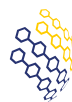


**Toolbox**



**EUCPN**  
EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK

TOOLBOX ON

# High-risk victim groups

European Crime Prevention  
Award 2022



EU2022.CZ

Czech Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union



*This is the second of two papers that make up this toolbox on high-risk victim groups. The following chapters summarise the three winners along with their jury remarks, followed by a description of the remaining fourteen entries.*

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Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to the members of the jury for taking the time to critically analyse and assess the entries:

- > Ms Marie Bednařiková, representing the Czech Republic;
- > Ms Fanny Tabellion, representing France;
- > Mr Anders Persson, representing Sweden;
- > Mrs Alma Herrera Panades and Ms Maria Hernandez Gonzalez, representing Spain;
- > Dr Vladimír Vedra, Czech Republic Police;
- > Mr Michal Nešpor, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA);
- > Dr Aniella Ferenczi, Association of the European Network on Victims' Rights (AENVR).

Most of the information in this paper was contributed by the organisers of the projects that are described. It is provided as-is. All the papers associated with the EUCPN toolbox on high-risk victim groups are available for download at <https://eucpn.org/toolbox-highriskvictims>.

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# Preface

This paper was written by the EUCPN Secretariat and discusses the main topic of the Czech Presidency: the prevention of secondary and repeat victimisation among high-risk victim groups within society. It includes theoretical information as well as practical examples for practitioners to use in their work with high-risk groups of victims.

The Czech Presidency describes the topic as follows:

*The aim is to exchange experiences and good practices, most importantly in the areas of early identification of victims of crime (especially those particularly vulnerable), prevention of their secondary victimisation and re-victimisation and how to increase motivation to report crimes and thus to reduce the latency of crime. This can be achieved, inter alia, by improving the communication skills of law enforcement authorities (mostly, but not only, the police), increasing pro-client access to crime victims, witnesses and persons reporting crime. We can achieve our goal also by increasing trust in working with victims, by using new methodologies for identifying victims and for working with particularly vulnerable victims and last but not least by raising legal awareness of risk groups (e.g. seniors), etc.*

This is the second of two papers that make up this toolbox on high-risk victim groups. The first paper contains theoretical information as well as practical examples for practitioners to use in their work with high-risk victim groups. All papers are available for download at <https://eucpn.org/toolbox-highriskvictims>. More information on the European Crime Prevention Award and the participating projects can be found at <https://eucpn.org/service/bpc-ecpa>.

# Introduction



The Best Practice Conference and European Crime Prevention Award (BPC-ECPA) is an annual event organised by the Chair of the EUCPN. Its main objective is to exchange information and best practices in the area of crime prevention. In 2022, the Czech Presidency organised the BPC-ECPA focusing on protecting vulnerable victims of crime. The Czech Presidency specified the topic as follows:

The aim is to exchange experiences and good practices, most importantly in the areas of early identification of victims of crime (especially those particularly vulnerable), prevention of their secondary victimisation and re-victimisation and how to increase motivation to report crimes and thus to reduce the latency of crime. This can be achieved, inter alia, by improving the communication skills of law enforcement authorities (mostly, but not only, the police), increasing pro-client access to crime victims, witnesses and persons reporting crime. We can achieve our goal also by increasing trust in working with victims, by using new methodologies for identifying victims and for working with particularly vulnerable victims and last but not least by raising legal awareness of risk groups (e.g. seniors), etc.

Seventeen Member States competed for the ECPA. These projects were rated by a Jury as follows:

- Three experts on the topic of victimisation, whose votes accounted for 25% of the final score: Mr Michal Nešpor (FRA), Dr Vladimír Vědra (Czech Republic Police) and Dr Aniella Ferenczi (AENVR);
- Representatives of four Member States, whose votes accounted for 50% of the final score: France, Czech Republic, Sweden and Spain;
- The QUALIPREV tool, accounting for 25% of the final score.

The following chapters summarise the three winners along with their jury remarks, followed by a description of the remaining fourteen entries.



# 01

## **ECPA winners**







## First place:

## Sweden - Risk Reduction Intervention

### Description

Risk Reduction Intervention, RRI, is a method that aims to reduce the perpetrator's motivation to continue to subject the victim to crime, which enables the victim to live safely with as much freedom as possible. The method consists of a combination of risk assessments, conversations with the perpetrators and protection and support for the victims. It is primarily carried out by the witness protection unit and the negotiation units in the police. Witness Protection specialises in carrying out risk assessments and providing relevant support and protection measures. The negotiators specialise in talking to people in crisis and helping individuals change their thought patterns. The evaluations show that crime stopped in 72% of cases and decreased in another 7%. RRI had the greatest impact in cases involving particularly vulnerable crime victims, such as domestic violence, stalking, repeated violations of restraining orders and crimes against personnel exposed because of their profession.

### Expert review

The Risk Reduction Intervention is considered a comprehensive project due to its focus on both victims and perpetrators. This approach effectively tackles the roots of victimisation and various groups of susceptible victims will benefit from its implementation. The partnership between the witness protection unit and the negotiation units in the police is unique and innovative. It is a stable partnership in which existing structures are used in a new manner instead of setting up additional resources. Because it constitutes such a feasible partnership, the project could fairly easy be replicated in other countries. For these reasons, the Swedish Risk Reduction Intervention is viewed as an exemplary model that could inspire other Member States.



**Second place:**

## **The Netherlands – HackShield Future Cyber Heroes**

### **Description**

HackShield is an educational game that trains children aged eight to 12 to become Cyber Agents who protect themselves and their environment against the dangers of the online world and learn how to seize opportunities in the online world. By playing through various levels, children learn about cyber security subjects. Through quests, they can challenge their (grand)parents and even build and share their own levels with friends. HackShield collaborates with municipalities and the police, who are looking for Cyber Agents to help make sure citizens will use the Internet safely. Enthusiastic and active Cyber Agents even get the chance to be officially honoured! In the Netherlands, 24% of children played the game and more than 8% became Junior Cyber Agents. In August 2022, Belgium initiated the project and in 2023, Germany will join this movement towards a safe digital future with equal opportunities for everyone!

### **Expert review**

HackShield is an example of a creative approach to reach the intended target group (i.e. children). Nevertheless, it also focuses on related groups in society, such as their parents and other family members. They are not merely aiming to raise awareness, but also to create a generation of children with fewer victims as well as perpetrators. This goal is further enhanced given that the focus lies on a variety of cyber security matters, including phishing, data-sharing and hacking. Finally, it is considered highly innovative, as the gamification method brings together the online and offline world. This is why HackShield is viewed as an exemplary model for other Member States.



### Third place:

## Denmark - Systematic Forensic Medical Screening of Children in Cases of Suspected Physical Violence

### Description

The Systematic Forensic Medical Screening of Children in Cases of Suspected Physical Violence is a cross-sectoral co-creation project that tested out an existing intervention in practice over a period of two years (2020-2022). This cross-sectoral project has implemented a new procedure ensuring that all children from the capital area of Copenhagen were offered a forensic medical examination following the video-recorded investigative interview. This means that no preliminary selection of cases is carried out once the case has been reported to the police and the video interview has been decided. This examination firstly ensures that objective medical evidence is systematically documented alongside the child's verbal description of abuse and, secondly, that the child's general health status is screened. The set-up ensures that the abuse and the consequences thereof will most likely be discovered in a timely manner. The preventative issues are stopping the abuse, supporting the child and keeping the child in focus.

### Expert review

The Systematic Forensic Medical Screening of Children in Cases of Suspected Physical Violence is an excellent example of a multi-agency systematic approach to an important susceptible victim group. The fact that all children from the capital area receive this examination offers great added value in terms of standardisation. Moreover, the available information and data on the technical application could be beneficial to other Member States that may wish to replicate this project. It is considered an exemplary practice that could be shared without difficulty among other Member States and could inspire further multi-disciplinary working mechanisms.



# 02

## Remaining ECPA entries

## **Austria – Together Safe**

GEMEINSAM.SICHER in Österreich (TOGETHER.SAFE in Austria) is a campaign that promotes togetherness as a focal point of governmental policy. As we get older, we often need the attention and help of our loved ones and fellow citizens. The police are there to help. They will advise and support you, for example, when you have been the victim of a crime. For issues that affect our personal sense of security, “TOGETHER.SAFE in the Best Years” provides contact partners who understand you. A variety of safety tips that pertain to different scenarios (when you are at home, shopping, on holiday or when surfing the Internet) have been developed.

## **Belgium - Mobile Stalking Alarm**

The Mobile Stalking Alarm is initiated for victims of life-threatening partner violence in which the risk of serious stalking combined with physical violence and even family tragedies or femicides is real. The Mobile Stalking Alarm consists of a discreet alarm button that is linked to the emergency 112 app via Bluetooth. If the victim pushes the button when in danger, the 112 app launches an emergency call via the smartphone. In doing so, the alarm centre (112) sees that it is a stalking alarm and immediately transmits the necessary information, such as the victim's details, suspect's details, measures imposed, etc. The 112 app also transmits the location of the victim and can locate the victim when moving. This way, the police can intervene quickly and efficiently to avoid escalation and stop violence.

## **Croatia - CHAT for victims – changing the accessibility of tools for victims**

Victim and Witness Support Service Croatia, in partnership with The Official College of Psychology Madrid from Spain, Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment from Slovenia, Victim Support Europe from Belgium, Validity from Hungary and the Centre for Legal Resources from Romania, is implementing the CHAT for Victims project. The main goal of the project is the establishment of a functional live-chat service adapted to people with disabilities, thereby expanding the range of formats through which victims and witnesses receive information and support. Given that the provision of support via a live-chat service is relatively new, the project's intention is to ensure a high quality of service through research, collaboration with (non-)governmental organisations that already provide support via chat and through collaboration with people with disabilities. All the efforts conducted will be documented

through the manual and the training programme as standards for future endeavours by other organisations or institutions.

## **Czech Republic - Bright Sky CZ**

Bright Sky CZ is a free mobile app that provides support and information to anyone who is in a violent relationship or who is concerned about someone who might be a victim of domestic violence. It is a simple tool offering all the necessary information in one place. It offers unique safety features allowing anyone quick access to help, including: a three-minute relationship risk assessment questionnaire, important information, advice and other services, including their personal journal that allows victims to confidentially record and store evidence. Part of this project is the training of police officers, social workers and lawyers, who can use the app during their duties. In addition to informing a vulnerable person about the possibility of using psychological, legal, social, or other services, they are now being trained to inform such a person about the existence of the Bright Sky app as well.

## **Estonia - Improving the police investigators' quality of investigative interviews via simulated interview software**

Previous research demonstrated that repeated feedback in simulated investigative interviews with computerised child avatars (a piece of software called Empowering Interview Training) improves the quality of interviews conducted with real children. It is, however, not known whether this type of training would also improve the quality of investigative interviews with actual child victims and witnesses. 22 police officers from Estonia participated in a study where half of them received feedback during four simulated interviews, whereas the other half received no feedback during four such interviews, followed by another four interviews, after which they also received feedback. Transcripts of the real interviews with actual child victims and witnesses before and after the training were coded. In avatar training, the proportion of recommended questions were correlated with the number of correct details in the avatars' answers. In the real interviews, the proportion of recommended questions increased by 23% when comparing interviews before to after EIT training.

## **Finland – Inclusive neighbourhood, work model to reduce harms associated with open drug scenes among particularly vulnerable victims**

Inclusive neighbourhood is a systematic approach to increase effective communication and coordination of street work and policing, as well as the interaction between all people related to a neighbourhood (including professionals, social actors, residents, all people using the public space, including people who use drugs, entrepreneurs, NGO workers and authorities). This community-based work model aims to accommodate different kinds of people and their ways of using public spaces in a neighbourhood. In addition, the project implements an innovative approach for improving the situation of particularly vulnerable victims, namely women & young people, and lowering their threshold for reporting offences. The best practices guide for professionals and local society actors considers four perspectives: communication, community spirit, coordinated social and health outreach services with community policing, and an easy contact channel for the whole neighbourhood. The effectiveness of this approach comes from enabling the people related to the neighbourhood to participate.

## **France - Social workers in Police Stations**

Social workers in police stations is a nation-wide programme that consists of hiring social workers to be posted at police stations to welcome and orientate any person that is suffering from social distress and comes into contact with law enforcement. This closeness of social and law enforcement workers enables them to work together more efficiently by fostering trust and an exchange of information. Ultimately, this institutional answer is more effective since the situation is treated on a criminal but also on a social level, curbing the social distress that is, most of the time, among the causes of criminal behaviour. It is particularly helpful in situations of domestic violence, by helping victims and offenders to be less dependent upon each other and providing the help they need to go through the criminal justice process. There are currently over 400 social workers posted at police stations throughout the French territory.

## **Germany - THB LIBERI (Fighting THB and exploitation against children and young persons in Germany and Europe)**

The ISF-funded project THB LIBERI is led by the German Federal Criminal Police Office and involves both German and Austrian police departments. The goal of THB LIBERI is to combat trafficking and exploitation of children and young people through a multi-disciplinary and innovative approach. It combines knowledge from different sectors in order to raise awareness of the characteristics of child trafficking, as it promotes a common approach to preventing and combatting it. To achieve this goal, THB LIBERI consists of three core areas in accordance with the current trends in trafficking in human beings: THB online, exploitation within familiar structures and personal evidence. THB LIBERI is highly operational and aims to reach out to those affected and endangered by the severe crimes of THB. By linking relevant key players and financing complex investigations, THB LIBERI is contributing to a safer Europe!

## **Hungary – Art for takeaway**

“ART FOR TAKEAWAY” (ART-RAVALÓ) is a socio-art project for young adults (18-24 years) raised in state care, without parents or family, who face an increased risk of committing crimes and becoming victims. The young people participating in the project (usually 12-15 people) participate in arts and career-oriented training for 9 months. The training is registered in the Hungarian adult education system. Our goal is to create personal development through artistic activities, supporting the participants in forming a positive outlook on their self-image and future. Every year, we also put on a theatre play, based on literary material, using the participants’ improvisations. Thanks to the methodology, their general life management competencies, as well as their prospects for the future, for example regarding their careers, improve significantly. When the curtains come down after the programme, they step out into their independent adult lives armed with self-confidence, plans, practical knowledge and skills.

## **Latvia - Dangerous friendship on the Internet**

“Dangerous friendship on the Internet” is a project that aims to prevent children from becoming victims of online grooming. The project includes: a campaign to inform society about grooming risks; the development of an online test for recognising and preventing grooming and encouraging people to seek help; and the development of educational and awareness materials – posters, brochures and online posts for dissemination throughout



the country. A self-help test ([sos.drossinternets.lv](https://sos.drossinternets.lv)) helps with recognising online grooming. The results provide advice on what to do and where to go. Since its launch in February 2022, the test has been filled out by 6,677 children and youngsters. Analysing the answers, we can conclude that 20% of children who have online friendships have been victims of online grooming. This is more than 1,300 children during a six-month period. If we compare these results to statistics from the state police, it is clear that the latency of these crimes is high.

## **Lithuania – Light shoes**

The project "Light Shoes" is bound together from real experiences of being around young people who are undergoing various difficulties. The main idea is to use the experience gained by open youth centres to develop new services for adolescents with delinquent behaviour and emotional disorders.

The objectives of the project are: creating a safe, innovative learning space for teenagers; fundamentally strengthening the competencies of youth workers and specialists in order to provide innovative services and mobilise the available municipal resources for joint work; and providing new services to help create positive changes in their lives. The assistance mechanism helps young people not to become victims of crime, not to get involved in criminal activity, or to withdraw from it and avoid secondary victimisation. At the same time, the assistance mechanism fundamentally strengthens the competencies of specialists in order to easily and creatively help young people make positive changes in their lives.

## **Portugal – eGuard**

The GNR's proximity to the community enables effective relationships of collaboration between the citizens and military personnel. These relationships reinforce equality, legitimacy and mutual trust, ensuring more active civic participation in the diagnosis, effective resource mobilisation, joint efforts and resolution to local safety-related problems. In this context, this project was created to provide dedicated support to the most vulnerable groups within the population, namely isolated elderly people, in guaranteeing a response to their needs from specialist state services. Through the creation of a service network and taking advantage of the synergies among the different institutions, it was possible to set up a georeferencing and bidirectional communication system that meets the security, social and health protection needs. It simultaneously

addresses difficulties such as identifying the victim's location and contacting people who do not have mobile phones, among others.

## **Romania – Unwanted touches**

The “Unwanted Touches” campaign launched in 2021 by Asociația Telefonul Copilului (Child Helpline Association) and the Romanian Police succeeded in empowering Romanian adults to discuss one of the more unpleasant topics in the world. It ignited difficult conversations about child sexual abuse and achieved impressive results with zero media budget. This is the story of a campaign that dared to challenge the popular idea that ALL touching is desirable and good with a courageous counterclaim. It contributed to a change in cultural and social norms, with the purpose of better protecting children from sexual abuse.

## **Spain – Police documentation in easy-reading format for vulnerable people**

The Family and Women Attention Units (UFAM) are Spanish National Police Units specialised in the fight against gender, domestic and sexual violence, with particular concern for the most vulnerable victims. The Easy Read Institute is a social organisation that defends the rights of all people to understand the information that surrounds us. With this project, victims with intellectual disabilities, low literacy levels or at risk of social exclusion will receive reports on their rights and other police documentation in an easy-to-read format, which facilitates the communication between the police and the victim when they are informed about their rights. This way, the person can understand autonomously, and regardless of their cognitive ability, what their rights are as a victim of crime in a situation that is of maximum vulnerability. All of this helps these particularly vulnerable victims to lose their fear of facing justice when they are victims of crime.



# European Crime Prevention Award 2022 working with a particularly vulnerable crime victim

HAVE A LOOK AT THE WINNERS



## Sweden **Risk Reduction Intervention**

The method consists of a combination of risk assessments, conversations with the perpetrators and protection and support for the victims.

Expert review

- > focus on both victims and perpetrators
- > stable partnership between the witness protection and the negotiation units
- > Creative use of existing structures

**More info:**

[www.eucpn.org/toolbox-highriskvictims](http://www.eucpn.org/toolbox-highriskvictims)  
or [www.eucpn.org/service/bpc-ecpa](http://www.eucpn.org/service/bpc-ecpa)

**02**



The Netherlands  
**HackShield Future Cyber Heroes**

An educational game that trains children aged eight to twelve to become Cyber Agents. By playing through various levels, children learn about cyber security subjects.

Expert review

- > creative approach to reach children
- > a variety of cyber security matters
- > highly innovative

**03**



Denmark  
**Systematic Forensic Medical Screening of Children in Cases of Suspected Physical Violence**

All child-victims are offered a forensic medical examination following the video-recorded investigative interview. The procedure ensures that objective medical evidence is systematically documented alongside the child's verbal description of abuse, and that the child's general health status is screened.

Expert review

- > multi-agency systematic approach
- > added value in terms of standardisation
- > replicable for other Member States



# Notes

1. For additional information on the ECPA rules and regulations, see European Crime Prevention Network, Rules and Procedures for Awarding and Presenting the European Crime Prevention Award, Brussels: EUCPN, 2018, <https://eucpn.org/document/ecpa-documents-2020>.
2. QUALIPREV is a tool developed for the EUCPN that makes it possible to comparatively evaluate crime prevention projects on objective grounds. For more information, see A. Rummens, W. Hardyns, F. Vander Laenen, and L. Pauwels, Criteria for the Evaluation of Crime Prevention Practices, Research report, Brussels: EUCPN, 2016, <https://eucpn.org/document/eucpn-criteria-for-the-evaluation-of-crime-prevention-practices-0>.



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