

# 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.

Republic of Croatia

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)

This project represents Croatia's ECPA entry project.

3. What is the title of the project?

"Living Life without Violence"

4. Who is leading the project? Contact details.

Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Croatia

www.mup.hr

policija@mup.hr

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations "Status-M", "THE ARTO" and local self-government

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

The project started with implementation in November 2010 and is still ongoing.

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

The project Living Life Without Violence is primarily focused on the prevention of all forms of violence (predominantly domestic violence, followed by other types of violence including peer violence and violence against women) and is targeted at children and young people between the ages of 13 and 14. This project, which is aimed at creating a culture of nonviolence and tolerance, is comprised of three components: interactive workshops at schools, conceptual art programmes with the play Violence, there is no excuse for violence and interactive youth debates in the police premises. By means of these three interrelated components, children acquire knowledge on the causes and consequences of violence as well as the necessary steps which need to be taken when violence occurs and are encouraged to choose the proper reactions on negative incidents, to create their connection with individuals, friends and

the whole environment, through a personal nonviolent engagement. Seeing as this is the stage of youth development when their identity is becoming fully formed, a positive attitude in society and a constructive approach to solving violence issues are instilled. The police involvement in the area of violence prevention is evident in this project police is involved in every aspect of project implementation, in collaboration with an international organization, civil society organizations, artists and the local community, in creating a safer environment i.e. "a community that cares". A systematic project evaluation is conducted, in collaboration with lecturers, providing a picture of youth needs and a review of what has been learned.

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)

This project instils knowledge and awareness in youth before they enter romantic and family relations thus preventing violence potential. Unacceptable youth behaviour as a result of negative connections with individuals and/or society is not stigmatized, but the target group is rather provided with the alternative choices in correlation with their personal interests and skills. Furthermore, familiarizing the target group with legislative and institutional solutions and procedures in violence cases and the treatment of offenders raises awareness for reacting and possibly reporting such cases to the authorities along with creating a sense of security in social and institutional instruments for victim support. Through the involvement of all society subjects, the importance of the notion "a community that cares" and also the importance of building positive relations with society are instilled in the youth population. By systematically educating youth during their developmental period from the stage "who am I" to the stage "what am I", the manifestation of domestic violence as well as a possible form of trans-generational violence is hindered.

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

Through primary prevention i.e. by means of tactically thought-out primary reaction activities, this project influences the development of preventing all types of domestic violence as well as preventing the trans-generational transmission of violence through learning about it. During the first educational phase of the project activities, the youth are introduced to the different types of violence which exist (economic, physical, psychological, social) in order to develop mechanisms in the second phase which demonstrate ways of avoiding domestic violence and choosing nonviolent reactions to conflict. Lastly, in the third educational phase, they are encouraged to report any incidents of violence.

This prevents the fear of crime and offers the possibility of providing assistance and protection from violence which certainly presents an innovative step forward in relation to previous similar projects. In addition, the project's innovation is also reflected through the participation of actors whose performances/theater play showcase to the youth 160 various examples of everyday violence, and then in the final stage youth are placed in the roles of being self-conscious and responsible through participation in interactive workshops.

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

Given that this project is supported by a public campaign, which has a strong presence in the media, along with the involvement of leading local community figures and famous artists, this project has exceptional exposure within its community. Part of the project is carried out directly at schools thus teachers and parents are also involved in the project activities and familiarised with the importance of prevention. Joint action develops within the youth a sensitivity towards the prevention of violence, a sense of confidence in the police and that of "a community that cares", all contributing to their increased confidence and reduced fear of crime.

- 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)

This project is intended to break through the dark figures of domestic violence due to the fact that this violence often remains unreported. In addition, this project aims to encourage the entire community to report violence and to pass on positive values to children and youth by means of identifying all the negative aspects of violence in order to prevent the transmission of trans-generational violence. Furthermore, there is a need for raising awareness in the local community on crime being harmful and illegal. Due to the aforementioned reasons and also taking into account criminal trends, the definition of the problem is defined by the National Strategy for Protection Against Domestic Violence and is implemented by responsible national authorities. Likewise, problem is defined by means of recorded statistical crime indicators according to the data of the Ministry of the Interior, through perceived problems of the local community set out through the work of local Crime Prevention Councils as well as by the defined need of the relevant educational agencies in the field of development of primary prevention of violence. In that sense, the Ministry of the Interior and the United Nations Development Programme, in cooperation with other project partners, detected and defined the problem and started to implement this multi-modular project in November 2010.

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

The basic goal of this project is domestic violence prevention and the prevention of trans-generational transmission of violence through sensitisation focused on nonviolence and non-discrimination. By increasing the level of knowledge about violence, legal norms and police procedures in cases of violence as well as showing the network of partners within the local community that provide aid in cases of violence, all members of the community, but especially victims, are encouraged to report violence and the sense of acceptance of police as a helping friend is raised. With education, this project enhances the establishment of positive attitudes and the level of sensitisation of the problem of domestic violence. The project also improves police effectiveness in the area of prevention and violence control, increases the visibility of police involvement and expands police cooperation with other relevant subjects of society including civil society organizations focused on crime prevention, and creates a safer environment on a national, as well as local level, by increasing the level of citizen's confidence in the police i.e. the perception of security.

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

Project activities consist of three linked components: interactive workshops at schools, conceptual art programs and interactive youth debates in the police premises, with the project goals incorporated into all three parts of the Project. Through the interactive workshops, the target group is given information on the problem, types and consequences of violence, the need for reporting and the legal norms and police procedures in cases of violence and is introduced to the network of partners within the local community where they can ask for assistance and protection. In joint participation with the civil organizations, the youth and children are taught not to associate the word “masculinity” to violence and physical strength but to a firm attitude against violence. Project is further expanded through the second component where, through a play and a musical program, the target group is instilled an awareness about a culture of nonviolence and non-discrimination and is shown positive ways of spending free time with the aim to encourage positive attitudes as well as the need to identify and properly act in cases of violence. With the involvement of famous artists in the second component, the project has particular influence on the target group and gains media significance which results in an increased impact on the broader public. Within the third component, the adopted information is summarized and affirmed, and through discussion and essays, a feedback is provided directly by the target group. Particularly, the children are placed in roles of adults and through their participation in the interactive debate, positive attitudes are developed within them. The target group is more actively involved in the process of understanding the model of “a community that cares” through meetings with the police representatives and representatives of other bodies of government, international organizations, civil organizations and with a personal insight into the violence prevention efforts which raises their sense of security and trust. With the involvement of local leaders, the care of the local community about its surroundings gains significance. During a one-year period, from September 2012 to September 2013, a total of 60,000 children had gone through the foreseen program, and according to the feedback provided by the target group, there is a clear need for continuance of implementation which is confirmed by the evaluations and the interest shown by the local community.

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

A series of scientific and expert research focused on etiological and phenomenological factors of domestic violence in the Republic of Croatia, including the ones with the most severe consequences, as well as problems detected through the National Strategy, including the relevant statistical factors of relevant government authorities, were the subject of the detailed analysis before the project implementation. This is clearly confirmed by the cooperation agreement signed by the ministers of the interior, justice, health, social policy and education aimed at the prevention of the severest forms of domestic violence, and preceded by a package of measures compiled by the police with the goal of improving the inter-department cooperation in jointly solving the problem of violence and sensitising the public.

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 data was collected via questionnaires filled in at locations where the project was implemented, using a sample of 239 respondents, aged between 13 and 16, divided by school and gender. The prerequisite for inclusion in the evaluation was participation in the project components. All the data was entered into computers and it was processed through individual tabular displays resulting in statistical calculations, which minimizes errors in the evaluation process. Basic goals of the research were: to establish the success of the project, to establish the frequency and the type of violence present in the target group's living environment, to establish the understanding of the concept of violence prevention i.e. the response and procedures in cases of involvement/witnessing violence, to establish the perception of trust in the police and finding out the recommendations and comments on the continuance of project implementation.

Furthermore, an evaluation of the play Violence – there is no excuse for violence was carried out on a sample of 563 respondents. The play received top scores, which shows an extremely positive level of acceptance by the target group.

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)

The success of the Project is evident in the fact that, to date, 60,000 children had gone through the education, and that other artists, moved by the theme, have joined the campaign. The local authorities have shown great interest in the Project by expressing the willingness for implementation and providing their local resources. The media involvement has risen the campaign's exposure to the national level and the society has given an extremely positive response.

On the primary level, the target group's feedback shows the need for continuance of Project implementation.

More than 60% of participants stated that this Project introduced them to new types of violence which were unknown to them before and also explained how to proceed when violence occurs. Moreover, in their comments they stated that they understood the need for tolerance, respect for others and diversity appreciation. This feedback indicates that the Project's topic violence prevention was presented and done successfully. One of the Project's objectives is raising the younger generations' awareness on the need for reporting violence and strengthening the sense of trust in the police. In connection to this, it is particularly worrying that almost 1/10 of the participants stated that they would not report violence in which they themselves were the victims which clearly shows the need to continue working with the target group through this Project and violence prevention. However, the percentage of participants not reporting acts of violence occurring with someone else is increasing, leading to the conclusion that every sixth act of violence remains unreported. This alarming revelation indicates the need to continue this preventive work with children. By developing trust in institutions (schools, police) and understanding the need to fight against violence, children and pupils will fully be able to grasp and understand all forms of violence along with knowing how to proceed, prevent and report acts of violence.

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)

- Living Life Without Violence brochure

[http://www.mup.hr/UserDocsImages/topvijesti/godina2010/studeni/ZZBN/zivim\\_zivot\\_bez\\_nasilja.pdf](http://www.mup.hr/UserDocsImages/topvijesti/godina2010/studeni/ZZBN/zivim_zivot_bez_nasilja.pdf)

- Project document

- Expert article

- Evaluation

- National strategy

**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 innovativeness of the project is evident in the very approach of the project towards the prevention of trans-generational transmission of violence. Children and youth are the project focus. Moreover, it is based on the fact that influencing the target group and changing their mindset and raising awareness in the early age has long-term positive effects for the community. The interactive manner in which the project is carried out and its art component make it very interesting while involving public figures in the campaign make the project more exposed. Apart from the accompanying media campaign, the knowledge about the project is therefore spread among the population by word of mouth. The impact of the project is evident both during and immediately after its implementation through feedback obtained from the target group. The project is also flexible enough to adjust to the potential unforeseen needs resulting from these inputs.

**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)

The Project is based on a joint cooperation of the Ministry of the Interior and the United Nations Development Programme in creating and organizing all activities and jointly managing the Project as well as the active involvement of their representatives during the entire implementation.

The Project requires a joint effort that gathers a range of contributors on multiple levels. Local authorities, community leaders, as well as schools and teachers provide support during implementation on the local level.

Through the first component, the NGO Status M holds the first part of the interactive workshop. The NGO Riječi/Prave/Predstave are involved with the theatre play "Violence – there is no excuse for violence" during the second component which also consists of a musical program performed by guest artists.

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)

In 2011, in cooperation with the youth NGO Status-M, the campaign was further strengthened by the elements of the “Be a Man – Change the Rules” programme with the aim of promoting a non-violent masculinity model.

The involvement of the NGO Riječi/Prave/Predstave in creating and performing the theatre play „Violence – there is no excuse for violence“, has proven highly successful, in accordance with the feedback provided by the target group which complemented the actors and spontaneously expressed encouragement for the continuance of the play, as well as the whole Project.

During this year, the Ministry and the UNDP continue with the implementation of prevention activities as part of “Living Life Without Violence” campaign in cooperation with the youth NGO Status M which are focused in the prevention of all forms of violence and building a culture of non-violence among the youth.

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 Ministry of the Interior with the United Nations Development Programme, jointly contribute resources foreseen to cover the organizational aspect of the project: the cost of promotional material, theatre play, artists, transportation etc., with the involvement of the local administration which partakes in covering the expenses incurred during the implementation of the complete program on the local level.

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

- Cost of promotional material (brochures, posters, pamphlets) production, including cost of design
- Cost of performing the play Violence – there is no excuse for violence
- Cost of music and entertainment programme
- Theater expenses covered through cooperation with the local community
- Organizational expenses, script drafting and transportation expenses are an in-kind contribution by the Ministry of the Interior

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 is currently being carried out, and will encompass project activities implemented this year, in accordance with the project document. According to the UNDP procedures, an ex-ante evaluation of the relevance, effectiveness and impact of “Living a Life Without Violence” will be compiled by the completion of this year’s activities. The intention of this cost-benefit analysis is to identify the factors of success or failure, to assess the sustainability of results and impacts, and to draw conclusions that may influence the project continuance.

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)

In November 2010, the Ministry of the Interior drafted a Package of measures i.e. specific actions that are implemented in cooperation with other authorities, institutions and civil society organizations in order to improve the system of providing assistance and protection to victims of violence. The Package consists of:

- Signing the Agreement on cooperation between several ministries in order to establish inter-ministerial teams at national and county levels, whose members are involved in solving complex cases on a daily basis,
- Joint training,
- Proposed amendments to the Criminal Code (introducing a new criminal offense - harassment) and
- Rules of Procedure in cases of domestic violence,
- Creating a standard operating procedure for the police in cases of domestic violence, creating action reminders upon notification of domestic violence,
- Drafting a Plan for strengthening police capacity in order to improve procedures in cases of domestic violence,
- Implementing the project: Living Life Without Violence.

The legal framework

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- National Plan of Action for the Rights and Interests of Children 2006-2012
- Action Programme for violence prevention among children and youth,
- National Strategy for the Prevention of Behavioural Disorders in Children and Youth 2009-2012
- National Strategy for Protection Against Domestic Violence 2011 to 2016
- National Youth Programme 2009 -2013
- National Addiction Prevention Programme for children and youth in the educational system and children and youth in the social welfare system for the period from 2010 to 2014
- Rules of Procedure in the case of violence among children and youth

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

Given the involvement of the police as one of the key implementing partners, this preventive project should by means of long-term implementation result in the following: improved



efficiency of police work in the area of preventing and combating domestic violence, violence against women and youth violence; increased visibility of police participation; strengthen cooperation with other relevant actors, including civil society organizations in the area of crime prevention; creating a safer environment at the national and local levels; increasing the citizens' level of trust in the police/perception of security; encouraging children and youth to create positive attitudes which are consistent with the positive attitudes in their society; raising awareness on the issue of domestic violence and encouraging all, especially potential victims, to report violence which should eventually lead to increased awareness of the entire community on the harmful consequences of vandalism, destructive behaviour and peer violence, domestic violence and violence against women as well as other forms of risky behaviour.

The Project consists of three key components:

**1. interactive workshop** during which children and youth are introduced to violence issues, legal possibilities of its prevention and reporting and they are educated on issues of non-violence, tolerance and non-discrimination. This component in the educational institutions i.e. schools is jointly conducted by police representatives, NGO Status M and the UNDP in collaboration with teachers and educators.

**2. conceptual art program** focused on creating a culture of non-violence, tolerance and non-discrimination adapted for children and youth as an extension to the first component. This component incorporates police representatives and the UNDP, and artists whose participation reaches an even wider general public. This component consists of two parts: thematic plays and a theatrical program whose combined implementation is aimed at reaching project objectives. The first part of this component is the thematic theatre play "Violence, there is no excuse for violence", directed by actor Zijah Sokolović, who is also the UNDP Goodwill Ambassador for Tolerance and Non-Violence, developed in cooperation with the NGO Riječi/Prave/Predstave. In this part of the program, youth are taught to think in a new and unfamiliar way, by means of performances and direct communication with the actors they find out a lot of information on various life topics, combining their experiences with the covered topic.

The second part of this component includes an appropriate entertainment program with pianist Matija Dedić and the music bend „Apokalipso“. This program offers quality free-time activity through music and songs so as to encourage youth to create lifelong attitudes that are consistent with the positive attitudes in the society they live in.

**3. interactive debate** provides an overview and opinions for children and youth on the issues of non-violence tolerance and discrimination based on all the acquired information and knowledge gathered within the framework of components 1 and 2. Children and youth who participated in the previous project components are included in this third component. This component foresees active engagement of children and youth in the sense that they write essays about the problem of violence and how to address it; it entails discussions and encourages critical thinking. In addition, the component includes meetings with police and other state authority representatives, international organizations and civil society organizations in order to include children and youth actively into the process of understanding the community that cares.

The project is followed by a media campaign in every local community, including a joint press conference with the representatives of the local community, police, actors and the UNDP to raise awareness on the problem of violence, motivate to report violence and strengthen the mechanisms of protection from violence.