 Federal Government measures to counteract all forms of violence against women including domestic violence, is based on the knowledge and experience gained by BIG.

The BIG project aims at building up an efficient network against domestic violence. It aims at close cooperation with all those institutions that are dealing with domestic violence, such as the police, civil court, criminal court, youth welfare services, social welfare offices, campaigns and initiatives against violence and the relevant political decision-makers. The basic idea is that efficient and sustainable protection of women and children requires a different way of handling male violence taking into account the role of the male perpetrators on an individual, institutional and social level. In this context, the main objectives were and are:

- to optimize interventions when acts of domestic violence occur
- to foster well-coordinated cooperation between all levels and institutions involved
- to provide information on domestic violence and referrals to the general public and the media

Interventions in the case of acts of domestic violence are on the one hand effected by contacting the victims and providing efficient assistance, and by improving protection by civil law and, on the other by strengthening the appropriate criminal prosecution and sanctioning of the perpetrators.

One of the several activities of BIG is the innovative 'BIG Prevention Project' which (as a model project) provides training for different groups of professionals and extensive prevention at elementary schools.

The BIG Hotline offers federal state-wide counselling, information and support, by telephone, to victims of domestic violence and to professionals; if advice by telephone is not sufficient, a co-operator will then offer mobile intervention to help women and their children affected by domestic violence on the spot.

Based on the model of BIG, a large number of similar intervention and cooperation projects have been set up throughout Germany.

4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project?

BIG has set itself the following objectives:

- Establishing cooperation and networking between all institutions and organisations whose work involves dealing with domestic violence;
- Improvement of the legal framework conditions;
- Providing more effective assistance plans for the women and children concerned;
- Appropriate criminal prosecution and sanctioning of the perpetrators;
- Providing in-depth information/knowledge about the extent and consequences of domestic violence;
- Raising awareness by providing information for the public;
- Raising awareness among the victims and among the institutions involved;
- Creating and implementing prevention.

5. How was the project implemented?

BIG started its work as a model project (Berlin Intervention Project against Domestic Violence) financed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and by the Berlin Department of Economics, Labour and Women's Affairs. After six years in different phases as a model project, political decision-makers in Berlin decided - because of the outcome and effects of the project - to implement it and establish it as a permanent facility, now called the 'Domestic Violence Intervention Centre Berlin' and financed by the Berlin Department of Economics, Labour and Women's Affairs.

6. Were partners involved in planning and/or development and/or implementation of the project? If so, who were they, and what were their roles?

The Domestic Violence Intervention Centre has worked for more than 10 years especially with:

- Police, judicial authorities and experts for migration, social matters and health, representatives from women's organisations, youth welfare services.
- Involving approx. 150 experts and representatives, most of whom did not know each other beforehand; one project has led to a completely new quality in communication.
- The participants - at the beginning working in inter-institutional and interdisciplinary groups in seven fields - analyzed and discussed the actual status of intervention and legislation.
- The issue of domestic violence – of course – brought in from their individual perspectives, with the support of the BIG coordinators, presented challenges to network and to develop co-operation structures.
- Through this interdisciplinary approach one group of experts discovered both the opportunities and limits of the other professions.
- This way know-how was exchanged across different sectors and departments, which would be much more difficult to convey in theory only.
- Establishing and making use of these cooperation structures has led to effective working results.
- All results (once every year) were brought to a “Political Round Table” with participation of the decision-makers of different Berlin departments, deciding both on the designed bundle of measures and strategies and on the continuation and implementation of the **BIG** Project.

7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project?

Regular reporting to the supervising agency (Berlin department for women).

8. Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

Commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the “Wissenschaftliche Begleitung der Interventionsprojekte gegen häusliche Gewalt” (WiBIG – Scientific Observation of the Intervention Projects against Domestic Violence) - Prof. Dr. Carol Hagemann-White, from the University of Osnabrück, and her deputy Prof. Dr. Barbara Kavemann, from Berlin, evaluated the work of selected intervention projects between 1998 and 2004.

The focus of the first phase of the evaluation was the observation of BIG (e.g. how to build up inter-institutional and interdisciplinary co-operation, how to implement training for different groups of professionals, effects of changing police intervention...).

For more information on the scientific observation please refer to the following

website (English short version of the results is available here):

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Abteilung4/Pdf-Anlagen/kurzfassung-wibig-englisch,property=pdf,bereich=,sprache=de,rwb=true.pdf>

9. What were the results? How far were the objectives of the project achieved?

(selection of) **Achievements:**

- Re **cooperation with the police:** e.g. development of a **guideline** for police intervention in cases of domestic violence. Proposals for changing police law made possible, for the police to send a violent person out of the home of the victim and to prohibit that person from returning for a certain time. 'Coordinators for domestic violence' were established in every police district.
- Re **civil law:** e.g. drafting a statute on protection against domestic violence. (This law came into force on 1st January 2002)
- Re **criminal legislation:** e.g. starting **data collections and evaluations** regarding domestic violence at public prosecution departments and other legal bodies. A special section was established for cases of domestic violence.
- Re the **role of perpetrators** in acts of domestic violence: e.g. running information events for prosecutors and other civil servants involved in dealing with domestic violence, preparation of information folders for judges, setting up anti-violence-training programmes for perpetrators
- **Support for women suffering domestic violence:** e. g. setting up and running of the BIG helpline (as a first central and federal state-wide support). Concepts for support groups for women whose partners are taking part in an anti-violence-training programme.
- Drawing up of a guideline offering help in case of conflicts between authorities dealing with a case of domestic violence. Offering mediation between professionals.
- Development of extended **vocational training programmes** for professionals concerning domestic violence.
- Preparation of a **brochure** for doctors on domestic violence.
- **Support for children and teenagers facing domestic violence:** e.g. making a video called "Do you know that as well?". Preparation of leaflets, adhesion labels, and posters for children facing domestic violence. in cooperation with the emergency service for children "Kindernotdienst". Data collection at youth welfare offices, setting up vocational training programmes and conferences for youth welfare office workers and teachers, workshops with children in elementary schools.
- **Support for migrants facing domestic violence:** e.g. preparation of a brochure entitled "Your right in case of domestic violence", translated into 11 different languages. Preparation of a guide to the assistance and support services for migrants facing domestic violence. Setting up

of an instruction on a special immigration legislation (exceptional hardship due to domestic violence).

Formation of concepts for information events for the foreigners registration office. Audio transmissions at "Radio Multikulti".

Since 1996 numerous intervention and co-operation projects, as well as "Round Tables" working on the BIG model, have been set up throughout the country.

Most of the measures, guidelines for professionals, materials and brochures created by BIG were the first publications of this kind, and they were seen as a model and taken over in other federal states of Germany.

BIG will soon present

- a first interactive exhibition on domestic violence for children from 9 to 12 years old
- a website for juveniles about domestic violence and how to find help

10. Are there reports or documents available on the project? In print or on the Web? Please, give references to the most relevant ones.

Production and distribution of public relations material such as information brochures and guides, organisation of expert seminars and training sessions, preparation of, and participation in, legislative procedures for an Act on protection against domestic violence.

Documentations about BIG (only in German) see e.g. the documentation '10 Jahre BIG' (10 years of BIG) –

<http://www.big-interventionszentrale.de/veroeffentlichungen/broschueren/verschiedenes.htm>

- "Collection of materials"
- "Models of cooperation":
- "Training for the police and judicial authorities"

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/Politikbereiche/gleichstellung.did=73070.render=renderPrint.html>

"working together to combat domestic violence" (English short version)

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Abteilung4/Pdf-Anlagen/kurzfassung-wibig-englisch.property=pdf.bereich=,sprache=de.rwb=true.pdf>

Please, write here a one page description of the project:

BIG started work as a model project set up by the Federal Government. The German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the Berlin Department for Women finance the new scheme to integrate all social powers in combating domestic violence.

The BIG team advertised for collaboration in all fields which are concerned with domestic violence.

In interdisciplinary work meetings representatives of the police, the civil and criminal justice systems, youth welfare, the aliens office as well as representatives of the women's projects and children's protection organizations discussed the previous situation. They analyzed intervention under police, civil and criminal law and the legal and de facto obstacles that occur, the situation of women who are affected by violence as well as the affected children, the situation of female migrants, and also reactions in respect of perpetrators. Measures and approaches for problem-solving have been developed in these seven fields.

Model phase

During the next years BIG has designed, together with approx. 150 active participants, proposals for an amendment to the law, innovative conceptions for action to be taken and new projects as well as numerous documents which have been made available also in other federal states and have been used there as a model. The recently published Second Action Plan to Combat Violence against Women, drawn up by the German Federal Government, is to a large extent based on the knowledge gained by BIG.

Execution phase

Practical execution of the measures and strategies designed by BIG is constantly scrutinised and improved. The Intervention Centre has been established as a permanent facility. The work is forwarded by the Berlin Department of Economics, Labour and Women.

Today BIG is the central organization in Berlin to co-ordinate measures and strategies for facing domestic violence decisively.

Its tasks are:

- To make experts on domestic violence conduct a dialogue, to improve their co-operation. The experts themselves are women and men on the staff of women's projects as well as from the domains of policing, justice administration, migration, youth welfare, social affairs and health.
- To plan and to decide on specific action against domestic violence, together with all the parties involved
- To offer support for the victims of domestic violence, e.g. via the BIG Hotline, and to see whether the assistance and support for victims is functioning as well as possible.
- To record gaps and deficiencies in practice and to see to it that they are eliminated.
- To accept complaints, to bring about improvements in the assistance given to women who are affected by domestic violence and their children - also in specific individual cases.
- To offer mediation between the parties involved if complaints or conflicts take place.

BIG improves

protection, aid and information for the victims of domestic violence, by
initiating political decisions and new laws,
building innovative concepts and establishing new projects.

developing and publishing information leaflets and information literature. **BIG supports**

the work of the professional groups concerned with domestic violence, by
developing work aids e.g. guidelines for the action they are to take.

offering advanced education in all fields of domestic violence. **BIG offers** ample services
concerning

inquiries about the aid system,
specific topics and special literature,
the search for experts,
advanced education,

events. **BIG assures the quality** of the work

through contact with colleagues from the fields of science and research and

through our active co-operation in national and international networks and committees