

# European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

## Annex I – new version 2014

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

### General information

1. Please specify your country.

Romania

2. Is this your country's ECPA entry or an additional project?

This is a local project of The General Directorate of Bucharest Police

3. What is the title of the project?

"VIGILANT SENIORS"

4. Who is responsible for the project? Contact details.

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5. Start date of the project (dd/mm/yyyy)? Is the project still running (Yes/No)?  
If not, please provide the end date of the project.

The project started on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and it will end on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 ( 9 months). The project is still running.

6. Where can we find more information about the project? Please provide links to the project's website or online reports or publications (preferably in English).

Information regarding this project can be found on the web site [www.gandirefresh.ro/proiecteșiprograme](http://www.gandirefresh.ro/proiecteșiprograme) and in the "Prevenirea Criminalității" (Prevention of Crime) magazine issue no. 7/2016, both coordinated by the General Directorate of Bucharest Police.

7. Please give a **one page** description of the project (**Max. 600 words**)

The purpose of the project was to reduce the risk of old people being victimized, by accomplishing the following objectives: knowing the target group from attitudinal and behavioural perspective; increasing the level of preventive knowledge of old people; increasing the capacity of self-defence.

The target group was composed of persons over 60 years old, who were members of the senior clubs set up by the local public authorities, at district level.

From April to August 2016, the prevention police accomplished 11 preventive information activities in the Senior Clubs situated across the 6 districts. The information pointed out subjects such as: the risks associated to the age, prevention of victimization in case of the following crimes: robbery, burglary and pick-pocketing, deceits, domestic violence. Along with information, the personal development of the old people from the target group was aimed by obtaining abilities of using the computer (this was accomplished with the help of specialists, brought in by the District City Halls) during 6 activities, such as: using the internet, searching preventive information on the institutions' sites and sending e-mails containing information regarding the need of personal safety; there were held 7 classes of personalized self-defence in partnership with CEN-TAP; 4 sessions of online information were carried out with the help of The National House of Pensions and Social Insurance, 16 churches and 63 postal offices. Some spots with preventive character were permanently broadcasted on the central televisions (TVR, KANAL D, PRIMA TV, ROMANIA TV) and Romania Radio; also from July to August 2016, the show "The Prevention Minute" was broadcasted on Bucharest FM three times a week. The same spots were also posted on the TV sets of 4 hypermarkets: Cora Lujerului, Cora Pantelimon, Cora Sudului and Cora Alexandriei. 219 old persons were the beneficiaries of the project.

The information regarding the risk areas and the M.O. of the perpetrators in case of victimization of the old people were obtained from the tactical analysis of The Bucharest Intelligence Analysis Department, structure of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, and resulted 4 preventive information materials.

The project is still in the implementation phase, inter-connecting with other prevention projects which are still running.

Thus, "The Senior Safety Ball" will be held, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016, during the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Crime Prevention Week, a meeting with preventive role, where the target group will practice the knowledge and abilities acquired during the project. A number of 6 old persons from the target group of the project volunteered in making video materials for preventing the bullying phenomena in schools, teaching children methods of self-defence in case of victimization.

The activity notes contained the participants' points of view, who appreciated the activities as being: "useful for the daily life", "helpful for old people to avoid unpleasant situations", "agreeable, constructive", "interesting", "beneficial for old people's safety". The old people proved to be receptive, expressing their wish to participate again in future programs of personalized self-defence.

The feeling of safety and the fear of criminal acts will be appreciated again by the target group during a survey which will take place in October, 2016.

The results of the project will be disseminated during a round table meeting which will be held in November, 2016, with the participation of the City Halls Social Assistance Directorates and some NGOs.

**I. The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme.**

8. How does the project contribute to crime prevention and/or to the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? (**Max. 150 words**)

The project based on reducing the fear of being a crime victim, in the context of better sharing information and obtaining self-defence abilities (abilities of using the computer and simple self-defence techniques).

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

The old people from the target group received information regarding the modes of committing the criminal acts by the perpetrators (pick-pocketing, burglaries), deceits or robberies. The discussions were interactive, in small groups of 10 to 25 persons. The information were, on one hand, provided by authorized source (The Bucharest Intelligence Analysis Department conducted studies regarding crimes committed on old people and highly crime risk areas), and on the other hand, by police officers specialized in communication (The Crime Analysis and Prevention Department within The General Directorate of Bucharest Police), who adjusted the technique information to an adequate level of understanding for the target group.

Besides that, the old people found out that by using the computer, they can discover useful information regarding their safety and can acquire the necessary abilities. So the old people will keep on line contact with the prevention police officers, receiving up to date preventive pieces of advice.

## **II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.<sup>1</sup>**

10. What was the reason for setting up the project? What problem(s) did it aim to tackle? Care a fost motivul pentru care ați inițiat acest proiect?

The old people represent an important category from the total number of crime victims, because of the age vulnerability and psycho somatic features. In addition, the 2015 official statistic shows high percentage regarding victims of certain crimes:

- 68% of the burglary victims were persons with the age between 67 and 93;
- 100% of victims in burglary cases with M.O. "using false qualities" were persons with the age between 60 and 92;
- 44% of the deceits victims were persons with age between 50 and 94;
- 85% of victims in deceits cases with M.O. "the accident method", were persons with age between 63 and 94;
- 35% of the robbery victims were persons with the age between 50 and 94.

Analyzing the above mentioned data it was considered mandatory to develop a targeted prevention project for the safety of the old people.

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

<sup>1</sup> For more information on evaluation, see Guidelines on the evaluation of crime prevention initiatives (EUCPN Toolbox No.3): <http://www.eucpn.org/library/results.asp?category=32&pubdate>

The project was preceded by a sociological research carried out in March, 2016, which showed the vulnerability of old people to crime, more than half being victims or knowing people who had been victims. They are mostly afraid that they could be victims of robbery or pick-pocketing in the public means of transportation. They think the civic involvement decreased and they are willing to volunteer for crime prevention. The most frequent source of information is the television and they spend their time in small old people communities where they get information and practice interactive games.

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

The main objective of the project was to reduce the risk of old people being victimized, by accomplishing the following objectives: knowing the target group from attitudinal and behavioural perspective; increasing the level of preventive information of old people; increasing the capacity of self-defence.

13. Did you build in internal goals to measure the performance of the project? If so, please describe at what stage of the project and how you measured whether the project was moving in the planned direction. (**Max. 150 words**)

To establish the utility and attractiveness of the activities it was taken into account the opinion of the persons included in the project. The sociologists of the department evaluated the way of adjusting the sent information to the age and cognitive capacities of the target group, adapting and improving the content of the messages for each meeting.

A survey conducted in September, current year, showed that the old people consider such meetings useful for their safety and proposed the project to continue.

14. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what were the main results? (**max. 300 words**) - for more information on process evaluation, see *EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.9-10 & part 2 - section 2A*

The project evaluation has two components: a quantitative one, measured by the number of the issued preventive materials, the number of the meetings with the beneficiaries, the number of the self-defence and computer abilities classes, the number of the prevention information posted on the internet.

The dynamic analysis of crime with old people as victims, for the period January to August 2016 comparative with the same period of 2015, was performed by an external department, The Bucharest Intelligence Analysis Department.

Regarding the qualitative component, this was a fulfilment and utility evaluation of the project from the target group's point of view, made out on 6 target groups. The sociologists of the department performed the evaluation at the beginning and the end of the project, using review questions and a behaviour modification and reducing the fear of being a crime victim question.

15. Has there been an outcome or impact evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method were used and what were the main results? (**Max. 300 words**) - for more information on outcome or impact evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.7-9 & part 2 - section 2A

Analyzing the official data statistics of The Intelligence Analysis Department, an external department within The General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, showed that during the period January to August, 2016, there were 170 less old person victims registered than during the same period 2015 (a decrease from 698 to 528); also, on a monthly statistic, the crimes committed on old people decreased from 126 crimes in March, 2016 (at the beginning of the project) to 74 crimes in August, 2016. We consider that disseminating preventive information to this kind of age community is easily made due to the open minded attitude of the target group for communication and socialization.

The fulfilment and utility evaluation of the project will end during The Crime Prevention Week (September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016), when the prevention police officers in collaboration with the partners (the districts City Halls and CEN – TAP) will analyze the way the old people acknowledged the new information and the self-defence abilities, based on an opinion survey and some practical demonstration. The experience of 10 persons included in the project will be analyzed as case studies and it will be the starting point for improving and rerunning the project in 2017.

**III. The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.**

16. How is the project innovative in its methods and/or approaches? (**Max. 150 words**)

The project developed abilities and competences for an apparently improper age category: using the internet to get safety and preventive methods information, simple self-defence techniques. Disseminating information to another 100 old persons was made in a unique way by organizing a "Senior Safety Ball" through the partnership of the public local authority and The General Directorate of Bucharest Police. In addition, the beneficiaries forwarded the information to other possible victim groups, such as children, by making short films in which they played as amateur actors.

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

17. Which partners or stakeholders were involved in the project and what was their involvement? (**Max. 200 words**)

In this process the partners of The General Directorate of Bucharest Police were: 1 to 6 District City Halls, The General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection, and also a private organization: CEN – TAP Association.

The District City Halls offered the locations to carry out the activities, in the already existing senior clubs, and also the specialists to teach how to use the

computer. The General Directorates of Social Assistance were the ones that succeeded in promoting the project to a large number of beneficiaries, while the CEN – TAP Association offered free self-defence classes.

Besides these partners, The Culture House of The Ministry of Internal Affairs and The Culture House of Students also joined this project and managed to make "The Senior Safety Ball" an activity which successfully gathered all the efforts of this project. During 6 hours, the old people, beneficiaries of the project, pass to other 100 participants the prevention information and acquired abilities, learned during the project. On this occasion new members will join the already existing groups in these Senior Clubs set up by the local public authorities.

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

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

The project did not receive special financing. The activities were held based on partnerships between The General Directorate of Bucharest Police and the above mentioned organizations, the financing being the same as for their daily activities. Above that, the beneficiaries of the project brought an extra value with their voluntary, free involvement in making four short films on preventing bullying in schools. The beneficiaries of the project received the information and developed the necessary competencies for protection of not becoming a victim, and in addition they forwarded the received information to other possible victim groups (old people, children).

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

In this project there were involved 8 police officers, 6 prevention police officers, 2 sociologist police officers and a number of 10 partners from the civil society: IT specialists, self-defence technique specialists, social assistants. The IT specialists and the social assistants were provided by the District City Halls, their activities in the project being considered work tasks; the CEN – TAP Association is a NGO which self-sustained the costs for the specialists involved in teaching the self-defence techniques. The activity of the sociologists and prevention police officers was held during working hours, the project being considered a local priority of The General Directorate of Bucharest Police. The classrooms were offered by the District City Halls, who also provided the computers and the internet network. "The Senior Safety Ball" was organized in a facility belonging to The District 2 City Hall, situated in Plumbuita Park. The Senior Clubs are entities created by City Halls, which will continue to function after the ending of the project, the information could be disseminated to other old people by the beneficiaries of the project.

20. Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? If so, describe the analysis, including how and by whom it was carried out and list the main findings of the analysis. (**Max. 150 words**)

The analysis will be made at the end of the project, in November, 2016.

21. Are there adjustments to be made to the project to ensure a successful replication in another Member State?

The application of the project by the other Member States does not require any major change.

22. How is the project relevant for other Member States? Please explain the European dimension of your project.

The project can be considered a "good practice" due to the way the institutional information can reach the beneficiaries in the shortest period of time. It was aimed to create some abilities of using the computer combined with simple self-defence techniques for an atypical group with this kind of activities.

Please provide a short general description of the project (abstract for inclusion in the conference booklet – **max. 150 words**).

The project "Vigilant Seniors", implemented by The General Directorate of Bucharest Police, Romania, in partnership with the local public authorities and the NGO aimed to reduce the risk of old people being victimized by creating abilities regarding the access to official information and simple self-defence techniques. Being better informed, the old people will know how to avoid dangerous situations; the simple self-defence techniques will help possible victims to gain time to react and alert the authorities or to find help from the possible witnesses.

The prevention police officers, in partnership with the social assistants, IT and self-defence specialists, took part in the direct meetings with the old people, organized in the senior clubs, in areas of districts 1 to 6. The sociologists knew the beneficiaries' need of safety and information and could offer a feedback and an adjustment of the activities to the proper level of understanding for the beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries took part in a final evaluation of the acquired knowledge and also in a socializing and information sending activity in a pleasant, protective environment at "The Senior Safety Ball"; they disseminated the information to other possible victim groups (100 old persons not initially included in the project and children from schools).

The evaluation of the project was made on official data statistics of the Capital Police, but also on applying sociological methods which measured the utility and the attractiveness of the project and the way the fear of crime evolved.