

**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:

Greenland.

Greenland is a part of The Danish Kingdom and Greenland Police is a part of the Danish Police.

The police of Greenland is administratively placed under the Danish National Police. It has the status of a police district, just as the 12 police districts in Denmark. The Police in Greenland is headed by a Police Chief, more or less corresponding to the Police Directors heading each of the 12 Danish police districts.

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.**)

It is an additional project.

3. What is the title of the project?

Samtale i stedet for husspektakler / Conversation instead of domestic violence.

4. Who is leading the project? Contact details.

Greenland Police  
Office of The Chief Constable  
Chief Superintendent  
Henrik Mikkelsen  
Box 1006  
3900 Nuuk  
Greenland.

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

1/1 2010 – 1/6 2010. Pilot project

Interim period – preparing for the next phase

1/7 2012 – and still running

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

Greenland is a country with around 56.000 inhabitants and just below 3000 reported incidents of domestic violence each year, which is a prevalence of close to 6 percent. For comparative reasons you may look at Denmark, where there are an estimated 460 police reported cases of domestic violence each year, in a population of almost 6 million (source: *Violence in close relationships*. From the Danish Institute for Public Health). In a Danish context it is assumed that the dark figure in this area is very large, and by inference there may also be unreported incidents of domestic violence in Greenland. A study of police reported violence in the City of Nuuk, showed that the most common crime scene was in the home and the most common relation between victim and perpetrator was to be in a close personal relationship. Furthermore, alcohol is extremely common in cases of domestic violence, and the police believes alcohol to be involved in 90 – 95 % of domestic violence cases. Clearly it is situation demanding large efforts to help the families involved. The fact that in 460 out of the 3000 annual cases children are involved, only underlines the gravity of the situation.

Domestic violence incidents are often a cry for help from families who find themselves in a difficult social situation. In some situations conflicts in the home and domestic violence can develop into violence or even into homicide or (attempted) suicide.

The arrival and immediate work of the police, stops the incident of domestic violence, but the police cannot make the problem go away, or offer the family sufficient help.

In the Greenlandic city of Sisimiut the police have as a pilot project visited the family the day after the incident in order to tell the family about the observations they have made. In the trial period the amount of domestic violence incidents decreased significantly. It would take further analysis to establish whether this decline was only caused by the project, but there is no doubt in the minds of the participants that the project has made a great difference.

During the visits the first purpose was to get a good understanding of what has taken place and what exactly is the nature of the problem. Then it is discussed how to move on from the current situation and who needs what kind of help, and finally the focus is on preventing a similar incident from occurring again.

Because of the experiences gained in this pilot phase with revisiting the family and offering 'Conversation instead of Domestic Violence' it has been decided to expand the project to all of Greenland and furthermore, that to have the police and the municipalities enter into a partnership to visit the family together the day after the incident. This procedure means that it is made possible to offer the right help and support, targeted at the specific needs of the individual family, in order to help them in the best possible way.

**1. 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 experiences from Sisimiut clearly show that the project brings down the number of domestic violence incidences as well as serious crime such as violence, attempted murder and suicide.

Entering into a partnership with the municipality and having a representative of the municipality present at the revisits has meant a further increase in the quality of the visits, because the family can be offered help adjusted to them and their needs. The ultimate purpose of the project of revisiting is thus to both decrease the number of repeat cases of domestic violence and related crimes, as well as help the families where it is needed to break out of a vicious circle of unfortunate social circumstances and possibly alcohol abuse, child neglect etc.

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

The project is directly related to the ECPA-theme 'Domestic Violence' because it specifically targets those families where domestic violence has already taken place. It is a project set in a specific context, which is a society with large social problems and related challenges, such as alcohol abuse, child abuse and violence.

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

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

Because the project is currently being implemented as a countrywide project, negotiations have taken place between the Greenlandic authorities, the organization of municipalities and the individual municipalities. These negotiations have meant a heightened focus on the issue of domestic violence within these respective authorities.

In addition to that, the project has been discussed in several media, bringing it to the attention of the general public.

Attached are a screen print from the organization of municipalities as well as an article from a newspaper. Both describing the project.

**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)**

The background for this project is that Greenland has a very high prevalence of domestic violence, including many cases involving children. This in combination with the fact that in many cases domestic violence leads to crimes such as violence, homicide or suicide.

The police analyzed the pilot project in Sisimiut and found that it was necessary to work more closely with the municipality, because it was concluded that there was a need to be able to offer the families in question help and an opportunity to break out of the unfortunate social situation, that they were in, in most cases.

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

The primary objective of the project is to reduce the number of repeated incidences of domestic violence

The secondary objective is to help the families improve their social situation in order to bring down the risk of domestic violence and child abuse or neglect in a long term perspective.

Primarily, the project is targeted as families with children and secondarily at families without children.

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 project grew out of a concrete need and identified problem, which was that the police did not feel that the assistance they offered when going to incidents of domestic violence, was sufficient to help the families involved in a long time perspective – primarily because the people involved very often were under the influence of alcohol and in a very agitated state of mind. This gave rise to the idea of going back and talking the matter over once more when the people involved had calmed down and has become sober, preferably relatively soon after the incident when it was still fresh in the memory of the involved parties. The need to offer a more comprehensive help and involve the municipalities was also a need felt concretely by the police.

In order to implement the project, information meetings were held with the Government of Greenland and the organization of municipalities.

After that local meetings were held between the police and the municipalities.

The Government of Greenland and the organization of municipalities have been ambassadors for the project.

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

The Greenland Police was responsible for the project and the initial analysis. The analysis was based on police statistics on recorded incidents of domestic violence as well as a general yet qualitative sense that the help offered by the police could be improved.

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)

The pilot project in Sisimiut was qualitatively analyzed in debates with the police officers in charge and those working concretely with the project, and quantitatively analyzed by going through the number of

incidents of domestic violence before and after the pilot project. The number of incidents dropped by 25 %, from 42 to 32. The decline is believed to be largely due to the project.

The nationwide project is closely monitored through monthly reports in the last six months of 2013. In the first six months of 2014 a qualitative analysis will be carried out in cooperation with the municipalities, and of course a continuous monitoring on the quantitative results of the project.

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 pilot project in Sisimiut resulted in a decline in the number of incidents of domestic violence of 25 %, in families with children.

The goal for this year's nationwide project is to reduce domestic violence where children are involved with 10 %, and the expectation is that the goal for 2014 will be the same.

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

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)**.

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

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

It is the first time in a Greenlandic context that such a comprehensive preventive project is carried out; and carried out in a close partnership between the police and the municipalities.

The two authorities working so tightly together constitute an innovative way of approaching social problems. The concept of two authorities arriving simultaneously offering two kinds of complementary services is novel and innovative. In Greenland it is the first time that the authorities cooperate so closely, and in an international context the idea of arriving together one day after the incident constitutes an innovative approach to the problem of domestic violence. Two substantial benefits arise from this project design, by arriving the day after the incident you arrive while the experience is still fresh in everybody's memory, and likewise is the urge to receive help in order to prevent the incident from occurring again. The second benefit is the possibility of coordinating the help given and to have social authorities observe for instance the children present, in order to decide whether social measures are needed.

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

The pilot project in Sisimut involved only the police. When making the project national a partnership with the municipalities was entered into. At current there are hopes to include other stakeholders, such as the health system. The Government of Greenland and the Spokesperson for children are already ambassadors for the project.

The police initially presented a general description of the project, but the implementation and anchoring of the project was discussed with and approved by the relevant local authorities. This ensured that the chosen method for the revisit was as relevant as possible.

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)**

- *Government of Greenland: Responsible for the health system, prevention and hospitals.*
- *The organization of municipalities, which is an umbrella organization responsible of coordinating between municipalities*
- *The municipal authorities: Primarily school and the social authorities*
- *The individual police district: Responsible for the local part of the project*
- *The central management of the police: Strategically responsible for setting goals, setting direction, initiating evaluation and coordinating with other authorities.*

**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 involved authorities contribute out of their own budgets.

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

Primarily, the expenses consisted of salary for the policemen and municipal employees involved. They were taken out of the authorities own budget.

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)

A cost-benefit analysis as such has not been carried out, but it was the opinion of the police that an initiative like this, if successful in reducing violence etc., would be worth while to a high degree, because violence and its consequences are extremely costly for society.

This means that even though the revisits to the families involved requires a lot of resources, especially if you also consider the involvement of the social authorities, it saves money in the long run, by preventing further incidents of domestic violence and social measures needed for the victim and the children, as well as a costly trial and possibly imprisonment for the perpetrator.

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)

At present we see a growing focus on quality of service among public authorities. The reductions in the public sector have brought about a necessary focus on quality and results, as the scarcity of resources has made it increasingly difficult to achieve your goals because of the amount of resources available. Another tendency at present is the comprehensive approach. Among public service providers there is a tendency towards taking an interest in what happens after your particular service has been delivered. When acting as police, very often your scope is narrowed to crime or the risk of crime, but by widening your scope to the precursors and after-effects of crime and in taking a more comprehensive approach to the needs of the people involved, you are able to deliver better results. Thus, by putting the family at risk in the center of a structured and strategic cooperation between authorities, the authorities involved are able to deliver better and more comprehensive help.

The area is restricted to Greenland. Greenland is a small community of 56.000 people. There is a high degree of alcohol abuse, and many incidents of both domestic violence and child abuse.

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

In Greenland the prevalence of violence, homicide and sexual offenses is one of the biggest challenges for the country, according to the police. The prevalence of violence is five times as high as in Denmark, and homicide and sexual offenses are 12 times more prevalent than in Denmark.

Additionally, the police register more than 3000 cases of domestic violence per year, 460 of those involving children, and an estimated 90-95 % of cases involving alcohol.

The risk of repeat domestic violence is great in families where there is no follow-up after the incident. In a follow-up visit it might be attempted to identify the causes of the incident in order to qualify the effort to solve the problem.

In addition to the concrete incidence of domestic violence, the police observed that there was often quite severe cases of related crime, such as violence, homicide or suicide (sometimes attempted).

On the basis of this analysis of the situation, the police in Sisimiut carried out a pilot project, where they pay a revisit the day after the initial alarm call is made. By revisiting quickly they come back when the troublemaker or perpetrator still suffers from hang-overs both in a literal sense and understood as suffering from a guilty conscience because of what you have done, causing the person in question to reflect on his or her actions.

During the visits the first purpose was to get a good understanding of what has taken place and what exactly is the nature of the problem. Then it is discussed how to move on from the current situation and who needs what kind of help, and finally the focus is on preventing a similar incident from occurring again.

The pilot project demonstrated that the revisits meant a reduction in the amount of domestic violence, but it also demonstrated a need for the municipal authorities to take part in the visits. This would help the precise identification of the needs of each specific family in order to better ensure that each family would best break out of their negative social situation.

The police analyzed the pilot project and on the basis of that, wrote up a project proposal to include the whole of Greenland, which was debated with the Government of Greenland and the organization of municipalities, in order to implement it in all of Greenland.

After that it was decided locally between the police and the municipality how the revisits were to be carried out. This approach was chosen because it has been a priority throughout the process, to anchor the project in already existing local authorities and (human) resources, so as not to impose a procedure from the central to the local authorities, and risk violating institutions or cooperations already in place and functioning.