



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



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 the Netherlands ECPA entry.

2. What is the title of the project?

Stay in Love

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

The project aims to prevent violence in relationships. It teaches young people how to build up a healthy relationship. Attention is focused on risk factors, solving problems and indicators for future violent behaviour.

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

Prevention of violence in relationships between young people. The project teaches young people how to build up a healthy relationship. It aims to influence attitude and behaviour regarding relationships and to prevent problems in relationships leading into violence.

5. How was the project implemented?

Various materials were developed:

- series of lessons including a guide for teachers (its aim is to increase knowledge about relationships and how to prevent and deal with violence);
- training for teachers (its aim is to train teachers to deal with the lessons and to increase their knowledge about the subject);
- leaflet (the leaflet was distributed in places that are frequented by the target group and its goals are to raise consciousness and provide information);
- poster (it serves as an incentive to visit the website);
- website (provides information; secondary prevention);

- relation test (raises consciousness, provides information);
- theater production, including script and rap song on DVD (these aim to make the issue discussable and to raise consciousness);
- cards with tips for a good relationship (raise consciousness and refer to the website);
- commercial ad at McDonald's (raises consciousness and refers to the website).

The materials were spread in various sectors, depending on their task: schools, youth work, sporting clubs, youth assistance, religious institutions and the media. Schools were the main partner.

The lessons formed the central part of the programme. They were given at the selected schools. The theater production and the rap song were part of the teaching material. The other materials served merely as support for the lessons. They also provided some information, contributed to consciousness and stimulated reflection and discussion. A lot of partners from different segments of society were involved to reinforce or support the lessons.

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?

Various partners were involved. First of all the organization of the project consisted of two national organizations: Trimbos Institute (Institute for mental health and addiction), TransAct (expertise centre for domestic and sexual violence) and two regional organizations: Riagg Zwolle (regional institute for mental welfare) and Parnassia The Hague (institute for psycho-medical care). These four have developed the programme and its tools.

Subsequently a range of partners was involved to form a network such as work, youth assistance, schools, pubs that are popular with students and pupils, sporting clubs, community centres, clergymen and imams. The network had the following aims:

- form a thinktank for the project;
- supply advice regarding the tools;
- create support for and implement the tools;
- guarantee the long term attention for the subject;
- promote cooperation within their respective regions;
- form a back office for victims and perpetrators.

The members of the network were also involved in implementing and distributing the tools. Other institutions participated in the implementation and the distribution as well: e.g. festivals, libraries, the media, centres for social and cultural work.

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

Young people that participated in the lessons have been asked to fill out an enquiry before taking the lessons.

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

After taking the lessons the pupils filled out a similar enquiry. In that way a change in attitude and behavioural intention regarding relationships could be measured. The website also contained an enquiry that has been used for the evaluation. The teachers have evaluated the programme as well. The other cooperation partners and the institutions that received the materials have been asked how the materials were valued and what had been done with them. The project group evaluated the project as a whole.

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

The project has had a positive impact on the following risk factors: Jealousy, control, sexually exceeding behaviour, behaviour concerning requiring help, humiliation in public, trying to change the partner, alcohol use and acceptability of verbal violence. This means that the young people involved have changed their attitude: they recognize certain risk factors, they permit these risk factors less than before and they know how to gear their behaviour to these risk factors. The majority also indicated to reflect more on their own relationships. 41% intends to discuss relational problems more often with their partner or their friends. The respondents' consciousness has been raised and they are more open towards relevant information. The form and content of the project appeal to young people.

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

An evaluation of the project is available on the website http://www.huiselijkgeweld.nl/publicaties/stay_in_love_primaire_preventie_van_relatiegeweld_onder_jongeren_procesevaluatie.html The text is in the Dutch language only.

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

Research makes clear that people in the age of 16 to 25 years run the greatest risk of becoming victim of domestic violence. Therefore prevention of this type of crime is important, in particular among young people.

The project in hand is aimed at the way a positive relationship is built and maintained. There are few if none of such projects in the Netherlands.

Therefore a programme for the prevention of relational violence was needed.

The goals of the project are

- ❖ to enlarge knowledge and to raise consciousness of young people about positive relationships;
- ❖ to influence young people's attitude and behaviour regarding relationships and
- ❖ to prevent problems in relationships leading to violence.

The programme wants to reach these goals with the following:

- stimulating young people to reflect about what they want and do not want in a relationship;
- learning them skills to communicate desires and expectations and indicate their limits;
- informing them about how to get/keep a relationship nice and positive;
- raising consciousness about behaviour and attitude towards a relationship;
- learning them to recognize signals that things might go wrong and
- informing them about where to get help.

The project was tested in two regions and since the results are very positive, it will be applied on a national level. The programme is universal in the sense that its subject is the prevention of relational violence for all kinds of young people. It focuses on the age group of 16 to 20 though. However, the design of the tools connects with relevant factors in the target groups such as gender, cultural background and youth culture.

The projects consists of a range of tools that were developed especially for this programme. It includes among other things a series of lessons, a website and a theater production. One of the distinctive issues is the knowledge of and insight in risk factors that can lead to relational violence.

A series of lessons in school were the key element of the programme.

Teachers were especially trained for it. There is a variety of tools that support the lessons. There are a theater play and a rap song that appeal very well to the young people involved. These tools are used as input for the lessons.

Other materials such as the relation test, the cards and the leaflets can be used in the lessons but also independently.

Cooperation plays an important role. Therefore a network was set up in which a large group of relevant partners are involved. For its goals see under *6*.

It can be concluded that *Stay in Love* has had a positive effect on young people's behaviour and attitude. They are more conscious about their relationships and they tolerate less risk factor related behaviour. Instead they take up a position in which they can defend themselves more often.

