

European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I – new version 2013

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.

CZECH REPUBLIC

2. Is this your country's ECPA entry or an additional project? (**Only one ECPA entry per country plus a maximum of two additional projects may be submitted.**)

ECPA entry for the Czech Republic

3. What is the title of the project?

Prevention of Domestic Violence in the City of Brno – an Interdisciplinary Approach

4. Who is leading the project? Contact details.

The Regional Authority of the South Moravian Region

Contact details:

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5. What was the start date of the project? Is the project still running?

Start date: 2006

The project is still running and it will continue further into the future (in accordance with the actual needs and potential shifts of priorities regarding the issues of domestic violence in general).

6. Please give a short general description of the project (**Abstract max. 150 words**).

The project aims to solve a short-term immediate help to DV victims, medium-term practice change and to enhance a long-term prevention and general public awareness. More precisely, it presents a complete system of preventive information and instruction how to monitor and distinguish first symptoms of domestic violence and how to deal with them in all age categories (children, teenagers, parents and grandparents). In order to provide additional information for those who have already become victims, the project also provides a complex information system, including all possible contacts to protective and care institution.

Each year the activities have been modified or remodelled in order to keep focus on actual priorities. Thank to this interdisciplinary and complex approach, the project has succeeded in tackling the most urgent issues of domestic violence and addressing all forms of human involvement in it (primary prevention, training of professionals, publishing manuals for professionals, creating a counselling centre, organising various public awareness campaigns etc.)

I. **The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme.**

7. How does the project contribute to the prevention and/or the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? (**Max. 150 words**)

The project has been successfully focusing on the following (crime) prevention aspects:

- More efficient, effective integral, and integrated, approach to domestic violence
- Far-reaching intersectoral collaboration between the government, self-government bodies and NGO's by means of an interdisciplinary collaboration and a better knowledge of one another's way of working
- Comprehensive regional approach to domestic violence
- Emphasis on a curative approach to domestic violence - referring people faster to assistance, leading to the desired effect of less escalation, less
- Providing sufficient relief possibilities and social consultation
- Offering adequate teaching, education, sensitization and exchange of knowledge with regard to the various professional groups which are confronted with domestic violence.
- Making all those defined as target groups "stronger" by means of education and prevention campaigns

8. How is the project related to the ECPA-theme selected by the organising Member State? (**Max. 150 words**)

This project introduces new values, thinking processes, and relationship skills to particular population groups that are incompatible with violence and that promote healthy, non-violent relationships. For example, it helps to recognize resources that can be used to focus on respect, trust, and supportive growth in relationships. A clear advantage of such approach is that these efforts can be targeted universally, at

broad population groups, such as school-age children or members of a particular community.

Moreover, the project helps to clarify inappropriate attitudes and modes of behaviour and offer positive alternatives. In essence, such prevention efforts are psycho-educational strategies aimed at a broad sector of the population. Thank to this, there has been a common purpose which centres on prevention efforts and greater collaboration among local, state, and federal government initiatives, social agencies, and community mobilization efforts.

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

Prevention of domestic violence cannot be focused entirely on current victims. Regarding elimination of violence within a close relationship that might amount to criminal conduct - prevention, training and awareness have to start already in childhood and continue through all age categories. Moreover, professional literature repeatedly describes the jeopardy of predisposition (model of the generation violence transfer).

This project presents a complete system of preventive information and instruction how to monitor and distinguish first symptoms of domestic violence and how to deal with them. This prevention system aimed for all age categories (children, teenagers, parents and grandparents) provides the additional information for those who have already become victims. Existing victims are given all possible contacts to protective and care institution. Above all, they receive instructions on how to respond in order to prevent violence escalation and how to solve the situation in family constantly.

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

10. What was the reason for setting up the project? What problem(s) did it aim to tackle? How, when and by whom were these problems defined? (**Max. 150 words**)

Domestic violence is a prevalent problem with serious health, social and economic consequences. Primary prevention efforts are most likely to be effective when a

coordinated range of mutually reinforcing strategies is targeted, including broad-scale social marketing campaigns to shift relevant attitudes and community norms or interventions to strengthen the capacity of communities to take action to prevent the problem. Many of the factors influencing violence cross boundaries traditionally existing between government departments, disciplines and settings and between the government and non-government sectors.

Moreover, in order to provide quality services to victims of domestic violence, all agencies involved must establish a common understanding and know-how regarding the problem. And that is what became the starting point or the initial strategy of this project.

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

This project concentrates on the areas of partner abuse, child/teen abuse, and elder abuse by leaving a legacy of change in the given communities.

The following are the principle objectives of the project:

- To establish professionally institutional network operating on interdisciplinary cooperation
- To increase domestic violence awareness and prevention via an education and advocacy campaigns
- To impact domestic violence policy
- To design and implement multi-faceted domestic violence project that includes teen and child, elder and spousal abuse
- To create and strengthen partnerships with the principal local, regional and national domestic awareness organisations
- To increase general understanding about and involvement in various sub-activities to decrease domestic violence in communities within the given region

The following are the secondary (but equally as important) objectives:

- Public education campaign
- Public information campaign
- Pubic awareness campaign

12. How was the project implemented? How were these objectives translated into actions? What was the action plan of the project? (**Max. 300 words**)

- The following are the principal steps of implementing the project according to its chronological evolution (2006 -):
 - Declaring the Municipal Council in which all forms of domestic violence were condemned
 - Initiating the Interdisciplinary team
 - Establishing the Interdisciplinary team (kick-off meetings, presentations of institutions involved, monitoring of competences and other subjects suitable for □ cooperation (ongoing activity)
 - Specifying the main goals and short-, medium- and long-term activities
 - Designing and distributing manuals for experts and leaflets for the public (ongoing activity)
 - Training the expert groups (739 persons altogether)
 - Opening DONA counselling centre in the city of Brno,
 - Collecting and evaluating statistical data concerning domestic violence
 - Trainings of respective professionals, such as police officers, municipal employees, psychologists, pedagogical a social workers, doctors and □ paramedics
 - Organising an art competition on the theme “If Home is Not Home” for elementary schools pupils (including the public exhibition of selected works)
 - Public campaigns – printing/distribution of leaflets and posters in various public spaces
 - Training of selected municipal employees (those involved with issues of domestic violence)

With regards to all of the above, the project aims at building up an efficient network against domestic violence. It aims at close cooperation with all those institutions that are dealing with domestic violence, such as the police, civil court, criminal court, youth welfare services, social welfare offices, campaigns and initiatives against violence and the relevant government bodies. The basic idea is that efficient and sustainable protection against domestic violence requires a close cooperation on institutional and social level. Consequently, thank to this project it became inevitable to optimize interventions when acts of domestic violence occur, to foster well-coordinated cooperation between all levels and institutions involved, and to provide information on domestic violence and referrals to the general public and the media. □

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

Several researches and surveys were carried out on national and regional level prior of the commencement of the project. The most important of them were the research by the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic in 2003 (<http://studie.soc.cas.cz>) or research by Centre for Empirical Surveys for the NGO White Circle of Safety in 2006 (<http://www.stem.cz>). Alarming figures and findings presented by these researches (every second person aged over 15 has heard of case of violence between partners and almost one-quarter have had personal experience of it) helped speed up a very important step, i.e. adoption of legislation for protection against domestic violence in 2006 as the first comprehensive solution to the issue in the Czech Republic. Apart from other measures, it regulated the conditions for provision of immediate psychological, social and legal help at interventions centres and interdisciplinary cooperation between state, community and NGOs plus it preparation of series of methodologies and other materials used for training of professionals at social and legal bodies, local authorities and other experts. This became a perfect starting point for this project to begin.

14. Has the project been evaluated? Internally and/or externally? Process and/or impact evaluation? How, when and by whom? Which data and techniques were used? (**Max. 300 words**)

Primary prevention projects in the area of DV tend to be difficult to evaluate objectively, particularly in quantitative terms. Still, there cannot be any progress in any project unless there are clear evaluating means and methods introduced from its very beginning. Since 2006 till now, as the project kept evolving, different phases required different evaluation techniques and approaches. The following is the list of the principle quantitative and qualitative evaluating tools and techniques used during the project (in chronological order):

- Number of clients and records during the trial operation of DONA Centre (2007)
- Analysis of the written records regarding the numbers of newly released

printed material, trained professionals, partners involved in the public awareness campaign (2007-)

- Analysis of the degree of involvement of schools in organised competitions, including the number of visitors of the exhibition (2007)
- Number of people participating in public debates focusing on elderly people (2008)
- Processed electronic data in order to provide a daily summary of visit rates, including the number of visited pages, etc. (2009 -)
- Analysis of the feedback expressed by active participants of various public awareness campaigns and other prevention activities (2010-12)

Given the nature of different phases of the project, certain phases had no objectively measured criteria set. Still, the subjective means of evaluation were used consistently in order that they could be subsequently used as an applicable data for the standard evaluating procedures.

Evaluation and measuring different type of project outcomes was carried by the Interdisciplinary Team itself (state and legal bodies, NGOs) as well as by an outside subjects, such as Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic or the Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (respective NAPs for the Prevention of Domestic Violence).

Moreover, because the project is carried out through multi-source funding, the evaluation and monitoring reports have been also prepared in writing and delivered together with the financial accounts to the regular donors, such as the statutory city of Brno and the South Moravian Region.

15. What were the results? Was the project implemented as originally intended?

To what extent were the intended objectives of the project achieved? Please refer back to the objectives mentioned in question 8. What works/has worked for whom in what circumstances? Were there any unexpected side-effects?

(Max. 300 words)

The project is being monitored on an annually basis by its authors and the persons responsible for its implementation. The set objectives are compared with the achieved ones and the degree and scope of the planned activities with those already

implemented.

First, it should be noted that thanks to a regular support from the financial partners, the planned project activities have been so far h successfully carried out and the overall project objectives achieved. The following is the list of the main progressive achievements of the project:

- Based on the Situation plan elaborated by interdisciplinary team in 2005, all short- and medium-term activities were realised (leaflets for public and manuals for experts, campaign posters, training; media campaigns etc.)
- A new DONA counselling centre in the city of Brno was established (During first 4 months: 137 victims, 74 consultations, asylum for 13 victims)
- A special software was developed for DONA centre (data analysis, anonymous monitoring of more than 30 criteria) which gives precise information about DONA centre for further evaluation
- Trainings of experts (police officers, relevant administrative staff, psychologists, pedagogical a social workers, doctors and □paramedics) have been carried out – ex. 226 healthcare workers
- Public information campaigns were successful and information materials were redistributed among all members of the target groups (147 411 leaflets in 2008, 23 public debates, series of specialised workshops etc.)
- Electronic access to the information services was launched (5000 visitors in 2009)

Since 2010 the project does not show any accurate mathematical values that would provide information about the degree of its success. There are only numerical values providing evidence of the number of promotional items and materials created; however, these figures cannot replace data leading to determination of the degree of success of the project. If it is to express the evaluation results after 2010, the project's 2011 phase offers the number of elementary and secondary schools participating in the project - a total of 14 schools, which is a high number given the large number of events running in those schools in parallel. During this schools sub-project, almost 100 works (literary, photographic, artworks) were submitted to the competition; the exhibition was visited by 260 visitors.

In general, the project was received positively from its very first phase in 2006 which consisted of setting up and putting into operation IDT Brno, establishing of the DONA Centre for domestic violence victims (and its subsequent transformation into the Intervention Centre for the South Moravian Region in 2007), and widespread training of professionals dealing with domestic violence cases across the whole range of providers (governmental, municipal, non-profit organisations). It should again be noted that this preventive project is being implemented on a long-term basis which includes specialised sub-projects. This strategy allows continuous evolvement and concentration on particular needs such as which timely detection and timely initiation of the process. Sufficient public awareness of the phenomenon, quality and accessibility of information are by no means the most important prerequisites for achieving the project's overall objectives.

16. Are there any reports or documents available on the project and/or the evaluation of the project? Please, provide references to the most relevant ones. (**Max. 5 references**)

1. Interdisciplinary Team in Brno web page (<http://idtbrno.cz>)
2. National Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence for the Years of 2011-2014 (www.mpsv.cz)
3. EUCPN DV Report (www.eucpn.org)
4. Intervention Centre Brno: web page (www.ic-brno.cz)
5. Municipality of Brno web page (<http://www2.brno.cz>)

III. The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.

17. Why is the project innovative, original or creative in its methods and/or approaches? (**Max. 150 words**)

The following aspects of the project has been highly evaluated (not only) in this year's national round of ECPA competition for being innovative and/or for introducing new methods or approaches:

- Knowledge transfer and knowledge implementation are key strategy of

primary prevention

- Combining practitioner knowledge with knowledge transfer and knowledge exchange to promote and encourage innovation
- Interdisciplinary and multi-faceted approach to domestic violence on a regional scale
- Solving system approach in cases of domestic violence within the existing legal norms
- Simple and effective procedures for single professions, which are in contact with domestic violence at different stages
- Introducing a new type of a workplace (intervention centre) which functions as a low threshold specialized centre and as a coordinator of local interdisciplinary cooperation including monitoring

IV. The project shall be based on cooperation between partners, where possible.

18. How and to what degree were relevant stakeholders involved (directly or indirectly) in the project? **(Max. 150 words)**

Members of the Brno City Interdisciplinary Team for Domestic Violence (abbreviated IDT) are engaged in the project on a regular basis. The IDT consists of professionals/specialists from institutions that deal with the issues of domestic violence in their everyday practice, particularly NGOs (Spondea c.a, Persefona c.a., White Circle of Safety c.a.) and people from state institutions, such as Police of the Czech Republic. Project cooperation centres primarily on professional supervision of project outputs and on their implementation and distribution to the public. The main criterion for joining the IDT is an active role in the implementation of the projects. This criterion guarantee an interdisciplinary approach when addressing domestic violence cases, whether they involve activities in the field of prevention and awareness, or help to those affected by domestic violence.

19. Which other (local, national, international) partners were involved in the planning, development and/or implementation of the project? Who were they and what were their roles? (**Max. 150 words**)

Other partners involved in various phases of IDT activities (they title or affiliation makes their involvement obvious):

Social Care Dept. Brno Municipal Council
Dept. of Education, Brno Municipal Council
Municipal Police, the City of Brno
Probation Service, Ministry of Justice
Psychiatric clinic, Bohunice town
Marriage and Family Counselling Bureau
League of Human Rights
Magdalenium asylum shelter
Fund of Endangered Children

V. The project shall be capable of replication in other Member States.

20. How and by whom is the project funded? (**Max. 150 words**)

The project is based in an interdisciplinary and multi-agency collaboration. The project as such is financed by the Brno Municipal Council and the South Moravian Regional Authority. The respective core partners may also use their own means of financing when implementing particular sub/projects or their phases. In general, the project relies primarily on the public funding and public grant policy and the rules of financing.

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

During the first 4 months, the DONA Centre was contacted by 137 victims of domestic violence, provided 74 personal consultations and asylum to 13 persons. 739 professionals in 6 areas went through professional training. Printed materials for the general public were created and distributed in the total volume of 100,000 copies and 1,651 copies were provided to the professional public. The 2007 project evaluation brought the following figures: 226 healthcare personnel went through complementary training; 65,735 copies of information materials were released and printed.

The accurate records from 2008 show 23 debates for the public with the participation of 725 citizens, 3 blocks of specialised workshops and 147,411 copies of updated leaflets printed.

The visit rate to the information kiosk and website has been regularly monitored since 2009 and statistically evaluated every year. More than 3,500 sessions are recorded annually on the electronic panel and almost 5,000 visits logged to the website of IDT Brno.

The 2011 phase in figures: 14 elementary and secondary schools participating in the project, 98 works (literary, photographic, artworks) were submitted to the competition, the exhibition was visited by 260 visitors.

The 2012 phase included the creation of short prevention movies which will be introduced to the public later this year (yet to be evaluated).

22. Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? If so, how, and by whom? What were the findings? Please provide supporting information. **(Max. 150 words)**

Since the project is funded primarily by public resources there has been a cost-benefit analysis carried out every year (centred on particular phases of the project in the given year). There is an annual report by the IDT Brno provided to the Municipal council plus each of the involved independent bodies must create their own sub-analysis which is connected to their own involvement in the project. All these numbers and figures are available on their respective web pages or in the respective financial section of the Municipality of the City of Brno (For the web links, see the list of participating organisations). For annual costs of the IDT activities, see the one-page project summary at the end of this form.

23. Please describe the context of the project in as much detail as possible: basic theory or principles which form the basis of the project, geographical area, legal context, timescale. **(Max. 300 words)**

The IDT Brno project and its main objectives are based on the following premise: Interdisciplinary collaboration presents one of the most effective ways of addressing complex and multidimensional social problems. The interest in interdisciplinary response to domestic violence raises critical questions about how to support and encourage collaborating professionals to improve the general situation through mutual collaboration. Both the civil and criminal arenas engage in efforts to develop a seamless, comprehensive, coordinated, and interdisciplinary

system of delivery of domestic violence services and various preventive activities. One of possible starting point would then be a project based on collaboration of domestic violence specialists that work inside as well as outside of domestic violence agencies to help professionals and families involved in other systems manage domestic violence cases.

For all of the above the city of Brno as the capital of the South Moravian Region with a population of almost 400.000 people and as the city with the excellent support infrastructure for innovation projects in respective social sectors, decided to encourage the launch of an interdisciplinary team.

Since the project beginning in 2006, these efforts has been gradually becoming more complex, widespread and publicly visible. The project by now is known nationwide and serves as a case example how to create an affective and efficient environment which encompasses all those who need to communicate and collaborate in order to be able to successfully tackle such a serious social phenomena as domestic violence certainly is.

24. Please, write a **one page** description of the project:

The project started in **2006** but has gone through several modifications since. Each year its specific objectives reflect the existing situation in the area of domestic violence.

The project was from its very beginning aimed at creating an efficient institutionalised professional network supported by an interdisciplinary team, which would guarantee a high-quality professional and accessible help to those affected by domestic violence in Brno. The main pillar of the project thus included a creation of the DONA Centre which could be later transformed into the Intervention Centre for the South Moravian Region. Other key objectives included an intensive training of experts across the whole range of relevant professions, producing and distributing information materials to the general and professional public. The actual implementation phase was logically preceded by the preparation of the Situation Report which mapped the situation in the area of domestic violence in the city of Brno and described the so-called white spots in help to the victims of domestic violence. The budget for this phase of the project was 22 000 EUR.

In **2007** the implementation centred on consolidating, improving and gradually broadening the thematic domains of interdisciplinary co-operation efforts established in previous year. The main project activities included providing professional training of healthcare staff and developing a comprehensive public awareness programme for the city of Brno and the South Moravian Region. The 2007 budget: 7 500 EUR.

The main purpose of the **2008** phase was to communicate the importance of the awareness of the issue of DV to the general public. A specially trained staff held numerous public debates and redistributed information leaflets and brochures. The 2008 budget: 7 400 EUR.

The **2009** phase reflected the growing public demand for high-quality information

and an easy and constant access to them. Thus, the project shifted its focus on creating an electronic map, which would help people endangered by domestic violence. It was available on a touch screen panel in public places. Another step was creating public website of the Brno Interdisciplinary Team, including a client section accessible only to selected team members through coded access. The 2009 cost: 7800 EUR

In **2010** the focus on public awareness events continued (interactive debates, theatre performances, film screenings etc., redistribution of various promotion materials for schoolchildren etc.) The 2010 budget: 3500 EUR

In **2011**, the City of Brno organised the art and literature competition on the themes connected to domestic violence for Brno elementary and secondary schools. The best works were exhibited in the New Town Hall in Brno as part of a professional photographic exhibition addressing the same theme. Another outcome of the competition was a new methodology for teachers working with students on the subject of domestic violence. The 2011 budget: 5800 EUR

As in the previous years, the **2012** phase focused on was public awareness and promotion activities which moved to the mass media, i.e. the main TV, radio etc. (a 30-second soundtrack for radio broadcasting, a 30-second TV spot, 60-second version for the websites and other electronic media). The 2012 budget: 8300 EUR.

Currently, the project continues to enhance the extensive media campaign as other audio and video spots are being prepared and the number of involved media partners is growing (local, regional as well as national partnerships, special LCD monitors in medical and education facilities, large-scale LCD screens in public spaces). Estimated budget for this year: 9300 EUR.