

European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I

Approved by the EUCPN Management Board in 2018

Please complete the template in English in compliance with the ECPA criteria contained in the Rules and procedures for awarding and presenting the European Crime Prevention Award (Par.2 §3).

General information

1. Please specify your country.

Czech Republic

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

Our country's ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

Bright Sky CZ

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

Vodafone Foundation Czech Republic -

Veronika Ridelova - veronika.ridelova@vodafone.com

ROSA - centrum pro zeny, z.s. – helping abused women in the Czech Republic -

Branislava Marvanova Vargova - branislava.marvanova@rosacentrum.cz

The **Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic** – Marie Bednarikova -

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The **Police of the Czech Republic** – Jolana Mosleh - jolana.mosleh@pcr.cz

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.

01/02/2020 – the launch of the app in the Czech Republic

Yes – the app is still functioning and available for people to download

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).

1. Link to download Bright Sky CZ from the Google Play Store:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vodafone.brightsky.cz>
Link to download Bright Sky CZ from the App Store:
<https://apps.apple.com/cz/app/bright-sky-cz/id1495401154>
- Bright Sky CZ is available in both Czech and English -
2. Browser version of the app: <https://cs.bright-sky.org/en/home>
2. An example of the use of the app: https://youtu.be/YP9zk_MwqY0
2. Interview with John Liversidge, the co-author of the Bright Sky project in the UK: <https://video.aktualne.cz/dvtv/obetem-domaciho-nasili-pomuze-mobilni-aplikace-casto-ziji-ve/r~914b1c4c4cb511e9ad610cc47ab5f122/>
3. The project description at the czech Vodafone's website with several videos:
<https://www.nadacevodafone.cz/programy/technologie-pro-spolecnost/aktualni-projekty/aplikace-bright-sky-cz.html>

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

Bright Sky CZ is a free mobile app available on both, Google Play and App Store, that provides support and information to anyone who is in a violent relationship or who is concerned about someone close to them who might be a victim of domestic violence. It has been available since February 2020 and was created thanks to the initiative of the Vodafone Foundation CZ, which is currently financing the project as part of the Technology for Society program.

The idea came from a retired British police officer, John Liversidge, who wanted to educate people so that victims of abusive relationships could recognize the danger in time and thereby reduce the number of homicides between partners.

The app makes it possible to recognize the signs of a violent relationship using a simple questionnaire, allows you to safely store audio-video-photo-text evidence of violent incidents, and contains stories about different forms of violence that the user can identify with, a complete and updated database for all specialized help centers and non-stop helplines in the Czech Republic, and advice on how to prepare to leave an abusive relationship and what not to forget, and much more.

The content of the app is relevant for the general public as people can educate themselves on how to recognize the signs of domestic violence - perhaps when it comes to their loved ones or colleagues - what to notice, how to react, and how to sensitively offer help. A huge advantage of the app is that the user does not have to search for separate information on the internet using a family or work computer and leaving traces behind. Another thing is that a mobile phone is considered a personal and intimate item. However, in any case, the Bright Sky app can look discreet on the phone and if the app is deleted from the device, no data will be lost.

A part of this project is also training police officers, social workers, and lawyers who can use the app in the execution of their duties. In addition to informing a vulnerable person about the possibility of using psychological, legal, social, or other services, they are now trained to inform such a person about the existence of the Bright Sky app as well. This procedure is also contained in the new methodology on the procedures for dealing with incidents with signs of domestic violence.

Launching the app in the Czech Republic would not be possible without interdisciplinary and interdepartmental cooperation; The project's professional guarantor is the organization *ROSA - a center for women* and the partners are the *Police of the Czech Republic* and the *Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic*. Although this is an international project operating in 11 countries and another 5 joining soon, all project management of the local app and its communication is carried out by Czech partners and coordinated by the Vodafone Foundation CZ.

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

8. Which **crime prevention/ reduction mechanisms** were used in this project to contribute to crime prevention and/or the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? Multiple answers are possible.

Establishing and maintaining normative barriers to committing criminal acts

e.g. 'Offenders, we are watching you' campaigns

Reducing recruitment to criminal social environments and activities by eliminating or reducing the social and individual causes and processes that lead to criminality

e.g. social and financial support for disadvantaged families

Deterring potential perpetrators from committing crimes through the threat of punishment

e.g. decreasing the time between arrest and punishment

Disrupting criminal acts by stopping them before they are carried out

e.g. increasing police patrols in vulnerable areas

Protecting vulnerable targets by reducing opportunities and make it more demanding to carry out criminal acts

e.g. placing locks and cameras

Reducing the harmful consequences of criminal acts

e.g. initiatives to recover stolen goods

Reducing the rewards from criminal acts

e.g. restorative justice programmes

Incapacitating (or neutralising) perpetrators by denying them the ability (capacity) to carry out new criminal acts

e.g. imprisonment of key gang members

Encouraging desistance from crime and rehabilitating former offenders so they are able to settle back into a normal life

e.g. prison rehabilitation programs

Explain how this/these crime prevention mechanisms were used ((**Max. 300 words**))

Using Bright Sky CZ, records of violent incidents can be kept without the information being stored on the device. Users can document incidents in the form of text, audio, video, or photo recordings that are stored in a secure digital log, which can later be used as evidence for police intervention and prosecution of the perpetrator. The app is also intended for specialized and non-specialized counseling centers and other organizations, as well as for everyone who is looking for information related to domestic violence, such as online safety, stalking, harassment, or sexual violence.

Through a video, the app also showcases several types of help that are available to particularly vulnerable victims for free: Counseling centers for victims / What can the police do? / What does it look like in a reception centre / Intervention centers / Legal aid. There is also contact information for shelters that the user can reach directly through the app. And last but not least, there is a chapter on Leaving an abusive relationship (What is important to do before I leave? / What should I take with me? / Are there any risks associated with leaving? / What can I do to ensure my safety after leaving?).

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives. For more information on evaluation, click [here](#)

9. What were the reasons for setting up the project? Was this context analysed before the project was initiated and in what way (How, and by whom? Which data were used?)? In what way did this analysis inform the set-up of the project? (**Max. 150 words**)

The reason to develop the Bright Sky app was to give people a simple tool to assess their relationship and the danger they are in. According to the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, every fifth Czech woman has experienced physical or sexual violence from their partner. But this can also happen to men. And the children who have to grow up in a household with domestic violence? There are about 170 000 of them in the Czech Republic.

Starting the project in Czech Republic, there was an analysis of available services. It was concluded that information for victims of domestic violence and abuse is available but it is spread among various sources, which requires an active and time-consuming search on the web. Furthermore, the analysis has helped to pinpoint what information (types of violence, case studies,...) and services (helplines, shelters,...) to include in the app so that it would serve as a tool to recognize the warning signs and react – offer or find help.

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

The main objective of this project was to give people a simple tool to detect potentially dangerous relationships in time and to assess whether they are in danger. The secondary objectives were to reduce the number of cases of escalation (e.g. serious bodily harm, homicides, long-term psychological effects,...), spread awareness about domestic violence and the Bright Sky app as one of the tools that can help, and train police officers, social workers, and lawyers that can use the app in the execution of their duties. The *Vodafone Foundation* furthermore promoted the app to increase the number of downloads and the usage of the Bright Sky app.

11. Has there been a process evaluation?¹ Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what were the main results? Which indicators were used to measure the process? Did you make changes accordingly? (**max. 300 words**)

A beta version of the app was twice tested in 2019. First testing did a team from the Vodafone Foundation CZ. They found that the weather app wasn't in Czech and nor were the names of towns. Similarly, the app font was unable to showcase Czech characters such as ř,ě,ž,č,í,...

Second group of 15 people from law enforcement, non-profits, and academia was asked to test the app's functions. Besides bugs that caused the app to crash, they found:

- Videos not playing on all devices
- 'My journal' not sending the content
- 'Find help' locating Czech services in Britain

The majority of testers also recommended other changes, such as:

- Making it possible to change the icon and name of the app
- Adding SOS button to push when in danger
- Adding chat function to helplines and NGOs

However, that would require additional resources and it would differ the Czech app from the British and Irish one although the idea behind Bright Sky was to have one app for all markets – only adapting it to local laws and customs.

February 2021, in an extensive international evaluation of the entire Bright Sky project, Czech law enforcement, NGOs, and some DV victims were asked for feedback. Main findings were: too much text, not user-friendly, not blind-friendly, lack of advice on what evidence to record in the journal (relevance to police and courts), and need to adjust the cover mode to better protect the victims. This led to a new version of Bright Sky 3.0 reflecting those issues.

Another international survey in February 2022 comparing the old and new versions showed that user experience significantly improved.

Changes included *exempli gratia*:

- *My journal* - adding guiding information on what to record
- *Risk-assessment* - changing the order of questions, adding "not sure" answer and "Understand this question" feature
- *Find help* – filtering types of services
- Additional cover modes and possibility to change the icon of the app

Aspirant conducted an extensive evaluation of the entire project in 2022 resulting in a detailed strategy for the project and its expansion for next 5 years.

¹ **Process evaluation:** Also called *implementation evaluation*, or *monitoring*, this process documents **how the activities were implemented** in order to determine any deviations from the original planning. It facilitates finding explanations for when the results of the intervention are not as expected.

12. Has there been an outcome² or impact³ evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method were used and what were the main results? Which indicators were used to measure the impact? (**Max. 300 words**)

The project is being continuously evaluated and compared with the performance of local apps in other countries. For the Czech Republic, primarily the number of downloads of the app (over 7 000), visits to the bright-sky.org website (over 70 000), the number of directly/indirectly affected lives (97,000 / 227,000), and the use of particular functions in the app are evaluated.

The Police of the Czech Republic does not keep statistics about the victim's use of the Bright Sky CZ app. However, the app statistics like the number of downloads and visits to the website show that the app is being used both by those who want to help someone and by those who seek help for themselves. We have statistics from the app proving that people are using the relationship risk assessment questionnaire. The app is the first easily available tool ever for victims of domestic violence that allows them to safely record and store evidence of domestic violence that can be used as evidence in subsequent criminal or administrative proceedings.

Furthermore, we would like to note that the new version of the app from 2021 was found more synoptical, easier to understand, and accessible to the blind, which all makes it accessible to a wider spectrum of people that would otherwise have it very difficult to access the information and services Bright Sky offers.

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

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

Bright Sky CZ was the first app right after the British and Irish versions, and thus set the standards and processes for all other countries. It was primarily about the definition of copyright and other legal matters.

So one innovative factor is that we created this service in the Czech language (as

² **Outcome evaluation:** Measures the **direct effect** (i.e., extent of the changes) **of the intervention on the target group, population, or geographic area**. The information produced by the outcome evaluation determines at what level the **objectives were achieved**.

³ **Impact evaluation:** Measures **long-term effects** of the intervention on the target group, as well as **indirect effects** on the broader community. The information produced by the impact evaluation determines at what level the **ultimate goals** of the intervention were achieved.

well as in the English language with information related to the Czech Republic's legislation). Furthermore, the main innovation is described below, but please, keep in mind that this is not publicly available information! We do not usually communicate this, but it is an important innovation that we find we should mention here. Namely, it is a unique technological solution to increase the security of its users that the app offers. In Bright Sky CZ, it is possible to change the appearance of the icon of the app on the home screen. The user can thus choose whether the app will look like a weather forecast app, a calendar, or a game. The thing is, that when this app is open (after pressing on the chosen icon), it really opens the app with the appropriate content. The user gets to the real content of Bright Sky (domestic violence app), by long-pressing on the chosen icon.

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

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

The Vodafone Foundation Czech Republic reached out to the Ministry of the Interior requesting cooperation on this project. At the initiative of the Ministry of the Interior, a working group was formed consisting of the police officers from several departments of the Police of the Czech Republic and employees of the Department of Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior, the non-profit organization ROSA and the Vodafone Foundation. The group was lead by experts from Great Britain and cooperated with the co-author of the app, John Liversidge, a retired British police officer.

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

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

The project is financed by the Vodafone Foundation Czech Republic and the global Vodafone Group Foundation.

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

The Vodafone Foundation Czech Republic has already invested over 5 million Czech crowns in the Bright Sky project in the Czech Republic.

During Bright Sky's existence in the Czech Republic, thousands of leaflets were distributed, dozens of videos were created, the app was presented at dozens of events, and twice a year the Vodafone Foundation launches a new campaign to

promote it.

There were two managers from the Vodafone Foundation coordinating a 15-member team during the creation of the app. Today, the Vodafone Foundation's program manager manages the project on a part-time basis.

17. Has a cost-benefit analysis⁴ 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**)

Bright Sky and its use in the Czech Republic are subject to regular control by the Board of Directors of the Vodafone Foundation. They praised that Bright Sky is a specific and easily transferable help tool, as well as Bright Sky's involvement in the so-called Domestic Violence Academy, where Vodafone offers its know-how and a program to support employees experiencing domestic violence to other companies through free workshops for companies. Dozens of companies in the Czech Republic have already gone through the Domestic Violence Academy, and for example, the drugstore chain dm-drogerie markt was directly inspired and reported on the Bright Sky app in its magazine.

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

Yes, each country has different legislation, so it is necessary to adjust accordingly. Furthermore, examples of domestic violence based on police reports may vary.

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

Domestic violence and the education about it are relevant all over the EU. More information about the extent of the problem can be found here:
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report>

The Vodafone Global Foundation is committed to expanding Bright Sky to the 27 countries in the world where it operates. The app is currently available within the EU in Ireland, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Portugal, Hungary, Romania, and Italy. Slovakia and Poland have shown interest and negotiations are already happening in Slovakia.

⁴ **Cost-benefit analysis:** A type of economic evaluation that compares the direct and indirect cost of the resources employed in the intervention, with the equivalent economic value of the benefits.

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

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 to have quick access to help, a 3-minute relationship risk assessment questionnaire, important information, advice, and other services including their personal journal that allows victims to confidentially record and store evidence.

DETECT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EARLY