

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.

Romania

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

Romania's ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

The National Anti-Bullying Forum (part of the programme: "STAND-UP – Increase of the participation and role of the civil society in influencing and improving the public policies")

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.

21/06/2018 – 31/12/2019

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).

<http://dialoc.ro/> ; <http://dialoc.ro/fnab/>

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

The National Anti-Bullying Forum is a debate platform dedicated to the evaluation of the public policies proposals generated in the current project for the prevention and reduction of bullying phenomenon in Romania, at the same time aiming at raising awareness about the negative effects of all forms of bullying for children. The need for this initiative has become urgent as „bullying” had not been recognized in Romania at the official level and, as a consequence, it had not been regulated in the Romanian legislation, although the number of the cases associated with this type of abuse had increased every year. The actions implemented in the project are as follows:

1. the evaluation of the Romanian legislation in the field of child rights protection and the evaluation of the European legislation and best practices in the prevention of bullying;
2. the elaboration of a public policy proposal for the prevention and reduction of bullying phenomenon in Romania within a working group organised in the project including 57 representatives of public institutions and local authorities relevant in the field (eg: the Romanian Police – Research and Crime Prevention Institute, the Ministry of Education, the Ombudsman, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, School Inspectorates, General Directions for Social Assistance and Child Protection), children councils, parents’ federations, NGOs, teachers’ Unions and other unions active in the protection of children’s rights;
3. the sociological study at the national level "Față în față cu fenomenul bullying", an initiative which took into consideration the perspective of 915 children, 72 parents and 113 teachers towards the phenomenon <http://dialog.ro/fnab/>, a unique study about bullying in Romania given its tri-dimensional approach. Among other results, the study highlighted the urgent need for legislative regulations with reference to school bullying prevention and intervention measures while 72% of the children are victims of bullying.
4. the national awareness campaign organised in partnership with radio stations (Magic FM, Kiss FM, Rock FM, Societatea Română de Radiodifuziune), TV stations (Trinitas TV), press releases, press conferences, participation at TV and radio programmes for the promotion of the public policy proposal and the National Anti-Bullying Forum <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF47Ku27jkg>

The National Anti-Bullying Forum took place at the Palace of the Parliament, on 11-13 December 2019 and gathered 98 representatives and experts from institutions and authorities relevant in the child rights and education field, NGOs, unions, children councils, teachers’ federations, as well as European experts in bullying prevention. The Forum was officially opened by the Minister of Education, representatives of the Parliament, children – volunteers of Asociația Telefonul Copilului

<https://www.edu.ro/ministrul-monica-cristina-anisie-%E2%80%9Eeste-nevoies%C4%83-recunoa%C8%99tem-importan%C8%9Ba-unui-medi-educ%C8%9Bional-de> . The Forum offered the opportunity mainly for the final debate of the public policy proposals elaborated by the NGO and, among the other themes of discussion we mention: the role of the Parliament in supporting the public policy proposals elaborated by NGOs, coping strategies in bullying situations, children participation in the process of awareness and prevention of bullying, experience of other European states, the impact of bullying on the children's mental health, the role of the parents in developing a safe environment for children. The National Anti-Bullying Forum ended with the Children's Declaration, as a result of the ideas built in the Children's Workshop, one of the 5 workshops within the Forum.

The National Anti-Bullying Forum and the actions prior to its organization have set up the political support for the adoption of the law which recognizes bullying as a form of violence, giving it a definition and concrete measures for prevention. The National Anti-Bullying Forum had a definite impact, being the only event of its kind organized in Romania: <http://dialog.ro/fnab/>.

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 the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? Does it focus on raising citizens' awareness or does it apply other mechanisms? (**Max. 200 words**)

The project put on the public agenda the need for a legislative act to regulate bullying as a form of violence towards children and concrete prevention measures for the children to feel safe in the school environment. During the project, bullying was included as a form of violence in the Romanian legislation (<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/219895>) through a legislative initiative generated by the public policy proposal (<http://dialog.ro/fnab/>) elaborated by Asociatia Telefonul Copilului with the support of a working group including relevant institutions and authorities, children councils, parents federations, teachers unions, other unions active in the field of child rights at the national level that could bring their contribution in the process, as well as in the lobby and advocacy actions undertaken within the project. As a result of the project, as well, the European harmonized number for child helplines 116111 has become part of the Romanian legislation as a reference reporting instrument for children who want to address the issue of bullying, specific bullying prevention sessions have been introduced in the curriculum, continuous training programs for teachers, mechanisms of intervention (https://www.edu.ro/sites/default/files/fisiere/Legislatie/2020/OMEC_4343_20_20_norme%20antibullying.pdf). Raising citizens' awareness was addressed as well in the project through a national campaign disseminated on TV, radio,

social media (eg: <https://www.rfi.ro/social-116852-elevii-cer-profesori-empatici-lupta-anti-bullying>)

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.¹

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 need for this initiative became urgent as „bullying” had not been recognized in Romania at the official level and, as a consequence, it had not been regulated in the Romanian legislation, although the number of the cases associated with this type of abuse had increased every year. Since 2013, Asociatia Telefonul Copilului drew the attention about this phenomenon and the dramatic consequences that this type of abuse had on children: suicidal thoughts, depression, anxiety, exclusion and the legislation did not offer any solution. In 2016, Asociatia Telefonul Copilului registered at the level of the child helpline 116111 and the online counselling services offered to children and parents an increase of 25,41% in the number of the reported bullying cases, 2.212 more cases compared to the previous year and in 2018 an increase of 42,62% compared with 2017. (eg: https://adevarul.ro/news/societate/asociatia-telefonul-copilului-unul-doi-copii-victima-abuzului-tip-bullying-scoala-1_5c9b513c445219c57ebe9ba6/index.html)

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 the project was the elaboration of a public policy proposal for the prevention and reduction of the cases of bullying in school units, to be presented to the decision makers, debated during the National Anti-Bullying Forum and accepted for the improvement of the legislation in this respect. The secondary objectives of the project were: building the capacity of the organization to implement advocacy campaigns for the protection of children rights and building the capacity of the organization to elaborate alternative public policies proposals.

11. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what were the main results? Which

¹ 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>

indicators were used to measure the process? Did you make changes accordingly? (**max. 300 words**) - for more information on process evaluation, see *EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.9-10 & part 2 - section 2A*

The monitoring and evaluation represented a continuous process conducted by the Management Authority which awarded the grant to our organization and internally, by the management team of the project, according to their job description. The risks associated with building the political support for the public policy proposal to be accepted have been constantly evaluated and the National Anti-Bullying Forum played a significant role in creating the necessary platform for bringing together representatives of the groups affected by the lack of regulations and representatives of the decision makers for the final debate of the public policy proposal. The fact that all the entities approached by our organization actively got involved in all the stages of the project is an indicator of success. The fact that the public policy proposal was accepted by the decision makers and certain recommendations have already become part of the Romanian legislation is an indicator of success. The fact that mass media actively involved in the dissemination of the awareness campaign and the project's results is an indicator of success, as well.

12. 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? Which indicators were used to measure the impact? (**Max. 300 words**) - for more information on outcome or impact evaluation, see *EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.7-9 & part 2 - section 2A*

The solutions highlighted in the public policy proposal such as: the development of procedures for the identification and solution based actions in cases of bullying, themes about bullying to be included in the national curriculum, 116111 - the European harmonized number for child helplines as the reporting instrument for cases of bullying, teacher training programs, all these have already been adopted and integrated by the Ministry of Education in the methodological norms for the implementation of the Law 221/2019 which regulated the bullying type of abuse, as an addition to the Law of the National Education 1/2011.

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 National Anti-Bullying Forum has set up the political support for the adoption of the legislative project which recognizes bullying as a type of abuse, giving it a definition and concrete measures for prevention. The National Anti-

Bullying Forum had a definite impact, being the only event of its kind to have been organized in Romania: <http://dialoc.ro/fnab/>. This public debate event brought together representatives of the groups affected by the lack of regulations and representatives of the decision makers for the final debate of the public policy proposal. The children participation and their active involvement in all the stages of the public policy proposal elaboration process, as well children's demonstrative public debate played at the National Anti-Bullying Forum, the Children's Declaration as a result of the ideas expressed during the Children's Workshop at the Forum, also represented a significant innovative approach for the success of the project in the children's benefit.

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

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

Public institutions and local authorities relevant in the field (eg: the Romanian Police, the Ministry of Education, the Ombudsman, the National Council for Combating Discrimination, School Inspectorates, County Centers of Resources and Educational Assistance, General Directions for Social Assistance and Child Protection), children councils, parents' federations, NGOs, teachers' Unions and other unions active in the protection of children's rights were involved as stakeholders in the project and nominated 57 representatives to take part in all the stages of the project:

- the working group for the evaluation of the legislation and the elaboration of the anti-bullying public policy proposal
- the participation at the National Anti-Bullying Forum

Representatives of the Parliament supported the organization of the Forum, participated at the debates and influenced the improvement of the legislation. The official opening of the Forum was possible with the participation of the Minister of Education, representatives of the Parliament.

Media partners were involved, as well: radio stations (Magic FM, Kiss FM, Rock FM, Societatea Română de Radiodifuziune), TV stations (Trinitas TV, TVR http://stiri.tvr.ro/cresc-cu-rani---i-frica--in-romania--1-din-3-copii-este-afectat-de-bullying_853771_video.html#view)

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

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

The project has been funded by the European Union, through the European Social Fund.

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

The cost of the organization of the National Anti-Bullying Forum was supported through the "STAND-UP" programme, a programme funded by the European Union, with the amount of 24.500 Euro, excluding Asociatia Telefonul Copilului's own contribution to the project.

21. 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 result of the initiative was measured in the adoption of a legislative project which includes now the recommendations generated by the public policy proposal elaborated in the project: the official recognition of bullying as a form of violence towards children, the development of procedures for the identification and solution based actions in cases of bullying, themes about bullying to be included in the national curriculum, 116111 - the European harmonized number for child helplines as reporting instrument for cases of bullying, teacher training programs, all these have already been adopted and integrated by the Ministry of Education in the methodological norms for the implementation of the Law 221/2019 which regulated the bullying type of abuse, as an addition to the Law of the National Education 1/2011. Further continuous analysis will be conducted by our organization in school units in order to evaluate the impact of the legislation in practice.

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

The adjustments should be made according to the existing national legislation context in the field of bullying prevention and intervention. The methodology of the sociological study and the public debate forum experience can be replicated in any Member State, given the serious concern addressed by the issue of bullying. On the other hand, the National Anti-Bullying Forum can play an important role in the know-how transfer and best practices to be disseminated between Member States.

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

The project addresses an issue of high importance for any Member State as bullying is a form of violence that affects all the children in Europe, with long term severe consequences.

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

The need for “The National Anti-Bullying Forum” initiative has become urgent as „bullying” had not been officially recognized in Romania and, as a consequence, it had not been regulated in the Romanian legislation, although the number of the cases associated with this type of abuse had increased every year. The National Anti-Bullying Forum and the actions prior to its organization (the elaboration of a public policy proposal for the prevention and reduction of bullying phenomenon in Romania, the sociological study at the national level with the perspective of 915 children, 72 parents and 113 teachers towards the phenomenon, the national awareness campaign) have set up the political support for the adoption of the law and the methodological norms which recognize bullying as a form of violence, giving it a definition and concrete measures for prevention, taking into consideration the recommendation generated by the public policy proposal elaborated in the project.