

Short description of the project

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1. -INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is a general problem involving all the countries, independently of their development level and that takes place at any social scale.

The international community, specially within the Union European area, has recognised that the problem of violence against women is a violation of the fundamental human rights, and therefore an attack against the victim's right to life, security, freedom, dignity and psico-physical integrity and besides means an obstacle for the development of all democratic society.

2.- OBJECTIVES

The considered objectives are the following:

- To improve preventive actions on ill-treatment against women in domestic environment
- To progress with the efficiency of the protection measures taken against possible attacks once the facts have been reported and precautionary measures against the abuser have been implemented.
- To get a better response that the already implemented one in this subject from the point of view of immediate attention to the victim by making a personal assignment of prospective victims to each police officer, in such a way that with this performance the role of the Community Police becomes reinforced, as it will exist a permanent interrelation.
- To complete the circle of the initiatives adopted by the NPF (National Police Force) in the field of the fight against domestic violence, by filling the existing gap of the most immediate protection for women that have already been victims of ill-treatment.

- To improve the response to be given by these Institutions to the Government provisions contemplated in the “II Comprehensive Performance Plan against Domestic Violence”.
- To create a confidence climate that allows the encouragement of reporting ill-treatment criminal behaviours against women.
- To foster and develop new prevention and self-protection measures against violence in the family environment.
- To encourage and facilitate the Social Mediator tasks on battered woman care.
- To improve co-ordination at institutional level to reap the benefits of the programs and actions in the preventive area that are being developed in other fields.

3. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

3.1. Central and Peripheral Level

Central Level

It is established a centralised Service for Prevention, Assistance and Protection of battered women within the Proximity (Community) Policing and Public Relations Unit.

Peripheral level

At peripheral level it is foreseen that all the National Police units competent in Public Order/Citizens Security issues will have a basic core consisting of officials exclusively devoted to the prevention, assistance and protection tasks of battered women

3.2. Geographical and Quantitative Distribution of the Police Officers of the Unit.

From now on up to the end of the current year 200 police officers will be performing the necessary action for protection, assistance, and Prevention of battered women. They will be posted all around the Spanish territory, and it is foreseen the recruitment of new police officers for this Unit

3.3. Geographical and quantitative Distribution of the Women Taking Advantage of the Program

The estimates made about the number of women included in the program on 15th October 2004, give a figure of 1,135 women out of which 651 have been removed from the program for getting improved their situation due to different reasons.

4.- OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONING

The first thing the UPAP (*) members do is to interview the abused women in their own family environment and to offer them the possibility to avail themselves of the police prevention programme implemented through the Unit. Very often, the women have already reported the aggressions to the police on one or several occasions, and they file the

request for the protection order, that is subsequently transferred to the Court together with the corresponding police statement. In any case, in all instances of domestic violence it is mandatory to inform the victims of the existence of the protection order, the measures it may lead to, and the possibility for them to request it. The protection order granted by the judge is then communicated to the police department, and where there is an UPAP Unit in place, its members are the ones who will assist and protect these women, in so far as it is possible, against any further aggressions liable to endanger their personal safety either physically or psychologically.

In the course of the first interviews the UPAP members hold with women who are the victims of domestic violence in order to inform them of the purpose of the protection programme and offer them their assistance, the officers collect information regarding their personal family environment. Their starting point is the knowledge of the women's situation on the basis of their previous formal complaints to the police or of the judicial decisions taken against their aggressors. The purpose is to get to know any aspects of the woman's daily life that need be taken into account in order to carry out an effective prevention effort against any possible aggressions.

The woman is offered the possibility to avail herself of the protection programme, and is informed of how it works. If she decides to enter the programme, an officer of the UPAP is assigned to her as from that very moment with the task of assisting and protecting her. She is

(¹) N. de T.: Unidad de Prevención, Asistencia y Protección (Prevention, Assistance and Protection Unit).

given a mobile phone the first three buttons of which correspond respectively to the telephone numbers of the officer charged with her protection, to the 091 Room (general police number) in her town, and to the Coordination Room of the Comisaría General de Seguridad Ciudadana (General Police Department for Public Security) - the three levels of communication described above – and (she) is explained how it works. From then on, the victim is in permanent contact with the police officer of the UPAP via the mobile phone, and can get in touch with him/her immediately, by just pressing a button of her phone.

Thus, the officers of the UPAPs can directly respond to the requests of the victims of domestic violence and give them advise at any precise moment. The functions carried out by these officers, as already described above, not only include police aspects of prevention, monitoring and surveillance, but also those of advise and assistance in the solution of the problems the victims may encounter as regards the different aspects of their everyday lives. In short, this constant and direct contact with the women makes it possible to act promptly in the event of an imminent aggression, since a woman can warn the officer assigned to her for her protection via a simple procedure. In the event of a violation of the restraining order, he/she will see to it that the police resources necessary for her protection come to the scene as quickly as possible in order to arrest the aggressor and bring him to the judicial authorities.

The UPAP officers also interview the persons accused of domestic violence in order to get a first-hand knowledge of the abuser's profile and to evaluate the victim's risk of undergoing a possible aggression. At the

same time they stay alert for any court rulings regarding him and inform the victim immediately.

5.- RESULTS

Up to October 15th of the current year, none of the women included in the program has been victim of ill-treatment thanks to the received attention.

From the very first moment, relevant police actions have taken place, during which were arrested -upon request of the UPAP police officers- some battered women benefited from the program abusers charged of serious contempt of court offences (violation of the restraining orders). Those actions were very positively regarded by the media.

What is the short, medium and long term objective of the project?: These are included in the description of the Project.

¿What are the activities in the project? They are pointed out in the description of the Project.

Is the project to address:

X situational

X offender or

X victim

Orientated causes? Namely: Protection for Women. Restraining order and/or abusers prosecution

Do's: The characteristics of the Project allow an important flexibility in its implementation

Don'ts: An involvement of all the social, educational and other readers has not been yet achieved, mainly in the first phases of the problem.

Give a short description of the problem?: Violence against women is a generalised problem that affects all the countries, irrespective of the level of development and it occurs in all social classes.

Since when is it a problem?: It is a generalised problem in different time and places.

Is it possible to give any data regarding the problem?: There are statistics on this matter.

Describe the type of offenders? Males with a marital and/or affective relationship with victims.

What is their modus operandi? Assaults and abuse, occasionally with a fatal ending.

Who are the victims? Women are the victims.

What are the causes? They must be analysed by professionals of different areas.

Do's: Protection for an important number of women that demand it and a greater subjective security is provided.

Don'ts: The family is a social subsystem where criminal activities made in its context may hardly emerge.

Is there a projectplan?: There is a Plan of the Program arranged in sequences.

How is the project customized for the local situation and context? It is orientated to the individualization of the Project.

Do's: The philosophy of the Program allows its implementation in different contexts and ambits.

Don'ts: The implementation of the program may face some reluctances in certain cultural ambits, specially if these cultures do not consider a full equality between sexes.

Which –both public and private- partners are involved in each phase of the project?: Ministry of Labour and Welfare, Direction-General of the Police, Institute of Women, Women Attention Service and the Spanish State Residents Association Confederacy.

What role and task does each partner have?: These are specified in the section of Functions, within the Project.

Who gave the input on the know-how?: The different associations in a coordinated way did.

How is the project financed?: By means of a state allowance.

Did the project effect them how it was meant to, or also others? It is working as it was planned.

Do's: The participation of different Public and/or Private Institutions makes easier to face the problem in a safer way.

Don'ts: Some disagreements or malfunctions in the coordination of the different actors may occasionally occur.

Has the project been evaluated? Yes, it has.

What was evaluated? The level of protection given to those women benefited from the Program.

At what stage did the evaluation take place?: It is an on-going evaluation.

Who did the evaluation?: There are not joint assessment organs, the statistical data themselves are the main references. They are collected in the Central Organ of the UPAP.

What are the results? Excellent; by the moment there has not been any victimised woman between those benefited by the Program.

Are the goals of the project achieved?: The Project goes on achieving its aims satisfactorily.

Do's: The characteristics of the legal right to be protected allow a considerable consent in the implementation of the Program.

Don'ts: