

## **ECPA/BPC 2007**

### **Please answer the following questions in English.**

1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project?  
(Only one ECPA entry per country plus up to two other projects.)

ECPA entry for Denmark

2. What is the title of the project?

Dialogue Against Domestic Violence. A preventive and treatment project for violent men and their families in Denmark.

3. Please give a short general description of the project.

Dialogue Against Domestic Violence (DADV), is a Danish national prevention and treatment project for male perpetrators since 2002, for the female partners with counselling since 2003, and for the children in the family with referral to social authorities since 2002.

In 2007 DADV will start a trauma counselling programme for the female partners and a counselling programme for the children.

Thus DADV has offices in Copenhagen, Århus and Odense and two teams available for the Danish municipalities.

DADV is financed by the Ministry of Social affairs and is part of the national strategy of the fight against violence.

DADV is a NGO programme under the Danish Foundation Askovgaarden, a national non governmental organisation, with headquarter in Copenhagen, Denmark. Askovgaarden was founded in 1943.

4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project?

Objectives for DADV:

Combat domestic violence.

Give a substantial support to the battered women.

Give a substantial support to children living in families with parental violence.

Give treatment to male perpetrators to prevent further violence in or outside the family.

Give treatment support to the female partners - victims.

Having research programme covering the intervention programmes.

Cooperate with universities to cover the practical intervention with research related to the practical action.

Develop prevention, support and treatment programmes of best practice in the field of

domestic violence for the three target groups. Best practice must hold an evidence and outcome model.  
Offer training in methods related to the subject to all professional groups related to domestic violence.  
Have an international network of partners.  
Influence the political scene related to the subject.

5. How was the project implemented?

In 2002 DADV have implemented a prevention and treatment model:  
**The Prevention Model:** DADV have made a nation wide campaign of prevention and intervention in relation to Domestic Violence consisting of conferences and supervision of relevant staff person in municipalities, police stations, Probation offices,, Women's shelters and crisis centres and other NGOs. Around 4000 persons have been participating in this campaign.

6. Were partners involved in planning and/or development and/or implementation of the project? If so, who were they, and what were their roles?

Partners of DADV have been the following:

- a. Support group to implement and develop the project: Association of the Danish Shelters for Women, representative for the Danish Bar of Defence, Danish University of Education.
- b. Cooperation with social authorities in the municipalities, police, probation offices, hospitals, Women's shelters and crisis centres.

DADV have implemented an evidence and outcome model in the programme. 275 male perpetrators have attended the programme since the start in 2002. The female partners have received counselling and the children have been referred to social authorities when relevant.

7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project?

8. Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

The programme have had the first evaluation, from medio 2002 – medio 2006, where 236 male perpetrators have filled out a questionnaire for their childhood – adolescent – adulthood, a genogram of their generational structure, a sociogramme for the childhood – adolescent – adulthood. Finally they have filled out Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory, MCMI III.

The evaluation have been a cooperation between Askovgaarden, The Danish University of Education, Institute of Pedagogic Psychology and Institute of the Theory of Personality and Psychopathology, Fjorden, Roskilde.  
In this programme research is an integrated part of praxis.

9. What were the results? How far were the objectives of the project achieved?

### **Conclusion of research DMV, 2002 – 2006.**

DADV have had a running research design integrated since the start in 2002.. The first cohort will be C – 1, from medio 2002 to medio 2006.

The participants in this research will be all male perpetrators that voluntarily have been part of the project in this period of time.

Totally 268 perpetrators have been in the project in the research period C - 1.

22 investigations were not valid because of incomplete replies.

10 persons have not been violent, but were afraid to do so. They did not follow the programme, but will be part of the control group.

The final number of participants in the research will be 236 perpetrators: N = 236.

### **Conclusion of demographic – social – violent facts of the male perpetrators, 2003 – 2006, DADV.**

The total population: N = 236.

50% of the total population, N = 119, go through the entire programme.

50% of the total population, N = 117, drop out from the programme.

The typical perpetrator participating in DADV, N = 236, can be characterized as follows:

- Danish citizen.
- Age, between 21 – 45.
- Father has a four year education at bachelor level.
- Mother has a four year education at bachelor level.
- The perpetrator has an education at bachelor level and is working.
- The perpetrator live in a city.
- The perpetrator has been in the same school during childhood and adolescence.
- During childhood the perpetrator had a best friend, girlfriend and was active sexually.
- The sexual debut was between the years of 13 and 15.
- The parents of the perpetrator have no abuse.
- 50% of the perpetrators have a abuse of alcohol.
- 50% of the perpetrators have committed a crime.
- The perpetrator has lived with violence during his entire life.
- Violence committed of other than the perpetrator will typically be physical violence.
- The violence of the perpetrator will be physical, characterized mostly of shakes, blows, suppression and psychical abuse.
- The violence will continue for a longer period of time.
- The perpetrator see the causes of violence because of powerlessness, quarrel, jealousy, alcohol.
- One third of the female partners have had treatment in an emergency room.
- 50% of the female partners have had contacts to social authorities.
- On fifth of the perpetrators have been reported to the police and two third of those perpetrators had been reported and are convicted.
- The perpetrator has a general violent behaviour.

82, 2% of the perpetrators have witnessed violence in their original family. In 46% of the incidence the mother has been perpetrated the violence and in 52% the father has perpetrated the violence.

**Conclusion of personality from Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory, MCMI – III.**

The total population, N = 236, is differentiated in three clusters and from axis 1 and 2, as described in Diagnostic and Statistic Manual DSM IV, 1994.

MCMI – III has two significant outcome on the personality scale:

- 75 – 84, showing trait structure of personality disorders in the personality.
- 85 – 100, showing disorders in the personality according to the clusters.

The conclusion, from the MCMI-III for perpetrators in DADV, will be that 136 perpetrators have personality disorders and therefore need a treatment for a longer period of time.

73 perpetrators have disorder traits and need treatment for that.

27 perpetrators have no significant disorders of the personality but need skills training.

It is important to have a realistic knowledge of the disorders of the perpetrators if you want to have a proper intervention and a good outcome.

The length of the intervention programme must be, at least, one year if you have a population of perpetrators with personality disorders.

50% of the perpetrators drop out of DADV. It is unfortunately a high number but equivalent to the international experiences for a population of perpetrators that voluntarily comes to programmes.

Around 20% of the perpetrators dropping out of DADV is coming back to the programme and finish the programme.

In the year to come scientific articles will be produced from the research of DADV and published internationally. Further notice will be given on [www.askovgaarden.dk](http://www.askovgaarden.dk)

10. Are there reports or documents available on the project? In print or on the Web? Please, give references to the most relevant ones.

For further information see [www.askovgaarden.dk](http://www.askovgaarden.dk), (with an English summary) and [www.dialogmodvold.dk](http://www.dialogmodvold.dk), (without an English summary.)

### **Brief description of Dialogue Against Domestic Violence (DADV)**

Research in Denmark has demonstrated that thousands of women live with domestic violence in Denmark, around 40.000 Danish women will each year have, at least, one incident of domestic violence.

Internationally there has been a growing understanding that intervention programmes will be a strategy to eliminate the domestic violence by treating the violent man and protect the female partner and the children.

The Danish Government launched an action plan for domestic violence in 2002 holding four main themes:

- Support to the victims for domestic violence.
- Action towards the perpetrators.
- Dissemination of knowledge of domestic violence to relevant professionals. .
- General information.

**Dialogue Against Domestic Violence (DADV)**, is a Danish national treatment programme for male perpetrators, for the female partners and for the children in the family. DADV has offered treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence since 2002 and since 2004 on a national basis.

DADV is financed by the Ministry of Social affairs and is part of the national strategy. DADV focus on the issues concerning perpetrators violent behaviour and on what causes that behaviour. The man and his behaviour is the starting point for the treatment process and the therapy.

DADV support the female partner victim with a treatment programme focusing on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

DADV is starting groups for children in the families with domestic violence.

Research and experience have shown that individual and group therapy, based on the cognitive theory, is the most effective treatment for this target group. DADV has developed a treatment programme based on cognitive method and thinking. The program will help and support the perpetrator in changing his behaviour and personal stands.

Individual treatment will be based on psychodynamic theories and theories of personality disorder.

82,2% of the perpetrators have witnessed violence in their original family. In 46% of the incidence the mother has been perpetrated the violence and in 52% the father has perpetrated the violence. DADV ´s treatment program based on cognitive methods and thinking´s have shown a positive effect in changing the perpetrators behaviour and personal change.