

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.

Finland

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

ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

Intact Family family camps; in Finnish Ehjä perhe -perheleiritoiminta

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

Finnish Foundation for Supporting Ex-offenders

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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.

01/04/2014, the project is ongoing.

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).

Selvitys perheleirien kokemuksista 2017, Paju (Petri Paju, Study on the experiences of family camps, 2017).

https://www.lskl.fi/materiaali/lastensuojelun-keskusliitto/selvitys_perheleirien_kokemuksista.pdf

Ehjä perhe- toiminnan perheleirien vaikuttavuusselvitys 2020, Alanen & Sassi (Noora Alanen & Tarja Sassi, Study on the effectiveness of *Intact Family camps*, 2020).

<https://www.krits.fi/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Ehj%C3%A4-perhe-toiminnan-perheleirien-vaikuttavuusselvitys.pdf>

<https://www.krits.fi/saatio/palvelumme/ehja-perhe-toiminta/perhe-ja-parisuhdeleirit/>

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

The target group of *Intact Family* (Ehjä perhe) activity is men and women convicted of a crime and their families. *Intact Family* is a family camp model aimed at supporting the relationships between the prisoner and his/her family. By supporting the prisoner's family bond, *Intact Family* aims to prevent recidivism by attaching the perpetrators to non-crime family life and through that to society. Several studies indicate that maintaining inmates' family relationships can reduce reoffending (see e.g. Fraser 2017). The goal of the camp is also to support the detachment of prisoners from organised crime and gang life and from membership of family-based or clan-like criminal groups.

The Finnish Criminal Sanctions Agency (RISE) selects the participants for the family camps. Security and rehabilitation needs are the main concerns when making the selection. Consideration is given, for example, to the fact that the participants do not come from competing criminal families or gangs. The length of the prison sentence has no bearing on whether the prisoner can attend the camp. Furthermore, in its decision-making, RISE also considers the sentence plan, the prisoner's motivation, and the prisoner's social and family situation. The careful selection process carried out in RISE together with *Intact Family* minimises the risk that the goals of the camp would be jeopardised. Once the selection process is completed, *Intact Family* begins its preparations for the camp and contacts with families by building connections and trust.

The methodical and goal-oriented work techniques used in camps are unique practices in Finland. Women in organised crime structures may be victims of severe oppression. The open dialogue about parenthood conducted at family camps helps the participants to reflect on the family-based crime structures. In addition, when striving for a crime-free life, the use of narcotics/intoxicants and how to break free plays an important role in many cases. The methods used at family camps enable the thinking of individuals and families to shift towards new ways of acting in the future. Individuals' strengths are supported, and hope is given with regard to a crime-free life. Camps offer professional help, but peer support is also very valuable. The *Intact Family* approach is based on the so-called attachment work method. Families that have participated in camps are regularly invited to take part in other events organised by *Intact Family*.

The camps take place throughout Finland, and prisoners from both closed and open prisons can apply. Each year four 5-day camps are implemented for four or five families or couples. The family camps have reached approximately 54 participants per year. All of the employees working at these family camps are professionals in the field of social work, and they have years of experience. The team has remained the same for a long time, which helps to create a positive and innovative atmosphere during and after the camps.

Intact family camps have been and are conducting follow-up studies on the experiences of the participants and workers.

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**)

The family camps establish and support the bonds between family members. Stronger family bonds distance the prisoner from his/her ties to the criminal way of life and to family-based organised crime. The camps highlight the meaning of what healthy family life is and how to achieve it. The camps can also empower parents both to understand the risk of over-generational criminal activity and to show the value of law-abiding behaviour to their children. The camps have structured, daily schedules and programmes that

support parenthood and help participants to break free from ongoing criminal activity. The camps give an alternative to family ties based on crime and violence.

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**)

Family camps were transferred to *Intact Family* in 2014, after the original non-governmental organisation ended their leisure-time oriented camp operations. *Intact Family* considered it important that prisoners and their loved ones could spend time together as a family during imprisonment. The role of the goal-oriented programme and professional support offered during the camps was strengthened in order to keep the families together and break family-based crime structures. Potentially breaking free from organised and ethnicity-based criminal groups is made possible as well by bringing family relationships to the forefront. The financier's stipulation was that the camps could not be just a place to spend time together, but that they should be a chance for the rehabilitation of the prisoner and his/her family towards a law-abiding and crime-free family life.

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

- To give the prisoner and his/her family the opportunity to have goal-oriented leisure time and intimacy during the prison sentence so that the bond between family members is strengthened.
- To reduce repeat offending and to break family-based crime structures by cutting ties to extended families that have a long criminal history and to (ethnic) family-based organised crime groups that support the criminal way of life.
- To enforce parental skills and to prevent over-generational criminal behaviour so that the children of the prisoner and his/her partner would also be freed from the criminal lifestyle.
- To provide professional support, structured programmes as well as peer support to reach the objectives

The objectives of the family camps are based on research indicating that supporting family ties reduces recidivism by 39% (e.g. Farmer, 2017).

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**)

Internal process evaluation has been carried out from the beginning. How the camp programme, activities and premises are organised is evaluated during the camps. The participants complete questionnaires on their experiences during the camps (scale 0–5); these responses are used to develop and improve the camp programme. The participants have considered the programme and the content of the camps to be very good or good (4,5). Those who answered did not give any negative feedback. They wished the camps could have been longer.

During the camps, the internal process evaluation conducted by the staff members is also a crucial part of the process and takes place daily. Constant observation of activities gives the staff the opportunity to improve their activities, to better identify participants' needs and potentially to adjust their agenda. These evaluations have shown organisers the importance of this goal-oriented work aimed at promoting a crime-free life. Internal process evaluation on the implementation of the camps is also conducted for the financier (STEA) on an annual basis.

12. Has there been an outcome² or impact³ evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method

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.

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.

were used and what were the main results? Which indicators were used to measure the impact? (**Max. 300 words**)

Internal outcome evaluation (Alanen & Sassi 2020) investigated what sort of effects the camps have had on the participants' daily life and how the attachment approach of activities is realised (N=16). The study showed that the camps have brought positive experiences in managing family relationships and a long-lasting impact on the participants' lives. The participants received tools for dealing with problems and for discussions. Parent-child relationships deepened and the couple relationship improved. The respondents stated that the fathers had learned parenting skills and taking responsibility for the children. The camps have played a major role in generating an everyday relationship between parent and child and in strengthening it. The attachment approach was also realised with regard to some families, as the camps made it easier to seek *Intact Family*'s services after release because the employees had become familiar during the camps. The respondents felt that the camp helped them achieve their own goals, and without exception they described the goals as proceeding in the desired direction. The employees' evaluation supported this observation. The averages for all camps exceeded the grade of four.

According to the results, the *Intact Family* camp activities that began in 2014 have gained an established place in prisoner rehabilitation activities. The activities remembered best by the participants were the group or couple discussions and activities together as a family. In the feedback, the participants wished there had been more discussions about the couple relationship with an employee.

External outcome evaluation (Paju 2017) on the experiences of *Intact Family* participants also indicates that the camps have had successful effects for the families.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to make a 'pure' impact assessment that would determine the effects of the camps on reducing repeat offending and cutting ties to extended families with a long criminal history and (ethnic) family-based organised crime groups that support the criminal way of life.

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**)

No other family camps for prisoners are organised in Finland. Even globally it is very rare that prisoners from both open and closed prisons can attend a family camp. The close cooperation with the Criminal Sanctions Agency makes it possible to organise these camps, as they oversee the security.

The *Intact Family* approach is innovative because it brings the family together and helps them to work together towards a healthy, crime-free family life. The aim is to break free of family-based organised crime. The *Intact Family* approach is based on the so-called attachment work method. Families that have participated in camps are regularly invited to take part in other events organised by *Intact Family*. Many families become clients after the parent is released from prison. Camps lower the threshold to seeking *Intact Family*'s help later because the employees are already known.

In addition, the work methods are innovative. The whole family takes part in the structured, goal-oriented programmes. The adult discussions in the camps follow several structured programmes, such as *Knots in the relationship*, *Parenthood tools*, *Good life model* and many others. The focal topics of couple 'therapy' are trust, how to fight well, sexuality and love.

In parents' groups, the parents work through such issues as their own childhood growing up in a family with a history of crime and violence, and how to cut ties to that background. Examples of the topics in children's groups are how it feels to grow up in a family with possibly a long history of crime and how it has made the children feel. These topics are of course age-sensitive. Peer support and the skilled professionals working at the camps make it possible for the families to begin their change towards a healthy family life.

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**)

Family camps are carried out by the Finnish Foundation for Supporting Ex-offenders in close cooperation with the Finnish Criminal Sanction's Agency (RISE). RISE is in charge of the application proceedings and supervision of the prisoners while they are at family camps. One-off camps have been also organised in cooperation with various non-governmental organisations, e.g. Kalliola Settlement (*Strong support* and *Looks like a dad*) and Vuolle Settlement (*Via Vis*). The camps have also incorporated purchased services, e.g. anger management coaching.

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 whole project is funded yearly by the Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA).

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

Approximately 50 000 euros per year. This consists of *Intact Family* counsellors' pay and the pay for the outside counsellors hired only for the camps. The sum also includes the rent for the camping resorts, food, purchased services (anger management coaching), transport, etc. Family camps have been held for approximately six years.

The camps are estimated to cost 132 euros per day per adult. This is considerably less than the cost of a day in prison, which in 2019 was 214 euros.

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**)

A cost–benefit analysis has not been done as it is very difficult to demonstrate which improvements in families' lives are a benefit from the camps and which derive from something else in their lives. It is not easy to show a direct monetary benefit of the camps because it is difficult to determine what improvements in the families' situations are linked specifically with the family camps.

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

The critical element to replicating the family camps is cooperation with the local Criminal Sanction's Agency. A contract with them is essential in order to confirm the policies and security details of the camps and who oversees them. The professionals working at the camps must have multi-professional backgrounds and strong knowledge of children, families and adults with a criminal history. Many families come from family-based crime families, represent different ethnic minorities and, possibly, come from organised crime. The camp counsellors therefore need to be educated in all these fields. No

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.

tailored training is available, and the counsellor selection process must consider each applicant's work history and what attributes will enable them to be successful in helping the families at the camps. The methods used at the camps are programmes that anyone can study and replicate, e.g. *Knots in the relationship*, *Parenthood tools* and *Good life model*. The tools needed for ongoing support and rehabilitation should be available so that families' needs can be met after release from prison and help can be given in breaking away from family-based and organised crime groups.

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

Family-based and organised crimes are even more common in other countries of Europe than they are in Finland. Family camps would be a great method to implement in other countries in order to make healthy family bonds more important to prisoners, so that criminal life would be less attractive. If the parents begin shifting towards a normal life, the children are given a chance to break away from the circle of criminal life. Supporting and rehabilitating the parents creates a better future for the children and prevents them from continuing their parents' way of life. *Intact Family* focuses on the prevention of repeat offending and supports detachment from family-based organized crime. In addition, through early intervention, *Intact Family* prevents the family's children from becoming involved in a life of crime.

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

Intact Family activity has built a family camp model that has proved to be an effective support for the family and close relationships of those serving a prison term. The family camps are closely linked with the competition theme, and the participants have been prisoners whose background has included organised crime committed by family-based or clan-like criminal groups. The content of camp activity, built with a planned and goal-oriented work approach, is unique both in Finland and abroad. By supporting intimate relationships, we strive to prevent repeat offending by attaching sentenced prisoners to crime-free family life and, through this, to society. Open discussion of parenthood also helps prisoners to consider the circle of over-generational criminal behaviour and intoxicant abuse, and breaking free from it. The methods applied at the camp enable the learning of new action models among both individuals and whole families. During the camps, a confidential discussion link is formed between participants and counsellors. This

serves as an intensive and memorable intervention in the clients' life situation and binds families to continue using services once released.