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.

Germany

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

Additional project

3. What is the title of the project?

"Sicherheitspotenziale im höheren Lebensalter" ("Security potentials in later life")

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.

Start: 03/2012; end: 07/2014.

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).

A full project report (in German language) is available via

http://www.dhpol.de/de/hochschule/Departments/sipo.php. The website also presents brochures and training materials emerging from the project.

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

"Sicherheitspotenziale im höheren Lebensalter" ("Security potentials in later life")

Building upon the 2008 study "Kriminalitäts- und Gewalterfahrungen im Leben alter Menschen" (coordinated by the Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony) that looked at crime and violence as experienced by the elderly, and the action programme "Sicher leben im Alter" ("Secure life in old age"), the final report on the project "Sicherheitspotenziale im höheren Lebensalter" which translates as "Security potentials in later life" has also been published by now. The project and the action programme have been implemented by German Police University.

The project had a dual focus: empowering seniors to lead a secure life and addressing the special vulnerability of elderly and very old persons to property crime.

Safeguarding seniors' quality of life: The aim was to analyse everyday strategies employed by the elderly to increase their own safety and to enhance the capacity for security-oriented self-care by means of a training programme. This approach seeks to encourage the seniors' active participation in social life to improve their quality of life while taking proper care for their own safety.

Addressing **property crime**, the project looked at ways to improve the protection from specific types of risk, such as scams and con schemes, but also the risk of financial fraud by relatives etc. and the grey area between criminal offences and fraudulent business practices targeting older adults.

The expert team concluded that each of the various areas studied calls for highly specific measures to effectively protect the elderly. They also stressed the importance of interdisciplinary and inter-institutional co-operation. Moreover, measures should not be directed solely at the seniors themselves, but increasingly engage third persons to act as their 'guardians'. A case in point are bank employees who were made aware of fraudulent practices and common types of scams and financial exploitation and received training from the team on how to pick up on red flags and take precautions as necessary. However, also friends, relatives and neighbours can be senior safety guardians.

Guidance documents have been drafted for both project areas that can be accessed from the website of the Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei.

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**)

In the course of the project, two training programmes have been developed and implemented – addressing diverse vulnerabilities of senior citizens, strengthening their competencies of self-protection, and activating capable guardians:

- A training programme for senior citizens on security-related topics. The programme addresses senior citizens' competencies to care for themselves and their own security (activating prevention by taking precautions and encouraging friends, relatives and neighbours to become senior safety guardians). A manual for trainers is provided.
- A training programme for bank employees on detecting and handling incidents of possible financial exploitation of seniors (banks / bank employees as "capable guardians" in some types of offences).

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

The project – in its different components – addresses both senior citizens and possible "guardians" against fraud and property offences and raises their awareness of crime prevention issues.

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

10. What was the reason for setting up the project? What problem(s) did it aim to tackle?

The rationale behind the project was:

Older persons, especially in their "third age" are experts in the field of their own safety and security. However, these capacities can be enhanced through a training programme.

The field of property offences targeting older adults presents significant threats to older persons especially in their "fourth age". Prevention strategies can be based upon a "capable guardian approach".

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[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

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

Before implementing a training programme for older citizens, four rural and urban communities / neighbourhoods were analysed with regard to older person's security related concerns and behaviour. Analyses were based on interviews and group discussions with seniors and local practitioners in relevant fields.

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

The project had a dual focus: empowering seniors to lead a safe life and addressing the special vulnerability of elderly and very old persons to property crime.

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**)

The project was subdivided into two modules addressing the topics mentioned above. The project outline provided a detailed work plan and schedule for each module. Progress was monitored in annual reports to the German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth which funded the project.

In order to yield the most effective outcome, the project was supervised by a scientific board consisting of scholars and key actors in the areas of gerontology, victimology and crime prevention. The research team provided comprehensive progress reports to the board twice a year.

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

An internal process evaluation was conducted. Basically, the project components could be implemented as intended. Recruitment of participants for senior citizen trainings proved to be difficult in some areas. An intended control group of bank employees had to be substituted by a wait-list control group.

15. Has there been an outcome or impact evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method where 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

Both training programmes were evaluated internally.

All sessions of the training programme for senior citizens were evaluated by the participants by way of a written survey, and the programme concluded with a group discussion in each community / neighbourhood . In both evaluations, all participants rated the programme "positive" or "very positive".

The training programme with bank employees was carried out in 14 banks, reaching 261 counter staff, and conducted with a wait-list control group. It was evaluated by means of a written survey immediately before and after the training session, and again 10-12 weeks later to assess medium-term impact. In order to assess the perspective of management, the training, results and further strategies were discussed in a workshop with the participating banks. The evaluation of both participants and management was very positive, in particular with regard to content, teaching concept, and target achievement (sensitisation and establishing strategies for dealing with suspected cases of fraud); furthermore, the programme has had an impact on the strategical treatment of the issue in some of the banks.

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 is innovative in different ways:

- It addresses topics of everyday security needs in later life.
- It builds upon older persons' capacities to care for their own security.
- It provides an in-depth analysis of threats to older person's property.
- It addresses bank employees as possible "capable guardians".
- It develops and implements a training programme for older persons (with 4 main topics: Protection against property offences/ Secure handling of modern technical equipment/ Self-assertiveness in everyday encounters/ Dialogue and encounters with local youths).
- It develops and implements a training programme for bank employees on scams, frauds and exploitation targeting the elderly.

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**)

Throughout the project, German Police University cooperated with Zoom – Society for Prospective Developments (NGO based in Göttingen). Urban and rural communities and banks were crucial partners with regard to the training programmes.

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 was funded by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

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

The overall budget of the project was ca. 495,000 €. Human resources included about 65 person months for researchers / project managers; additional staff costs occurred with regard to hiring trainers (for both training programmes developed and implemented in 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**)

A cost-benefit analysis has not been conducted.

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

Senior citizen training: everyday security needs in the respective country should be assessed (e.g. via a focus group) before fine-tuning the programme to country conditions.

Bank staff training: legal frameworks may vary; phenomenology of deceptive property offences may vary over time and between member states and regions, although basic strategies can be expected to be very similar.

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

There is a growing older population in all member states. Security issues are closely linked to quality of life in old age. Property offences targeting older persons are widespread in Europe; partially, they are committed as organized

crime and trans-border crime.

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

The project focused on empowering elderly and very old persons to lead a secure life, and on addressing their particular vulnerability to property crime.

Safeguarding seniors' quality of life: Seeking to encourage seniors' active participation in social life and to improve their quality of life while taking proper care for their own safety, the project analysed everyday strategies employed by the elderly to increase their own safety and aimed to enhance the capacity for security-oriented self-care by means of a training programme.

Addressing property crime, the project looked at ways to improve the protection from specific types of scams and fraud targeting older adults and developed and implemented a sensitisation and intervention training programme for bank employees.

The researchers concluded that each of the areas studied calls for highly specific measures to effectively protect the elderly and stressed the importance of engaging third persons to act as their 'guardians'.