

European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) 2013

General information

1. Please specify your country

Poland

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)

National project

3. What is the title of the project?

"The Land of Fire-Flies" [Kraina Świelików]- pilot programme on prevention of violence against small children

4. Who is leading the project? Contact details.

Social Policy Department, City Hall in Sosnowiec, ul. 3 Maja 33, 41-200 Sosnowiec, (32) 296 23 01, wps@um.sosnowiec.pl

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

Duration of the project: 5 months
Setup time: 01.08.-30.09.2012
completion time: 03.10. – 14.12.2012

The project was completed. The project was a pilot prevention programme which shall be implemented in the area of Sosnowiec.

6. Please give a short general description of the project. Max. 150 words.

The aim of the project was to increase early detection of cases or high risk situations of violence against children aged 3-5 via elaboration of innovative prevention programme and increase of competences of professionals and parents in the scope of protecting children against violence.

Innovative aspect of "the Land of Fire-Flies" programme consists in linking three vital matters: prophylaxis in emotional development, early detection and early intervention. The background and inspiration for work with children is the parable entitled "The Land of Fire-Flies". The contents of the parable has the features of the metaphor, leaving children the freedom of interpretation. The most essential diagnostic material and the premise for specific work are children's interpretations, their comprehension of the parable's contents and the scope of problems they take on.

The activities directed to generalization and incorporation of solutions elaborated within the framework of this project to the main stream of prophylactic were taken into account in the course of project realization. The product, as a good practice, can be successfully implemented in any town/city.

I. The project shall focus on crime 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 reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime? Max. 150 words.

This project is aimed at early detecting of domestic violence against small children. According to research results and practical experience of specialist, children aged 3-5 are particularly subject to harm, especially in their family environment. A child is not able to articulate in a direct way that something wrong is going on, and if a child attempts to do so, it is done in an indirect way. Nursery schools and schools are places, in which (apart from family homes) children spend most of their time under care of adults. Whereas social welfare, police or healthcare has episodic contact with a child, and mainly in the form of interventions.

The creation line, attractive and tailored to the recipient, in a natural way engages the child in program activities. Innovative character of the program allows to reach children who were victims of crime or are still in the risk group (early intervention) as well as influence children via the development of emotional competences and education on the avoidance of violence threat and abuse, and on seeking assistance in difficult situation (prophylaxis).

8. How is the project related to the ECPA-theme selected by the organising MS? Max. 150 words.

The main aim of the project is early detection of violence incidents in families, taking into account small children as a particular category of victims. This program is an interesting alternative in the area of prevention activities and, according to evaluation results, proves to be highly effective. The methodology applied in "the Land of Fire-Flies" Program allows for the risk assessment in violence experience and determines activities in the field of early intervention. Tools elaborated for this methodology facilitate the increase of early detection of cases or high-risk situations of violence against children.

The suggested approach constitutes the attractive alternative for prophylactic methods used in the age group (3-5). Innovative aspect of "the Land of Fire-Flies" programme consists in linking three vital matters: prophylaxis in emotional development, early detection and early intervention.

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

The attractiveness of the project lies in the connection of activities directed simultaneously to several groups of recipients- children, parents, specialists- which makes this project comprehensive/ interdisciplinary. Within the framework of this project, the system of prevention and intervention binding the efforts of all institutions is promoted, which leads to close cooperation between them. The project- owing to its approachable and attractive creating line, press information released in the course of the project in the local media and on the project portal- contributed to the increasing social interest in abuse and promotion of prevention and violence-free upbringing.

The project was of local character, but due to its high innovativeness, it aroused substantial medial interest and information concerning the project were presented in all-state media. For instance, "Fakty TVN", "Panorama TVP2", "Wiadomości TVP3", breakfast programme "Dzień Dobry TVN", extensive coverage in "Uwaga TVN" programme. Social recognizability of the project can be proved by the election, by the residents of Sosnowiec, of the initiator and the coordinator of "the Land of Fire-Flies" in the contest for the man of the year 2012.

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.

Implementation of the project was preceded with quality research carried out by the Social Politics Department in five nursery schools selected at random in five districts of Sosnowiec, and the research showed that the pre-school teachers do not have any tool at their disposal to help them identify and support families with the high-risk of violence. During the interviews the nursery school staff often articulated their doubts, for instance, how to recognize a child is subject to violence, where to report their doubts, how to distinguish that in a given family the incidents of violence against children may take place in the future.

Police and judicial statistics are the vital source of data allowing for estimation of the scale and dynamics of the problem of violence against children. The analyses of the scale of the violence against children performed on the basis of the aforementioned data are, however, limited, as they only refer to cases in which legal intervention was initiated. The aforementioned data do not include incidents of child abuse, which were not reported to proper authorities. The role of the representatives of nursery schools in the matter of solving violence problem in case of children is particularly vital.

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

The main target of the project was

to increase early detection of cases or high-risk situations of violence against children aged 3-5.

In order to achieve that it was necessary to achieve several detailed aims:

1. Creation and testing of innovative prevention program directed to children aged 3-5.
2. Providing 10 staff members of nursery schools in knowledge concerning the work with prevention program methodology.
3. Reinforcement of the abilities of 10 staff members of nursery schools to recognize child abuse.
4. Reinforcement of the abilities of 40 parents in the scope of responsible parenthood.
5. Establishing and abiding the standard of a facility free from violence.

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

1. PROJECT STRUCTURE ORGANIZATION
2. PROJECT OFFICE WORK ORGANIZATION
3. ESTABLISHING AND DEVELOPING COOPERATION IN THE SCOPE OF PROJECT
4. SELECTION OF SPECIALIST PERSONNEL FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES.
5. SELECTION OF NURSERY SCHOOLS FOR PROJECT REALIZATION, ELECTION OF COORDINATORS FROM THE SELECTED FACILITIES.
6. PROJECT PROMOTION
7. REALIZATION OF COACHING FOR TEACHERS

The realization of coaching was aimed at increasing - at nursery schools staff members, caring over children aged 3-5, the competences in the field of effective carrying out prevention program and early detection and intervention in case of child abuse. Within the scope of a coaching the participants were familiarized with the "the Land of Fire-Flies" prevention program methodology, which was at the later stage realized under supervision in nursery schools.

8. REALIZATION OF PROJECT IN NURSEY SCHOOLS

This part consists of several complementary elements. These are: concept stage (elaboration of methodology for "the Land of Fire-Flies" program/ elaboration of the coaching model/ elaboration of diagnostic tool); implementation stage (providing specialists with knowledge in the field of program realization, assessment of effectiveness, evaluation); as well as testing stage (application of the elaborated presumptions in practice, supervision). Every element was monitored by one responsible coordinator, who supervised the progress of the project at all stages. The testing stage in every nursery facility was preformed by one leader (nursery staff member in a given facility), supported in the field of methodology by program supervisors. The team of supervisors monitored the high quality of activities in the whole "the Land of Fire-Flies" program- they were also responsible for collection and analysis of data within the scope of prevention program.

9. ELABORATION OF DETAILED OFFER FOR PARENTS

The main aim of preparing the offer for parents was to establish proper parental attitudes with care for psychic and physical development of small children and child abuse prevention via

supporting custodial and educational competences of the parents of children (aged 3-5).
10. ELABORATION OF REPORT AND GENERALIZATION OF OUTCOMES
11. ORGANIZATION OF SUMMARY CONFERENCE
12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION
13. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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

In the period from March to April 2010 in Sosnowiec, the research procedure concerning the diagnosis of situation, needs and problems of domestic violence was implemented by the Social Politics Department of the City Hall. The research entailed 254 supporting specialists in total, including: 102 teachers, 92 social workers, 50 policemen, 10 physicians and 320 pupils from primary schools, junior high-schools and high-schools (*Report on pilot research 2010, Sosnowiec*). The research carried out in schools revealed that, according to pupils, the ones who most often experience violence are children (according to 31% of respondents). In 2011 the quality research was performed in five nursery schools selected at random, from 5 districts of Sosnowiec, and the research showed that the nursery staff members do not have at their disposal a tool allowing for identification and support of families with high risk of violence. During the interviews nursery staff members very often revealed their doubts.

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 evaluation performed was the external and on-going evaluation. The evaluation was performed by the employed Valuer who participated in the project from the very beginning of its implementation.

The main aim of the evaluation was to analyse and assess the program in the field of its adequacy to the needs of the recipients, effectiveness in achieving the assumed aims and results, effectiveness in realization, as well as utility and duration of the achieved results and their impact on wider community (that is, people outside the group of direct participants). With reference to particular evaluation criteria, the following research questions were elaborated:

1. To what degree did this prevention program satisfy the needs of the recipients? (adequacy)
2. What was the degree of utility of the achieved results for prevention program participants? (utility)
3. To what degree did the program achieve the assumed aims and results? (effectiveness)
4. Were also other results achieved in the course of the program, which were not assumed in the findings/ contest offers? (efficiency)
5. Were the activities performed in an optimal manner? (efficiency)
6. Which factors facilitated or impeded the achievement of the assumed results? (efficiency)
7. Which factors determined the durability of the achieved effects? (durability)
8. Were and to what extent were the achieved results generalized? (influence)

The evaluation research was carried out in the period from September to December 2012r. In connection with the specific character of recipients (children aged 3-5), the research was based on the leading research methodology of qualitative character. What is worth mentioning is the application -as main research strategy- the action research method, which allowed for collection of reliable evaluation material.

The source of the performed analysis was the participating observation and full-scale individual interviews with children's parents, program coordinator, as well as substantive experts, nursery staff members and voluntary workers.

Information collected in the course of evaluation research allowed for identification of strong and weak points of the program, indication of good practices in this field, as well as formulation of conclusions and recommendations concerning the manner of program implementation in the further phases of realization.

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. Were there any unexpected side-effects? Max. 300 words..

The assumed aims of the project were achieved. The activities performed had influence on achieving in total the fundamental aim of this project. The aims were achieved in a larger extent than assumed in the applied proposal. The program won substantial interest both among specialists as well as children and its general message- the increase of awareness in the field of small children-aimed prophylaxis- proved to be extra-local (winning interest at national level).

Project outcomes:

- owing to the participation in coaching to "the Land of Fire-Flies" program realization, the ability of recognizing early symptoms of child abuse and reacting to it grew in the group of 40 specialists
- the knowledge on violence-free upbringing increased in the group of 20 parents participating in training courses,
- the increase of educational/ custodial abilities increased in the group of 20 parents participating in training courses,
- the interest of parents of children in the area of Sosnowiec in educational methods free from violence increased
- the level of early recognition of high-risk violence against children cases grew
- children who suffered from domestic violence obtained support and assistance

Project products:

- 100 people participated in training courses, coaching and individual consulting sessions,
- 38 specialists received the certificate of completion of training in the field of domestic violence prevention,
- 20 parents received certificates of training courses completion,
- 300 booklets on "the Land of Fire-Flies" program were issued and distributed,
- 50 hours of support (training courses, individual consulting) were provided
- 80 people participated in summary conference
- one electronic final publication was elaborated
- one pilot prevention program on violence against children was elaborated and completed
- one standard of prevention of domestic violence was elaborated for the nursery facilities

Influence of the project:

- the knowledge was obtained in the scope of the level of recognition of domestic violence by children, information on participation in the situations of violence, the scope of comprehension of violence by a child,
- to the environment of children the knowledge was passed on the features of abuse situations, relations, support opportunities, etc.

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

The following document on the project are available:

1. Evaluation report on "the Land of Fire-Flies" project
2. Methodological guide book for "the Land of Fire-Flies" project
3. Guide book for teachers entitled "When to suspect child abuse"
4. project leaflet (also in English version)
5. Presentation of the project realization (also in English)

Materials are available on the website of the project: http://www.kraina-swietlikow.pl/?page_id=35

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.

Innovative aspect of "the Land of Fire-Flies" programme consists in linking three vital matters: prophylaxis in emotional development, early detection and early intervention. The background and inspiration for work with children is the parable entitled "The Land of Fire-Flies". The contents of the parable has the features of the metaphor, leaving children the freedom of interpretation. The most essential diagnostic material and the premise for specific work are children's interpretations, their comprehension of the parable's contents and the scope of problems they take on. The first stage of the project entails the presentation of the parable entitled "the Land of Fire-Flies" which forms the matrix to the whole prophylactic work. Innovation of the project in relation of its participants is revealed in directing activities to the target group, which -so far- benefited from the support in a very limited scope. This concerns parents who do not reveal the features of parental dysfunctions. Another innovative aspect of this project is that the results can be easily applied and adopted to the specific features of other towns. The product, as a good practice, can be successfully implemented in any town/city.

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. (

Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wsparcia Społecznego „Auxilium” [Auxilium Association for Social Support]– substantive support and assistance in action strategy.
Centrum Usług Socjalnych i Wsparcia [Centre for Social Services and Support]– publication of information on educational offer for parents with problems in upbringing children among the residents of Crisis Intervention Centre.
Zespół Interdyscyplinarny ds. Przeciwdziałania Przemocy/Grupy robocze [Interdisciplinary Team for Violence Prevention/ working groups] –Working groups were responsible for passing information on training courses in upbringing skills among parents from the risk of child abuse (for example, due to the existing experience with violence, addiction).
Komenda Miejska Policji w Sosnowcu [Municipal Police Station in Sosnowiec] – assignment of the coordinator for working contact, involvement of district constables in informative activities in the scope of the project.
Miejski Ośrodek Pomocy Społecznej [Municipal Social Welfare Centre]– placing project information materials on the website, passing information via social workers, passing

information on upbringing competence training courses to parents from the child abuse risk group. Assistance in the recruitment of voluntary workers.

Poradnie Pedagogiczno-Psychologiczne [Psychological and Pedagogical Counselling Centre] – passing information on upbringing competence training courses to parents from the child abuse risk group (for instance, due to the existing experiences with violence, addictions).

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..

Auchan Shopping Centre in Sosnowiec – letting the premises for the „Fire-Fly's Cafe”, free of charge. "Fire-Fly's Cafe" [Kawiarenka Świetlika] is an attractive formula of meetings for parents who want to spend time in fine atmosphere and extend their knowledge in the field of widely understood upbringing of children. This way, having a cake and coffee, parents can meet various specialists in childcare, support and upbringing of children. No need of registration- parents simply come there together with a child. In the pilot program (2012) this form of contact was particularly popular among parents- at each time there were more than 30 visitors to the Cafe. In total, 120 people benefited from this form of contact.

Polish manufacturer of toys- WADER.

ITAKA Travel Agency- sponsor of the main prize in the photographic competition for parents and children, that is one family trip to Disneyland.

The project was realized with the patronage of honour of the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection.

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

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

In order to realize the project, the City Hall obtained funding from the Ministry of Labour and Social Politics within the framework of the support program "Support for local government units in establishing system for domestic violence prevention."

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

Total cost of the project: 192,000 PLN
Own contribution of the City Hall in Sosnowiec: 51,430 PLN
Amount co-financed by the Ministry: 141,500 PLN

Detailed specification of costs:

Remuneration for people carrying out this project
(substantive experts, "fairies", supervisors) 43,400 -

Coaches carrying our activities 21,600 -

Childcare offered for parents participating in training course 2,000 -

Elaboration and implementation of medial and visual strategy of the programme "the Land of Fire-Flies" /elaboration of the message concept, idea visualization, implementation of the visualization, designing educational materials, development of multimedia, etc./ 54,000 -

(one-off cost	
Tools for training course /3 sets/	4,000 -
Technical and office materials	4,000 -
Printing of educational materials for "the Land of Fire-Flies" Programme	10,000 -
Cost of exchange calls	2,000 -
Production of gadgets for every participant of "the Land of Fire-Flies" program /fire fly, pins, stickers/ and other ordered services	12,000 -
Printing certificated for participants of the training courses	500 -
Laptop together with software /training part of the project/	3,200 -
Multi-medial Overhead Projector /training part and implementation of the project/	3,000 -
Dry catering during coaching and training courses.	5,000 -
Local and official travel of people carrying out the project	2,000 -
Organization of the conference closing this project	12,000 -

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.

Profit and loss account was prepared. The analysis was performed by the project team responsible for coordination of activities. The project did not bring losses.

The program won substantial interest both among specialists as well as children and its general message- the increase of awareness in the field of small children-aimed prophylaxis-proved to be extra-local (winning interest at national level). The added value was the initiation of the national debate on the prevention of violence against children.

Project outcomes:

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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, timescales. Max. 300 words.

The key intention of "the Land of Fire-Flies" project is to increase awareness of a child in comprehending the surrounding reality. The assumption of the authors of the project is not to focus child's attention on problems, difficulties or threatening situations. The activities of the program concern the understanding, by a child, the experienced states occurring in various family and non-family situations.

Owing to this form of creating situation, it is possible to undertake the dialogue which is safe for a child and not directly associated with the child's own experiences. Professionalism of methodologists allows, in this context, to benefit from natural mechanism of interpretation which are applied by children during such experiences. Specialists participate directly in children's projection, fantasies and other spontaneous reactions. Creating fairytale-based situation of contact with a child allows for the maintenance of the level of metaphoric dialogue.

The first stage of the project entails the presentation of the parable entitled "the Land of Fire-Flies" which forms the matrix to the whole prophylactic work.

The next phase of the activities is to increase the awareness of violence phenomena in the family, via continuation of the fairy tale, directing its story into specific problems. The story of the fairy tale shall refer to problems or situations successively included in the story. The story of the fairy tale refers to the situations known to a child and is the foundation of metaphoric work with a child. Children aged 3-5 experience a wide range of feelings and experiences, for instance, conflicts at home, loss of the near and dear or an object, which whom/which particular emotions were connected. Subsequent sessions with children constitute the coherent sequence with the model of possible child's experiences, connected with difficult situation/ abuse: feeling of helplessness, lack of understanding of intentions, need for help, feeling of responsibility, need for love, feeling of fear (in total- six sessions).

The selection of the fairy tale as a form of work with children is dictated with the fact that it is a natural form of expression, which involves fantasy and imagination of a child. The power of the metaphor is based on its long life- a child may refer to it after years (long-term prophylaxis). Every fairy tale is extremely essential, every one has a task assigned. In the main parable, a fairy is the metaphor of the opportunity of obtaining assistance, she personalizes a professional in a real life. "Pompon" is a metaphor of the possibility to keep secret.

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

Project activities are based on innovative approach to small child abuse prophylaxis. That is why its assumption entails new pilot program entitled "the Land of Fire-Flies". The pilot program was carried out in five nursery schools selected from five districts of Sosnowiec.

The pilot program was elaborated in such a way, so as to -in the course of its realization- initiate a certain model of support and prophylaxis in the development of a child in a family and closest surrounding.

The research entailed directly 280 people (10 teachers of nursery schools, 20 support specialists, 100 parents, 150 children) 40 people attended training courses, whereas 250 people took part in multi-aspect prophylactic activities, 70 people took part in the conference promoting the outcomes of the project. The project was realized in the period from July 2012 to December 2012 (6 months) in the area of the city of Sosnowiec.

In this program, the background and inspiration for prophylactic and diagnostic work with children is the parable entitled "The Land of Fire-Flies". The story of this parable has the features of a metaphor with the high level of non-instructive, leaving children with freedom of its interpretation. The most essential diagnostic material and the premise for specific work are children's interpretations, their comprehension of the parable's contents and the scope of problems they take on.

The characters in the story form merely its scheme. However, it is vital to observe their premises.

Fire-Flies- the character identifying the possibility of support, solving problems, alternative to the existing situation, joy, creative problem solving, protection against everything negative, etc.

Shadows – the character identifying the rationalization of the existing situation, acceptance of oneself in a difficult situation, understanding the elements of violence as the external, not internal factor, understanding of the feeling of injury or loneliness, understanding and identification of negative, difficult feelings, etc.

Other characters- are the basis for interpreting phenomena, features, experiences in the context of professional assistance in the face of the situation the subject is in.

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The selection of the fairy tale as a form of work with children is dictated with the fact that it is a natural form of expression, which involves fantasy and imagination of a child. The power of the metaphor is based on its long life- a child may refer to it after years (long-term prophylaxis). Every fairy tale is extremely essential, every one has a task assigned. In the main parable, a fairy is the metaphor of the opportunity of obtaining assistance, she personalizes a professional in a real life. "Pompon" is a metaphor of the possibility to keep secret. It is the embodiment of the children's joy and openness.

One of the most essential theoretical assumptions is the fact that in nursery groups there are children from both standard and dysfunctional families, and the latter may not have revealed their upbringing deficits yet. That is why the contents of the program focus on the situations and features aside from the actual perception of a child. The children, who do not experience difficult situations, may enrich their awareness with possible experiences which occur in various circumstances. These children, who experiences the state described in the parable, may confront their internal understanding with the provided interpretations.