

# European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

## Annex I – new version 2013

Please complete the template in English in compliance with the ECPA criteria contained in the RoP (Par.2 §3).

### General information

- Please specify your country.

Germany

- Is this your country's ECPA entry or an additional project? (**Only one ECPA entry per country plus a maximum of two additional projects may be submitted**)

ECPA Entry.

- What is the title of the project?

Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt (Counseling for men – against violence)

- Who is leading the project? Contact details.

Andrea Schulze & Gerhard Hafner (both are leading equally)

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- What was the start date of the project? Is the project still running?

The project started on 01.01.1999 and is still running.

- Please give a short general description of the project. (**Abstract max. 150 words**)

The counseling project for men considers domestic violence against women as part of the discrimination of women in society and therefore is committed to stop the violence on the level of the society as well as on the level of personal changes. The project offers counseling for men who perpetrate violence against their (former) partner. The group and single setting is due to stop the violent behavior, coaches for alternatives to traditional masculinities and develop respectful conflict strategies in the family. The social training is performed by two psychologists (one female and one male with equal rights and duties) and takes at least half

a year. Men are mandated by institutions or their partners or coming on their own. Fundamental for the work is the Berlin cooperation structure. Migrants not speaking sufficiently German can be counseled in English or by the support of interpreters.

- **The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme.**
  - How does the project contribute to the prevention and/or the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? **(Max. 150 words)**

Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt contributes in different areas to end domestic violence against women:

- 1) Since its start the project is involved in public relations and campaigns on a regional level (Berlin) as well on a national and European level.
- 2) The project is part of the Berlin cooperation structure and cooperates with all institutions who are dealing with perpetrators of domestic violence.
- 3) From the start the project was committed to develop and establish standards for programs for male perpetrators in Germany.
- 4) The close cooperation with the services for women reduces violence against women and serves to evaluate the effects of the program. The common case management contains common risk management, common decisions about participation in the program, common couple contacts and inputs of the women's counselor in the courses for men.

- How is the project related to the ECPA-theme selected by the organising Member State? **(Max. 150 words)**

1. The project carries out behavior modification programs for violent men. Berlin institutions impose conditions for perpetrators as prescription of punishment, but also as chance for resocialisation.
2. The project is an integrated part of the intervention chain. It cooperates with courts, public prosecutors, police, youth welfare departments etc.
3. The project developed a close cooperation with a women's counseling service. There is common risk assessment by the women's counselors doing the similar assessment with the victim. The admission of the perpetrator to the program must be recommended by both services. In addition a women's counselor teaches a session to the perpetrators about the damages done to women. If there is no danger and the women is motivated there can be one couple counseling session by the women's service and the project together as part of the assessment. The close case management is an essential part of the evaluation.

- How is the project contributing to raising citizens' awareness of crime prevention? **(Max. 150 words)**

1. In 1999/2000 the project cooperated with European projects to activate "Men Working to End Men's Violence Against Women". Materials were produced and distributed to develop

awareness in boys/young men for the dangers of domestic violence and the relation between traditional masculinities and the discrimination of women. This White Ribbon Campaign Europe (DAPHNE–Project) strengthened the network among men who are involved to stop violence against women.

2. In 2000/2001 the project was committed in the Berlin campaign „Gemeinsam gegen MännerGewalt“ (Together against Male Violence).

3. Continuously since 1999 our posters “Stop the violence against women! Men are not solving the problems in such a way” are put up in police stations and counseling services to speak to men.

4. Around the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in November the project works together with women’s organisations, equality offices and the police to organise actions and events.

- **The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.**

- What was the reason for setting up the project? What problem(s) did it aim to tackle? How, when and by whom were these problems defined? **(Max. 150 words)**

According to statistics of the police ca. 16.000 cases of domestic violence are registered every year in Berlin; most of them are men. In 1995 BIG Koordinierung (BIG Coordination) was founded to coordinate all measures against domestic violence. To make the chain of intervention against domestic violence complete Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt was founded to hold perpetrators accountable. Counseling the offender increases the security of the victim and the children in the family.

In the beginning BIG Coordination recognized that there were nearly no sentences by courts or public prosecutors to send the offenders in a perpetrator program. It took some efforts of the BIG Coordination and the Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt that the institutions were convinced about the efficiency that perpetrators should learn non-violent behaviors in special courses as a measure of prevention.

- What were the objective(s) of the project? Please, if applicable, distinguish between main and secondary objectives. **(Max. 150 words)**

1. Main objective of the project is to end domestic violence against women. The consequences for the children in the family have to be central.

2. Secondary objectives:

2.1 The perpetrators are called to account for their acts by the society and all institutions. Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt should be fully integrated in the reactions of the state and the society.

2.2 The project has the task that the perpetrators learn social-cognitive competencies which develop non-violent behavior.

2.3. Since domestic violence against women is an essential part of the discrimination of

women in society, the project has the task to tackle this big social problem in all parts of its psychosocial work with the clients and in the area of public relations especially aimed to men.

- How was the project implemented? How were these objectives translated into actions? What was the action plan of the project? (**Max. 300 words**)

The preparatory work to establish a program for perpetrators was made in the expert opinion for the Berlin department for Youth and Family „*Possibilities of Change of Violent Men in a Counseling Service for Men*“ by the founder of the project Gerhard Hafner already in 1991. He established social training courses in a men’s counseling project, but in that time there were only perpetrators who came by themselves because the courts and legal institutions didn’t mandate perpetrators yet in special courses.

In 1995 BIG Coordination was founded in Berlin to establish a network to tackle domestic violence and combine all energies. In 1999 Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt was established in the Berlin district Marzahn with the support of the equality representative of that district. The service was connected with the institutions of that district (youth welfare department, police, health service, service for women etc.) and subsequently with the Berlin coordination system as a part to tackle violence against women.

In 2002 the project expanded and moved to the center of Berlin. Now perpetrators of whole Berlin were sent to the Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt. Since then the courts judged orders that offenders have to take part in the courses; family courts sent perpetrators to the program, too.

In that time the project was evaluated by the University of Osnabrück as part of an evaluation of the whole coordination system against domestic violence in Germany.

Since 2005 the project worked together with other German projects to found the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit Häusliche Gewalt (Federal Working Group for Working with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence) which established standards for the programs with perpetrators in Germany (with the support of the Federal Ministry for Women).

Since 2012 close case management with women’s counseling service was implemented.

- Was the context analysed **before** the project was implemented? How, and by whom? Which data were used? (**Max. 150 words**)

In 1989 an expert opinion for the Federal Ministry for Women was written by Ute Rösemann *Untersuchung zur Übertragbarkeit des amerikanischen Modells DAIP: Intervention gegen Gewalt in der Familie*. This expert opinion analysed the possibility to transfer the Duluth Model to German conditions. In 1993 a conference about the prevention of domestic violence and work with perpetrators was organised by the Berlin Department for Women

Main topic was the improvement of accountability of violent men and how to implement programs for perpetrators. Subsequently German institutions changed their attitudes to combat violence consequently. Laws to protect victims and decrees for the police to send away perpetrators were released. In this context the social work with perpetrators was integrated. The police began to send violent men to the Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt, so did the courts, the public prosecutors, the youth services, the women's services etc.

- Has the project been evaluated? Internally and/or externally? Process and/or impact evaluation? How, when and by whom? Which data and techniques were used? (**Max. 300 words**)

1. The project has been evaluated externally by the University Osnabrück 2000–2004. It was an impact evaluation, financed by the Federal Government and part of the evaluation of the intervention system against domestic violence in Germany.

2. Since 2008 the welfare organisation *Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband Berlin* evaluates in commission of the Berlin justice department in an intensive procedure every half a year the statistics and the effects to manage conflicts, accountability, escalation of conflicts, attitudes to power between the sexes etc.

3. The project cooperates with universities to evaluate the work and to contribute to the scientific exploration of this new psychological and sociological field. In a diploma thesis at the Humboldt University Berlin Sofie Reddig measured the effects of the social training in Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt. Reddig (2013) compared the amount, frequency and severity of psychological and physical violence *before* and *after* the counseling process. The outcome shows that the reduction of violence was significant even after 1 1/2 year of completing the courses.

4. As a diploma thesis at the University Innsbruck Beate Rohrer is exploring the psychological health of people working with male perpetrators according to the theory of secondary traumatisation. The work is still in progress.

5. With support of the Humboldt University Berlin the Beratung für Männer - gegen Gewalt developed and implemented a new system of data processing which enables the project to analyze and evaluate their work via SPSS. The collection of long-term data and their analysis is carried out now.

The evaluations support the international evaluations of perpetrator programs: Men did not use physical violence while participating in the program. After finishing the training physical and psychological violence is reduced by the work of the counseling centre significantly. The fear of the women is reduced as well.

- What were the results? Was the project implemented as originally intended? To what extent were the intended objectives of the project achieved? Please refer back to the

objectives mentioned in question 11. What works/has worked for whom in what circumstances? Were there any unexpected side-effects? (**Max. 300 words**)

At the beginning the project was implemented only in a district of Berlin but it was intended to expand its range as soon as the funding and the cooperation structure are sufficient.

It was intended that the courts and prosecutors would send perpetrators to the project in a large number. This intended objective hasn't yet reached its goal fully. The cooperation system in Berlin still tries to change this cautious attitude of the legal system.

Our objective to call the perpetrators to account for their acts were realised: The perpetrators learn social-cognitive competencies and develop non-violent behavior. They learn that domestic violence against women is an essential part of the discrimination of women in society.

At the beginning there were difficulties to integrate the social training of the perpetrators in the intervention chain because some institutions had to be convinced of the relevance of social training. By now the small project is integrated in the reactions of the state and the society and part of the intervention system. If there are sentences by the legal system most of the perpetrators stay in the social training and the effects are high.

The contacts to the victims are very important. If they get support from counseling services for women and there is common case management with them the effects are very positive.

In conclusion: The main objective of the project to work against domestic violence against women and the discrimination of women in society were managed.

Last but not least: The consequences for the children in the family were never neglected. Contacts with the youth services are obligatory.

The positive side-effect is the integration of migrants in the social training not only in regard of the tackling of violence but also in regard of the integration in the society.

- Are there any reports or documents available on the project and/or the evaluation of the project? Please, provide references to the most relevant ones. (**Max. 5 references**)

1. Wissenschaftliche Begleitung Interventionsprojekte gegen häusliche Gewalt, Universität Osnabrück (2004): Gemeinsam gegen häusliche Gewalt. Kooperation, Intervention, Begleitforschung. Forschungsergebnisse der Wissenschaftlichen Begleitung der Interventionsprojekte gegen häusliche Gewalt (WiBIG) – Band III, Täterarbeit im Kontext von Interventionsprojekten gegen häusliche Gewalt. Abschlussbericht 2000 bis 2004. Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend. (Ed.) Berlin, <http://www.wibig.uni-osnabrueck.de/download/studie-wibig-band3.pdf>

2. Beckmann, Stefan & Gerhard Hafner (2007): *Fathering after violence* – Evaluation von Sozialen Trainingskursen in Deutschland und internationale Konzepte für Gruppenarbeit zum Abbau von Gewalt gegen Frauen. In: Barbara Kavemann & Ulrike Kreyssig (Hg.): Handbuch Kinder und häusliche Gewalt. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 400–417
3. Schulze, Andrea (2010): Fragebogen zur erinnerten partnerschaftlichen Gewalt gegen die Mutter. Theorie, Konstruktion und Validierung. Diplomarbeit Universität Trier
4. Hafner, Gerhard (2012): Jenseits des *one-size-fits-all*-Ansatzes. Die psychosoziale Arbeit mit häuslichen Gewalttätern. In: Gender. Zeitschrift für Geschlecht, Kultur und Gesellschaft, 4. Jg., Heft 1, 108–123
5. Reddig, Sofie (2013): Das Ende der häuslichen Gewalt? Erfolgsmessung in der Täterarbeit mithilfe eines vollstrukturierten Interviews. Diplomarbeit an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für Psychologie, Lehrstuhl für Psychologische Diagnostik

- **The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.**
  - Why is the project innovative, original or creative in its methods and/or approaches?  
(Max. 150 words)

1. The project developed and implemented a close common case management with counseling centers for women (regular meetings, continuous communication via phone and e-mail, regular supervision).
  - 1.1 The risk assessment is done parallel by the women’s counselor on behalf of the victim and the counselors of the perpetrator.
  - 1.2 The admission of the perpetrator to the course is decided by both services in a common process.
  - 1.3 The counselor of the women’s center gives an input to the participants in a session of each course about the damages and traumatisation done to women by domestic violence.
  - 1.4 If there is no danger and the woman is motivated a couple counseling session could be carried out by the women’s service and the Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt as part of the assessment.
  - 1.5 This close case management is an important part of the evaluation of the effects of the program.

- **The project shall be based on cooperation between partners, where possible.**

- How and to what degree were relevant stakeholders involved (directly or indirectly) in the project? **(Max. 150 words)**

The project cooperates with all institutions violent men come in contact:

1. Legal Departments: Courts, public prosecutors, probation officers, jails are sending men to the project. They have to take part in the courses, otherwise there would be sanctions.
2. Police is sending perpetrators to the project (e.g. after a go-order).
3. Youth welfare departments are sending offenders if the wellbeing of the children is in danger.
4. Health and Social Services, especially for Drugs and Alcohol.
5. Berlin Coordination against Domestic Violence (BIG Koordinierung/BIG e.V.) is essential for the network with all the institutions. Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt is committed in several working groups to develop the practical work.
6. Gender Equality Offices of the Berlin districts are important for the implementation in the Berlin districts (important for the cooperation with youth welfare services and police).
7. Women counseling centers: This cooperation is especially intense.

- Which other (local, national, international) partners were involved in the planning, development and/or implementation of the project? Who were they and what were their roles? **(Max. 150 words)**

1. The Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt were committed in the “Evaluation of programs for violent men in different European countries” (Daphne-Program 2000-2003) with conferences and workshops in France.
2. The project worked together with other projects for perpetrators in Germany and founded the Federal Working Group for Working with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence. In many workshops and conferences the quality standards were established for Germany. This work was funded by the Federal Government.
3. Many equality offices in Berlin supported the set-up of the project.
4. The non-profit association Dissens (Berlin) established an “European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence in Europe” (European WWP Network, Daphne Program). Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt was involved in conferences.
5. In commission of the Berlin justice department the welfare organisation *Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband Berlin* evaluates every half year in an intensive procedure the effects of the work.

- **The project shall be capable of replication in other Member States.**

- How and by whom is the project funded? (**Max. 150 words**)

1999–2002: Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt was situated in a district of eastern Berlin (Marzahn-Hellersdorf) and funded by this district.

2002–2006: The project was funded by the foundation of Berlin lottery.

2007: The project was funded by Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband Berlin and different sponsors.

Since 2008: The Berlin Justice Department is funding the project.

2009: Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt was awarded with the Berlin Prevention Prize of the Berlin Government and got 3500 € as prize money.

- What were the costs of the project in terms of finances, material, infrastructure and human resources? (**Max. 150 words**)

Since 2008 the project is funded with 95.000 € by the Berlin Justice department. The project has got a small office in the centre of Berlin with three rooms: One for social training groups, a second for counseling men or couples. A third small room is reserved for the office work (phone, computer, documentation, literature etc.). The project has two employees (1 female and 1 male Diploma-Psychologist) who are permanently employed. The book-keeping is done outside in the main office of the body of the project (Volkssolidarität Landesverband Berlin e.V.).

Additionally the project is supported by interpreters for the clients who can't speak German or English, e.g. for Turkish, Russian, Persian clients.

Trainees from the universities are doing research and supporting the employees in different areas: Development of the software, documentation, evaluation, counseling etc.

- Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? If so, how, and by whom? What were the findings? Please provide supporting information. (**Max. 150 words**)

In commission of the Berlin department of justice the welfare organisation Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband evaluates the work and the effects of the program every six months. As indicators with regard to manage conflicts, accountability, escalation of conflicts, attitudes to power between the sexes etc. are:

- a) Assessment of the clients about the effectiveness of the courses or counseling,
- b) Assessment of the (former) partner: If it's possible the project has contact to the victims of the violence/partners of the participants to get feedback about the efficiency of the work.
- c) Assessment of the cooperation partners (Justice system: probation, public prosecutors,

youth services, social services, health services etc.).

d) Assessment of the counseling services for women, with whom we make a common case management: The feedback of the (former) partner is evaluated.

e) Assessment of the employees and trainees of the Beratung für Männer - gegen Gewalt.

- Please describe the context of the project in as much detail as possible: basic theory or principles which form the basis of the project, geographical area, legal context, timescale. (**Max. 300 words**)

The registered non-profit association Volkssolidarität Landesverband Berlin e.V. founded the Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt on 1.1.1999. This project focuses on the work with male perpetrators of domestic violence in Berlin.

The project is based on the premise that domestic violence is dangerous for its victims as well as for children witnessing violence. Usually there are not single acts but long-term psychological and physical violence based on dominance and controlling behavior. Particular dangerous acts are mostly perpetrated by men against their (former) female partner – therefore the project is addressing men. As early as 1988 the founder of the project wrote an expert opinion for the Federal Ministry for Families and Women about the changes of masculinities in different countries and the connection between traditional masculinity, dominance and violence. This connection is focused in the Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt. The cooperation with women’s organisations is close and fruitful.

The project has the goal that the perpetrators develop an attitude of respect against their (former) partners. Critical awareness for the traditional male role and the discrimination of women is an important topic of the program. The project is deconstructing gender roles and getting rid of male hierarchy to address fixed and sexist attitudes of the clients. The counseling centre is structured not to confirm the traditional power hierarchy between the genders: Which gender makes important decisions and leadership resp. the service (reception, office work etc.).

It is essential for the project to connect research and practice and develop instruments assessing danger, outcome etc. Therefore the Berlin government awarded the *Berlin Prevention Prize* to the project in 2009 because of its excellent work in the area evaluation and development of quality in the prevention of violence and criminality.

- Please, write a **one page** description of the project:

Beratung für Männer – gegen Gewalt is a small project as part of the intervention system against domestic violence against women. The project counseled 144 perpetrators in 2012.

The aim of the work is to develop non-violent masculinities. Men are supported to live without violence and acknowledge women as equal, independent and powerful.

The counseling process strengthens the perception and control of affects as well as the ability to understand emotions of others by changing perspective and the development of empathy. It is important to pay attention to the consequences and damage for women and children but also the harm men do to themselves and their lives.

The project emphasizes the responsibility of the perpetrator for his behavior. Based on social-learning theory we think, men learned violent behavior, but he is able to learn non-violent behavior as well. Furthermore methods from a systemic psychological approach are integrated in the work which is mainly based on cognitive behavioral therapy.

The counseling service has a phone connection Monday till Friday five hours a day. The psychologists (female and male) offer support via phone and make an appointment in near

time. Additionally emergency calls are possible to a standby duty of the employees via mobile phone. During the first three meetings we will find out more about the case and decide about the next steps: Social training courses, single treatment, contact with the (former) partner, contact with other institutions etc. Reasons for single treatments in place of participation in a group: Non-German speaking clients, working in shift-system etc. We clear whether the preconditions are fulfilled: No psychological disorder, no drug or alcohol abuse, compliance, motivation etc. This clearing process plays a key role in our work. We make decision carefully by using psychological instruments, talking with other involved institutions etc. If the men fulfill all conditions he may join the social training course which consists of around seven men running 26 times for two hours.

Men from different social, cultural and educational backgrounds and of different age meet once per week for around half a year. Although the group is very heterogenic, they are connected by the fact of domestic violence.

The group is equally leaded by one female and one male psychologist who are role models for flexible gender roles and for handling conflicts productively between the genders. The experiences of the female employees with the behavior of the client contains special significance for the team.

Topics of the counseling, which can be found in the Standards for Working with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence are the following: How to get along with stress and aggression, why violence was used, how to identify risky situations, how to struggle without violence, how equal partnership looks like, what responsible fatherhood means, how to overcome breakup etc.

Accompanying contacts to the (former) partner are carried out if it's possible; in 2012 we made personal contacts with 31 women. We cooperate with a women's counseling center in an intensive case management. Regular supervision and further training for the employees are provided.

The project is working also in English and with interpreters of many languages to provide counseling for migrants who are not speaking German.