

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.)

Portuguese Association for Victim Support application to the European Crime Prevention Award - 2007 Competition

2. What is the title of the project?

Project IUNO – awareness-raising and information on domestic and sexual violence

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

Project IUNO — awareness-raising and information on domestic and sexual violence was developed by the Portuguese Association for Victim Support. This project was part of a global strategy that aimed, on one side, to develop a structured knowledge about social representation of victimization and on the other hand, to systematize primary and secondary prevention procedures in the sexual and domestic violence areas.

Project IUNO – awareness-raising and information on domestic and sexual violence was approved by the Commission for Equality and Women's Rights/Presidency of the Council of Ministers, and funded by POEFDS (Measure 4.4. - Promotion of Equality of Opportunities between Men and Women; Typology 4.4.3.1. - System of Technical and Financial Support to NGO).

The System for NGO's technical support, integrated a group of positive actions aimed to raise awareness and to develop the knowledge on sexual and domestic violence issues in two target groups – teenagers and education professionals - in the municipalities of Baião, Castelo de Paiva, Cinfães, Espinho and Oliveira de Azeméis.

The name IUNO project was inspired in a roman goddess *Iuno protector of marriage, birth labour and women in every aspect of life* and was oriented by a central objective: creating impact in order to change attitudes of target-groups selected for non-violence.

During the intervention process taken place from the 1st of September 2003 through the 31st of August 2005, the IUNO project awareness-raising sessions involved about 3700 students and 400 education professionals in 20 schools of the areas mentioned above.

The process of evaluation - developed in collaboration with the Psychology Department of Universidade do Minho and with the Youth Foundation – permitted:

- the development of systematized indicators that allowed to measure

the impact of the sessions in the perception about domestic and sexual violence;

- to check through an external lens, if the intervention followed what was planned and designed for these sessions.

The results pointed for the accomplishment of the proposed goals and for the relevance of intervention at this level and within these groups.

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

The Portuguese Association for Victim Support perceived the scholar context as a privileged place for intervention and prevention of family violence, not only because the diversity of the students but also, and particularly, due to the importance we attribute to teachers on warning, evaluating and intervening within risky situations.

Accordingly, the Project was guided by the following aims:

1. The achievement of a more realistic perspective of the group-target's needs – teenagers and education professionals – related to sexual and domestic violence issues;
2. Suggestive impact in order to create awareness for a change of attitudes of the group-targets for non-violence and for Gender Equality and Human Rights.
3. Performance improvement of education professionals towards the support for children and teenagers victims of sexual and domestic violence;
4. Decrease of the violence negative effects in the course of victims' experiences.

In short, the path made in Project IUNO considered the execution of a group of actions to raise awareness and inform about sexual and domestic violence against children and teenagers. However, this Project also aimed to the decreasing of the occurred phenomenon, and tried to found ways to improve the action field of the professionals that worked together with the population making its intervention more effective.

5. How was the project implemented?

In agreement with the outlined goals for the development of this Project, each group of intervention students was targeted with two sessions, with the duration of about 90 minutes, each one about a marked theme.

The education professionals assisted a 120 minute session to help reflect about the sexual and domestic violence contents, more concretely, about violence against children and teenagers.

These sessions aimed to develop a debate on social representations of sexual and domestic violence and to challenge some existent preconceptions that still emerge in the families and in some professionals' speech in our

Society.

When we think about the predominance of social and cultural phenomenon, when we talk about its causes, its impact, the mechanisms that perpetuate or restrain when we fight about gender stereotypes that reinforce the power differences in man and women, we had the pretension to create mechanisms to produce challenge to meet with the irreversible character of these events, showing that it is possible to change.

After that, we will proceed with the description of the essential contents of sexual and domestic violence sessions addressed to the students and to the education professionals who look to approach both of these issues.

Raising awareness about domestic violence

Target-groups: 7th, 8th e 9th e 10th, 11th e 12th grade students

General goals:

- To create a place that allows the awareness and the dissemination of information of issues related with domestic violence as a consequent and productive phenomenon of gender inequality.
- To develop a discussion of socially and culturally ingrained representations about domestic violence;
- Stimulate teenagers to search and rise in value their abilities and capacities of their personal and behavioural command, promoting a responsible attitude in decreasing this phenomenon.

Session Programme:

1. Introduction and evaluation of expectations
2. *Brainstorming* about the problems of domestic violence
3. Introduction to the concept of domestic violence
4. Identification of the psychological, physical and social impact of domestic violence
5. Recognition of existent social and cultural myths about domestic violence
6. Discussion
7. Conclusion
8. Implementation of evaluation instruments on the awareness and information process about domestic violence

Raising awareness about sexual violence

Target-groups: 7th, 8th e 9th e 10th, 11th e 12th grade students

General goals:

1. To create a place that allows the awareness and the dissemination of information of issues related with sexual violence phenomenon

consequent and producer of gender inequality;

2. To develop a discussion of socially and culturally ingrained representations about sexual violence;
3. Stimulate teenagers to search and rise in value their abilities and capacities in their personal and behavioural command, promoting a responsible attitude in decreasing the referred phenomenon.

Session Programme:

1. Introduction and evaluation of expectations
2. *Brainstorming* about the problems of domestic violence
3. Introduction of the concept of domestic violence
4. Identification of the psychological, physical and social impact of domestic violence
5. Recognition of existent social and cultural myths about domestic violence
6. Discussion
7. Conclusion
8. Implementation of evaluation instruments of the awareness and information process about domestic violence

Raising awareness about sexual and domestic violence

Target-groups: education professionals

General goals:

1. Understand the main aspects of the sexual and domestic violence phenomenon;
2. Acquire knowledge about the framing intervention of sexual and domestic violence against children and teenagers;
3. Share experiences, difficulties and doubts about contact, in a scholar context about this problematic;
4. Develop personal and professional abilities of intervention.

Campaign development:

1. Domestic Violence: Understand and Proceed

- Domestic violence concept
- Signs of victimization
- Risk factors for the occurrence of violence
- The process professional for support close by the child or teenager victim of domestic violence

2. Sexual Violence: Understand and Proceed

- Definition of sexual violence
- Some forms of sexual violence
- Vulnerability of factors for abuse
- Main psychological reactions of the children and teenagers victims of sexual violence
- Risk factors and main psychological reactions of the children and

- teenagers victims of sexual violence
- Mediator factors of victimization impact
- The process professional for support close by the child or teenager victim of sexual violence

3. Associate work in the intervention of children and teenagers victims of sexual and domestic violence

The strategies used close by the target-groups searched to be adequate at a development level and at each one of the participant's role.

The approach made close by the students focused fundamentally in the challenge of social representations associated with sexual and domestic violence phenomenon as a starting point for discussion and reflection about the causes, psychological, physical and social impact on the victims.

With the education professionals, in a shared perspective of knowledge and experience on the field work in the schools, the approach used consisted in the introduction of structured information about the problems of abuse and sexual violence against children and teenagers.

The main goal was to systematise the procedures of intervention in situations of abuse and/or sexual abuse, emphasising the education professional's role on signalling, evaluating, denouncing or make an attempt resolution of the problem.

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?

In the extent of Project IUNO – awareness-raising and information on domestic and sexual violence, the Portuguese Association for Victim Support counted with the partnership of three entities: Direcção Regional de Educação do Norte, Fundação da juventude e Departamento de Psicologia da Universidade do Minho.

The participation of Direcção Regional de Educação do Norte (DREN) consisted, mainly, in the following tasks:

- (1) Identification and selection of the municipalities designated in agreement with the characteristics of the target-groups of the Project;
- (2) analysis of the needs and problems of the target-groups;
- (3) achievement of first contacts with schools in order to design their participation as well as a contact;
- (4) identification of the interlocutor responsible on the contacts with DREN and the IUNO Project; and
- (5) planning of approach strategies close with the different project workers.

The Youth Foundation participated in the achievement of the structured evaluation in the awareness-raising campaign about sexual and domestic violence, developing tables as evaluation instruments in this intervention.

The department of psychology of Universidade do Minho developed the following activities:

- (1) definition of methodologies to develop a needs assessment near the target-groups, through pre-tests, post-tests and *follow-ups*;
- (2) involvement in the definition of support and follow-up methodologies near the target-groups

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

The process of evaluation implemented by Project IUNO aimed to analyse the impact of the awareness campaign sessions close to the targeted population, based in a process of comparison of the agreement level with the beliefs about the problems approached. This analysis occurred in three different moments of application – pre-test – taken place before the intervention, - post-test – applied immediately after intervention – and a follow-up - three or four months after the intervention. This process was assumed as a reasonable financial and human investment for the validation of the praised intervention of this Project.

The evaluation outline used with the students mainly fell upon the one considered the central purpose of made actions. Meaning, the challenge of social and cultural representations about the sexual and domestic violence problematic. This evaluation was made through the application of two scales: Scale of belief about Conjugal violence (ECVC) and Scale of belief about sexual abuse (ECAS).

Complementary to the applied scale – Scale of belief about sexual abuse – the education professionals solved a case study given upon the contents approached in the session: Signs of victimization, risk factors in children/teenagers and parents and signs and intervention strategies in view of risk situations.

Objectively, the focus of our evaluation was the recognition of the session impact made through the analysis of the following indicators:

- Evaluation of the disagreement level on the social and cultural beliefs about the approached problems, close to the different groups and after the achievement of the awareness campaign about sexual and domestic violence;
- Evaluation of the education professional knowledge, mainly about the victimization indicators, risk factors in the parents, children and teenagers, protective factors and intervention strategies, after achieving the awareness raising campaign about sexual and domestic violence;

- Medium term maintenance of the positive evolution of these indicators.

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

The evaluation of the Project, achieved in agreement with the issues referred above was at the expense of the coordination and the project's technical team, under supervision of the Psychology department of Universidade do Minho and of the Youth Foundation, partners in this implementation.

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

The investment made in the process of evaluation and that made it possible to establish a parallel between the before and after phases of intervention, allowed us to consolidate the approach of prevention close to the target-groups selected for this Project. Indeed, the result analysis of the awareness raising campaign points on one hand for a decreasing agreement with the social representations about sexual and domestic violence and on the other hand, in what the education professionals are concerned, for a more consistent knowledge about victimization indicators, risk factors in the parents, children and teenagers and for a more conscientious active role by the school and by the identities with competence on the childhood and youth matters.

These results validate the effectiveness of the sessions to meet the proposed goals.

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

At the end of this Project and with the goal of disseminating the awareness campaign, proceeded the production and publication of the Final report of Project IUNO – awareness raising campaign about sexual and domestic violence. There is an available press version for distribution.

Please, write here a one page description of the project:

Project IUNO — awareness-raising and information on domestic and sexual violence was developed by the Portuguese Association for Victim Support. This project was part of a global strategy that aimed, on one side, to develop a structured knowledge about social representation of victimization and on the other hand, to systematize primary and secondary prevention procedures in the sexual and domestic violence areas.

This Project developed a group of positive actions aimed to raise awareness and to develop the knowledge on sexual and domestic violence issues in two target groups – teenagers and education professionals in the municipalities of Baião, Castelo de Paiva, Cinfães, Espinho and Oliveira de Azeméis.

During the 24 months of the intervention path, the IUNO Project involved about 3700 students and 400 professionals from about 20 education establishments.

According with the planned goals for the development of this Project, each group of students was targeted with two sessions with the duration of about 90 minutes, in which a specific theme was developed.

In what concerns the education professionals, they participated in a 120 minute campaign that intended to think about the concepts of sexual and domestic violence, more concretely about violence against children and teenagers.

In these sessions we tried to debate social representations about sexual and domestic violence and to challenge some preconceptions still existent and emerging in the families and professionals speech of our society.

The process of evaluation, planned in collaboration with the Psychology department of the Universidade do Minho and with the Youth Foundation, permitted to achieve indicators about the impact of the session at the level of social representations and to confirm if the development of the sessions happened as planned.

The investment made at this level made it possible to establish a parallel between the before and after phases of intervention, allowing to consolidate approaches of prevention close with the selected target-groups.

The result analysis of the awareness campaign, points on one hand for the decreasing agreement with the social representations about sexual and domestic violence and on the other hand, in what the professors are concerned, for a more consistent knowledge about the victimization factors, risk factors in the parents, children and teenagers and for a more active role in the school and in the identities of childhood and youth matters.

For additional information, please contact:

Rosa Saavedra

assessora técnica da Direcção / senior adviser

Serviços de Sede no Porto / Porto head office services

Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima

Portuguese Association for Victim Support

Rua das Flores, 69 Gabinete nº 14 4050-265 Porto

Portugal

tel. +351.22.332.61.14

fax +351.22.339.35.44

Telm: +351 96 103 91 62

e-mail: rosasaavedra@apav.pt