

# 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.

FRANCE

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 France's entry for the ECPA

3. What is the title of the project?

Dispositif valenciennois de lutte contre les violences conjugales (Valenciennes Scheme Against Domestic Violence)

4. Who is leading the project? Contact details.

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

June 2006. The project is still running

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

Since 2006, the Valenciennes scheme against domestic violence gathers institutions and associations operating in the district of Valenciennes (Nord department) in order to accompany victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, based on a pathway logic. Three types of actions are implemented:

- Attending victims and providing emergency care until they can regain their autonomy;
- Attending perpetrators who join the scheme either voluntarily or by judicial mandate;
- The Valenciennes Observatory on Domestic Violence coordinates, evaluates and observes.

The scheme is based on the collective work of its members and on partnership. 187 professionals and volunteers are involved. In order to formalise and strengthen the partnership, we are inviting financial partners, State agencies, the General Council

(Conseil général, i.e. regional government) and local associations to join the Valenciennes Observatory on Domestic Violence (current members of the steering committee are the associations AJAR, La Pose, and SIAO du Hainaut). The agreement will be symbolically signed on 26 November 2013.

**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**)

Our aim is to see the Valenciennes scheme have a real impact on the prevention and reduction of domestic violence. In our district, domestic violence represents 70% of the total of offences that are not motivated by financial gain. Another factor is that we operate in a very poor region, which includes 10 of the 30 poorest towns of France, with high rates of psychological distress.

The scheme includes the three stages of prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary) as per the World Health Organisation's classification:

- We organise in schools awareness campaigns and sessions on the topic of relations between boys and girls and gender equality
  - We offer victims and perpetrators protection and means to reintegrate society (material support; emergency accommodations; training in couple relationships; social, judicial and psychological help; support groups for adults and children; fast social investigations; judicial control; judicial mediation).
- We offer multidisciplinary support for emergency situations as well as long-term solutions.

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

It is directly related to the theme since it is a project for the prevention of and fight against domestic violence

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

One of the main objectives of the programme is to fight against the overall passivity and tolerance of domestic violence among the general public and authorities. Furthermore, one of the core principles of the scheme is that it is possible to prevent this type of violence, provided all stakeholders are aware of its characteristics and of the specific needs of victims. This is why we provide training sessions for police officers (90 policemen trained in 2013), and conduct awareness campaigns targeted at the general public on the one hand, and schoolchildren and youngsters on the other.

The scheme is based on the idea that isolated actions do not work and that domestic

violence can be curbed only thanks to coordinated, multidisciplinary actions. Also, we release information and statistical data on the phenomenon than can be used for comparative studies.

**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)**

Until 2006, the fight against domestic violence in the area of Valenciennes was hampered by the lack of coordination between stakeholders. On the other hand, there was a high rate of serious or repetitive acts of violence. The Law of 4 April 2006 on the prevention and repression of domestic violence offered solutions to the problem of emergency accommodations by allowing the judicial eviction of the perpetrator of violence from the family home. Public institutions and associations of the Valenciennes area started consultations, under the auspices of the Public Prosecutor of the Valenciennes First Instance Criminal Court (Procureur du Tribunal de Grande Instance), and agreed to kickstart the Scheme against domestic violence. The first measures were meant to provide housing for spouses who had been judicially evicted from the matrimonial home, and to provide protection to victims by offering them sheltered housing facilities.

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

Our objective is to see the Valenciennes Scheme against domestic violence bring real change. Domestic violence in our region, compared to the overall rate of violence that is not perpetrated for financial gain, is twice as high as the national average in France. Our objective is to reduce this gap through prevention in all its aspects.

In order to achieve this objective, it is imperative that public authorities and private stakeholders are associated both in the implementation of actions and in their evaluation. This is why they are fully associated in our scheme and participate in the steering committee. To this effect, we have prepared an agreement that will be signed on 26 November 2013

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 Valenciennes scheme was launched in 2006. The most recent development is the creation of the Valenciennes Observatory on Domestic Violence, which will be formalised in November 2013. The general objective of the scheme is to prevent and

fight domestic violence in the area of Valenciennes.

The scheme includes the following actions:

- Support to victims and emergency care until they can regain their autonomy;
- Coordination, evaluation and observation by the Valenciennes Observatory on Domestic Violence.

Today, the Valenciennes scheme implements three levels of prevention, in line with the universally accepted distinction of the World Health Organisation between primary, secondary and tertiary levels. How?

- By offering schools (primary and secondary) "awareness days" on the topics of violence in love relationships and gender equality.
- By offering early treatment of marital problems through information campaigns on family matters and marital counselling.
- By protecting victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and working towards their social and professional reintegration (material support; emergency accommodations; training in marital relations; support groups for adults and children; fast social investigation; judicial control; judicial mediation).

Today, 187 professionals and volunteers work in actions developed by the Valenciennes Scheme. In order to better coordinate the scheme, guarantee greater impact, and formalise our partnerships, we are in the process of inviting financial backers, State agencies, the General Council (Conseil général), and leading local associations to gather within the Steering Committee of the Valenciennes Observatory on Domestic Violence (the current steering committee includes the associations AJAR, La Pose and SIAO of the Hainaut area).

Together, we have set the symbolical date of 26 November 2013 for the signing of the convention.

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

Before the launch of the overall Scheme Against Domestic Violence in the district of Valenciennes, public authorities and local associations worked to prevent and fight domestic violence, but there was a lack of coordination. There were national data on domestic violence (in particular by the National Institute of Statistics, or INSEE according to the French acronym), as well as local data gathered by the police, the justice system and local associations. In our district, data from State agencies and the district's Établissements Publics de Coopération Intercommunale (Public Agencies for Intercommunal Cooperation) show that domestic violence represents 70% of the crimes that are not perpetrated for financial gain, which is twice the national average.

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**)

Actions carried out under the Scheme are evaluated each year by the organisations participating in the Scheme –according to their own, internal evaluation criteria and to the objectives of the action programmes- as well as by the financial backers (State, local authorities, ECPI...). The Observatory on Domestic Violence set to be put in place in 2013 will conduct a global assessment of the Valenciennes Scheme, and will suggest to financial backers and stakeholders gathered in the Steering Committee new actions to be undertaken, or improvements to existing programmes.

We also evaluate the project through the number of people attended. Between the 1st of June 2006 and the 1st of November 2012, 4,406 victims of domestic violence were attended by professionals involved in the Valenciennes scheme. During the same period, among the 3,276 persons who were sentenced or submitted to alternative measures, only 305 were referred again to the scheme, which represents a reiteration rate of 8.5%. Furthermore, thanks to the four protected apartments at our disposal, only 19 persons had to stay in a hotel in 2012, vs 28 in 2011.

Also, we have established a common database (used by all the partners in the scheme), which enables us to monitor exactly how many people are reached through each action. The database shows the number of victims and of suspected perpetrators, and includes a number of sociological criteria (age, level of qualification, number of dependent children, marital status...). It also shows the rate of reoffending among perpetrators, as well as the number of victims who have endured new acts of domestic violence.

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 11. What works/has worked for whom in what circumstances? Were there any unexpected side-effects? (**Max. 300 words**)

In 2012, the Sous-Préfecture of Valenciennes asked the Departmental Coordinator on Domestic Violence to identify and assess the stakeholders involved and the actions carried out in the field of domestic violence. Actions carried out under the Scheme are evaluated each year by the organisations participating in the Scheme –according to their own, internal evaluation criteria and to the objectives of the action programmes- as well as by the financial backers (State, local authorities, ECPI...). The Observatory on Domestic Violence set to be put in place in 2013 will conduct a global assessment of the Valenciennes Scheme, and will suggest to financial backers and stakeholders gathered in the Steering Committee new actions to be undertaken, or

improvements to existing programmes.

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. Presentation of the scheme for the Prix Prévention de la Délinquance (France) 2013
2. Power Point presentation
3. Presentation brochure of the Observatory (PDF format)

**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 fact that the project is managed jointly at each phase (conception, implementation of actions, evaluation...) is innovative, and has been key in setting it up. Our action is also based on original schemes such as the SAVU (Service d'Aide aux Victimes en Urgence, or Emergency Help to Victims Service), which is a proactive scheme whereby stakeholders visit victims, and which offers victims flats where they can stay with their children for up to a month.

The most innovative aspects of the projects are also:

- the fact that it offers emergency and long term multidisciplinary support (judicial, psychological, social) to the perpetrators and victims of domestic violence (including children).
- the fact that we attend victims (women, men and children who are directly or indirectly victim) and perpetrators, taking into account their respective "life paths".
- the fact that we attend people according to a "pathway logic": stakeholders offer victims and perpetrators cross-cutting actions that guarantee systematic coordination and follow-up of personalised pathways.

**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)**

Many stakeholders are involved in the project: indeed, the fact that it is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary project is its funding principle. The stakeholders involved are:

- The Public Prosecution (First Instance Court of Valenciennes)
- The police and the gendarmerie
- State agencies
- Three associations: AJAR, La Pose, and the CAO (Coordination d'Accueil et d'Orientation du Hainaut)
- The Departmental Coordinator on 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)**

There are no international partner.

**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 budget of the Valenciennes scheme is comprised of the budgets specifically linked to the actions led by the various associate partners. It includes the actions of the "Global scheme for attending domestic violence", the "Coordinator for domestic violence", and the "Actions for the prevention of and fight against domestic violence", which are respectively led by the associations AJAR, CIDFF of Valenciennes, and La Pose. The consolidated global budget is 307,142 €.

The detailed budget is as follows:

- Conseil général 40,000 €
- CAF 19,142 €
- EPCI 81,500 €
- FIPD 106,500 €
- Total 307,142 €

Budget by action:

- « Global scheme for tackling domestic violence » (AJAR)
- Conseil Général 35,000 €
- EPCI 16,000 €
- FIPD 16,000 €

« Coordinator Domestic Violence » (AJAR) :

- ACSE, FIPD 25,000 €

« Actions for the fight against and the prevention of domestic violence » (CIDFF) :

FIPD 22,000 €

EPCI 22,000 €

CR EIDF 60,000 €.

« Support to families victim of domestic violence » (La Pose) :

Conseil général 5,000 €

CAF 14,342 €

REAPP 4,800 €

EPCI 43,500 €

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

We cannot provide more detailed information than that provided above (question 20)

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)**

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)**

Geographical area: district of Valenciennes, department of Nord Pas de Calais, France

Launch of the project: 2006 - still ongoing

Context: prevention of and fight against domestic violence.

Until 2006, the fight against domestic violence in the area of Valenciennes was somewhat at a standstill, although there was in the area an alarming number of acts of serious or repetitive domestic violence. Furthermore, stakeholders worked without coordination.

The Law of 4 April 2006 on the prevention and repression of domestic violence brought solutions to the problem of emergency housing, by allowing the judicial

eviction from the family home of the perpetrator of domestic violence.

Partner associations and institutions held talks under the auspices of the Public Prosecutor of the Valenciennes First Instance Criminal Court (Procureur du Tribunal de Grand instance) and set the foundations of the Scheme Against Domestic Violence.

The first measures concerned protocols for the provision of housing to the spouse in case of judicial eviction, and for the protection of victims in dedicated accommodations.

Today, the Valenciennes Scheme is aimed at women and men who are victim or perpetrator of domestic violence, as well as to their children, whether they are witness, direct victim, or have violent behaviour towards one of their parents. Our actions target the whole district (arrondissement). Community services are provided by external providers (CIDFF, AJAR) and by mobile services (Support to Victim services, Emergency Accommodations by La Pose and AJAR).

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

Since 2006, the Valenciennes Scheme Against Domestic Violence gathers local institutional stakeholders and associations, and supports victims and perpetrators of domestic violence according to a pathway logic.

With this efficient and well reputed scheme, Valenciennes has positioned itself as a leader in France in programmes aimed at preventing and fighting domestic violence.

The scheme includes:

- Support to victims and emergency care until they can regain their autonomy;
- Coordination, evaluation and observation by the Valenciennes Observatory on Domestic Violence.

Today, the Valenciennes scheme implements three levels of prevention, in line with the universally accepted distinction of the World Health Organisation between primary, secondary and tertiary levels. How?

- By offering schools (primary and secondary) "awareness days" on the topic of violence in love relationships, and on gender equality.
- By offering early treatment of marital problems through information campaign on family matters and marital counselling.
- By protecting victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, and working on their social and professional reintegration (material support; emergency accommodations; training in marital relations; support groups for adults and children; fast social investigation; judicial control; judicial mediation).

The Valenciennes Scheme Against Domestic Violence fosters collective work among its members and new partnerships, in order to obtain common successes in a field

that is a key priority for public authorities, but also for all institutional stakeholders, associations, families and society at large.

Today, 187 professionals and volunteers work in actions developed by the Valenciennes Scheme. Between the 1st of June 2006 and the 1st of November 2012, 4,406 victims of domestic violence were attended by professionals under the Valenciennes Scheme. During the same period, 3,276 individuals were sentenced or submitted to alternative measures. Among those, only 305 were referred again to the scheme, which represents an 8.5% reiteration rate.

In order to better coordinate the scheme, guarantee greater impact, and formalise our partnerships, we are in the process of inviting financial backers, State agencies, the General Council (Conseil général), and the leading local associations to gather within the Steering Committee of the Valenciennes Observatory on Domestic Violence (the current steering committee includes the associations AJAR, La Pose and SIAO of Hainaut).

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