

Exm^o Senhor
Dr. Jorge Miguéis
Director-Geral de
Administração Interna


Lisboa, 1 de Outubro de 2013

Assunto: Prémio Europeu de Prevenção
da Criminalidade 2013

000332

No seguimento da Candidatura que a AMCV submeteu electronicamente vimos remeter o respectivo Formulário e Anexos (5) em suporte de CD.

Disponibilizando-nos para qualquer informação complementar, subscrevemo-nos com os melhores cumprimentos.



Margarida Medina Martins

Vice-Presidente da Direção

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.

Portugal

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**)

3. What is the title of the project?

E-MARIA – European Manual on Risk Assessment in Domestic Violence / Gender Based Violence

4. Who is leading the project? Contact details.

AMCV – Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência (Association of Women Against Violence)

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

The project had started at 01st June 2011 and concluded at 31st July 2013 – with the duration of 2 years.

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

In domestic violence/intimate partners violence (DV/IPV) intervention survivors' safety is paramount at all times. Thus risk assessment and management play a central role and must be given utmost priority.

E-MARIA intended to improve DV/IPV intervention by developing innovative approaches and instruments for risk assessment and management, in order to increase the prediction of re-assault and promote safety and security of victims of violence.

Thus E-MARIA outcomes intend to promote high level of efficacy and efficiency in the protection and safety of survivors. Is meant to provide guidance to support professional praxis, to contribute to the intervention processes in order to embrace and reinforce common principles of intervention on risk assessment and management, as well as to contribute for survivors' recovery.

Consequently, the final result should contribute towards the prevention of re-victimisation and decrease the number of women killed in the context of gender-based violence, particularly in IPV.

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

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

The E-MARIA Project intends to contribute for a more accurate prediction of risk and likelihood of re-assault/femicide, which will allow a better risk management in order to prevent further violence, including homicide, through the building of a common understanding and approach to DV/IPV from different professionals and organizations that intervene in this field. It was developed a European Manual available on the internet, as well as a training package directed for professionals who

intervene in the field.

Promoting safety and security of survivors of violence shall help them to recover and to (re)build their life without violence. The project developed/implemented a training course directed to survivors of violence, focused on risk assessment and management and on the development of social and personal skills, contributing to increase their empowerment and autonomy and to develop safety strategies. Contributing to decrease the fear of perpetrators and increase the confidence on legal system.

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

We consider that E-MARIA Project is an important European tool on the prevention and intervention on DV/IPV. We highlight the following:

1. outlines risk assessment and management procedures, approaches and tools, defining safety strategies, information-sharing, i.e., outlines the intervention and protection process;
2. considers a multi-agency approach as a coordinated and integrated response to DV/IPV. It requires that organizations have a clear role on the intervention process and that all involved in the case knows what is expected from them:
 - reinforces the central role that the social mechanisms to support survivors plays on the intervention process and on the survivors rights;
 - recognizes the importance of having a legal system that supports survivors of violence and turn accountable perpetrators;
 - identifies important legal measures as a tool for a successful risk management, such for example restriction and protection orders.

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

Although the project is directed for professionals and survivors of violence, it also intended to raise citizens' awareness through the implementation of dissemination activities, including the information dissemination on a website, dissemination products (flyer, postcards, and dissemination materials).

Moreover considering the different types of the formal and informal partnership involved in the project, it would be easier to reach the citizens at European and in the

partner countries.

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**)

The fact that women was/is still being killed by their current or former partners, the fact that there was/is a lack of a common, integrated and coherent approach, the need to improve the intervention process and the protection to survivors of violence were the main reasons for AMCV to launch the E-MARIA Project.

Therefore risk assessment and management was identified as key issues to prevent further violence. The identification of the risk is the beginning of the process that leads to the risk management and multi-agency approach.

The idea for this project was firstly discussed within the partners of a previous project - PACT (Promoting Awareness for Cooperation and Training in the field of Domestic Violence) LLP programme Gundtvig (2010-2011). The issues of risk assessment, professional role and networking were there already discussed. It was decided to present an application to the Criminal Justice Programme of the E.C., DG Justice.

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

The project intended to contribute for the improvement of the intervention on domestic violence and victims'/survivors' recovery process, through the promotion of the safety and security which includes a new life project without violence, which would contribute to the prevention of further situations of domestic violence (prevention of the victimization) and the legal intervention on perpetrators.

The main objectives of the project were:

- to create instruments and tools that allow a high level of efficacy and efficiency in the protection and safety of the survivors;
- to develop an integrated and coherent approach for the intervention in this field;

- to promote the recovery of the survivors, and consequently their empowerment, autonomy and prevention of further victimisation;
- to influence and lobby close to policy makers, law enforcement and legal advisers;
- to develop a formal and informal networks, partnerships in order to achieve all the proposed to disseminate and exploit the project.

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 was organized in work packages and the allocation of the tasks took into account partners' specificities and expertise, ensuring that deliverables meet the needs of the target groups and beneficiaries.

The main activities were:

- **Need Analysis** (02-05 month) – gather information about risk assessment tools; related legal aspects; training for survivors. Aims to identify fields of improvements, good practices, specific roles and relevant stakeholders. The results based further activities.
- **Development of E-MARIA** (06-11 month) – development of a web-based manual on risk assessment that could be implemented in any country of Europe, adapted to the target groups and beneficiaries. Training modules were also developed, with blended learning format, aiming to support professionals to assess and manage the risk.
- **Compilation of training modules for survivors** (06-12 month) – development of training package for survivors of violence, aiming to contribute to the survivors' recovery, including: risk assessment, life projects, recovery.
- **Implementation and training** (13-18 month) – Development of a training course for professionals, The manual and training would be piloted at local level, as well as the training for survivors.
- **Finalization of manual, training modules** (19-23 month) – After the piloting, the manual and trainings would be revised and finalized, which includes the translation into partner languages and printing.

Moreover, it had 4 work packages: project management and coordination; Evaluation and quality management (combining internal and external evaluation); dissemination and exploitation. All these activities were implemented during the entire project

The development of the material was based in an inclusive and participatory

approach. The target and beneficiary were invited by all partners to participate in all phases of the project, to discuss materials, contents and approach. This approach was useful in order 'to build with', motivating the implementation of specific procedures accordingly to the identified needs.

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

The application considered the context on domestic violence field of at European level and used several sources/evidences, e.g. studies, articles, news, statistics. This information was gathered and analysed by E-MARIA partnership, mainly AMCV, and consolidated with the experience of several stakeholders on Europe.

Examples of some data:

- 12% to 15% of European Women over 16 suffered domestic abuse in a relationship (CoE, 2008). Women are still being killed by their partners, despite the increase of awareness;
- Real need of a legal and social system that could intervene in an earlier stage and promote victims' safety and prevent the risk - professionals efforts in the victims'/survivors' protection are still not wholly effective;
- A common understanding about DV/IPV and risk language is yet to be built;
- The promotion of the victim/survivor recovery is not a common culture – contribute to the prevention of further violence.

It was considered EU Directives and Istanbul Convention.

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 project evaluation was mainly formative, including some summative aspects, in order to find areas for improvement, and determine the overall quality of the project and its results. The project combined the internal and external evaluation, both with the support of the partnership, in order to assess the success of the project.

One of the partners was responsible for the internal evaluation, requesting a regular collaboration of the partnership, using self-evaluation methods (online and paper questionnaires). Indicators included: defined goals and tasks and project progress

towards the aims; transnational cooperation and communication; quality of project management; personal and organizational learning. The data collected and analysed through questionnaires was discussed by partners during transnational meetings.

External evaluation: three experts on the field were appointed to give critical feedback on the project outcome and products (namely: the manual on risk assessment and both training packages), involved during the drafting phase and giving recommendations to optimise the final products.

Moreover, the partner responsible also assessed the project products, as presented below:

Product Evaluation				
What?	What for?	Aspects	Evaluation instrument used	When?
Training manual	formative	Relevance to practice contexts Added value compared to other tools Clarity and usability Accessibility Appropriateness for target groups Further quality criteria to be determined	-	-
Training package	formative	Motivation and expectations of participants	Paper questionnaire	before training
Training package	summative	Relevance to practice contexts Attractiveness, motivation for learners Further quality criteria to be determined	Paper questionnaire	after training
Training package	summative	Adequacy of the materials with regard to aims Methodology Further quality criteria to be determined	Telephone/Skype interviews with the trainers	during or after training

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 project was a success, either for the achievement of the proposed goals and good quality of the outcomes, either for the receptivity of the project and its outcomes (e.g. feedback from professionals and organizations; interest on the Launch (Kaunas – Lithuania) and Final Conference (Lisbon – Portugal) events – where policy makers had participated willing to cooperate and extent it to the national context).

The initial objectives were accomplished:

- risk assessment and safety planning was integrated in risk management approach (not foreseen initially);
- the manual illustrates the intervention process – with minimum standards, tips, best practices and recommendations at risk assessment and management and community networks level;
- the Steering Committee was not formally created, although the organizations had cooperated. In Portugal was created a formal network to support the construction of project products. This network started with key stakeholders and integrated almost all organizations involved in the domestic violence intervention, including national bodies, police forces;(see question 19)
- although the project outcomes are directed more for law enforcement professionals, legal practitioners and frontline professionals, the content is suitable for all professionals working in the field.

Nevertheless, the project had suffered a delay of 2 months, since the external evaluator (who would assess all the project outcomes) had serious health problems (vision) during the evaluation process reason why there were some communication difficulties. The problem was solved with the collaboration of 2 additional experts.

Although the project targets especially frontline professionals, law enforcement and legal practitioners, it is feasible to enlarge to other professionals who intervene in this field.

One of the side-effect in Portugal was the implementation of e-Mar Project (funded by European Social Fund – POPH) with support of E-MARIA national network. The aim of this project is to deepen the E-MARIA content and integrate it in the national practices.

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. European Manual on Risk Assessment
2. Training Manual for Professionals
3. Training Manual for Survivors
4. Report Meeting Experts
5. E-MARIA Portuguese Network – List of Entities

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**)

Considering that the project intends to improve the intervention in the field of DV/IPV at European level, it purposes to build innovative approaches for risk assessment and management in order to increase the prediction of re-assault and to promote the safety and security of victims/survivors of violence.

The innovation of the project is based on the following:

- Transferability of other fields and content, such for example: the delivery of specialized training in a blended learning format; content of specialized community networks on risk management;
- The focus on an integrated and comprehensive approach;
- The combination of different target groups/beneficiaries;
- The gathering of good practices in other fields of work and transferability for other fields of work;
- The implementation of focus group of women survivors in order to gather information and support in the elaboration of the project outcomes – Manual and Training Package.

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)**

There were public debates/seminars in the partner countries to collect professionals contributions to the project.

Moreover, in the need analysis phase all partner countries have contacted key stakeholders (some with national umbrella) and involved directly in the field of domestic violence. A web-based questionnaire was launched at European level to collect professional's proposals.

Besides the European Women's Lobby and the WAVE network were involved and a debate about the project took place in the WAVE Conference – Roma.

Special and important contributions were achieved with the involvement of international experts on risk assessment, violence against women, women issues, CEDAW – Laura Richards (UK-DASH), Davina James-Hanman (UK-AVA), Graziella Piga (FR-UNWOMEN) and Regina Tavares da Silva (PT-COMMITTEE CEDAW).

As previously mentioned, it was created a Portuguese network integrating almost all organizations that work, direct or indirectly, in the field (question 19) as well as a focus groups of victims/survivors.

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)**

The Portuguese network was involved along all the project in the implementation of the project activities, specially the elaboration of the European Manual on Risk Assessment and training package directed for professionals. They assumed the role of consultants.

The network was composed by entities/organizations that work in the following areas: social support; police forces; home office; lawyers; public prosecutors; health, perpetrators programmes; education; NGO; migrant services; child protection; municipalities; universities/social studies; shelters and women specialised services.

(see annex 5).

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

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

The project was funded by the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Commission – DG-Justice.

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

Considering that we are still preparing the final report, which includes the financial aspects, we are not in conditions to provide the final figures. Nevertheless, the total amount of the application was 349.765,00 €, which includes staff costs, travel expenses, production of materials, consumables, other costs.

Moreover, the project had the collaboration of voluntary work, not only by the partnership, but also from the organizations that cooperated with the project.

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**)

At this moment, there was any cost-benefit analysis, which is expected that Commission make this analysis.

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

The gap between what is written and recognised at national, European and international level and what is experienced by citizens takes a significant dimension in which concerns domestic violence/intimate partners violence. The WAVE Project – PROTECT I (2011), points out for a complete lack of coherent models of intervention and coordination from entities and professionals that intervene in this field which compromises basic needs of victims/survivors.

On the other hand the 2020 Agenda of EU, the Stockholm Programme and Action Plan and the CoE Istanbul Convention present a new perspective how and where the

28 European countries are to move. The harmonization of national legislation, the recognition of victims' rights, the court cooperation and the mobility of citizens in Europe do challenge those who work in the field of violence and crime.

Therefore the project E-MARIA was built taking into account the universality of human rights and the most important international references as well as specialized documents on violence, namely those from UN WOMEN, World Health Organization, UNICEF, Council of Europe, European Union and Academy.

This Project was designed to provide to the majority of professionals, special those in the frontline, the most important references / guidelines of the intervention, in an accessible language, to contribute to a better answer to victims'/survivors' needs.

There was a period of reflection and debate within the Association of Women Against Violence. At the same time the debate was occurring within PACT partnership.

The introduction of the blended learning in the field violence was an added value to achieve a larger number of frontline professionals. The project took the duration of 26 months.

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

According to the Council of Europe 12% to 15% of European Women over 16 suffered domestic abuse in a relationship (2008). According to European statistics, on in three women suffers from violence during her life.

In the intervention in domestic violence/intimate partner violence safety of women and children is paramount at all times. Risk assessment plays a central role and must be given utmost priority. It is the basis for risk management and the implementation of a safety plan to guarantee the safety and security, preventing further acts of violence or murder and allowing survivors of violence to live a life without violence.

The Project E-MARIA intends to contribute to improve the intervention on domestic violence and to promote the recovery process of the victims/survivors, which includes a new life project without violence and the central approach is the victims'/survivors' needs. The project outcomes are:

- **European Manual on Risk Assessment:** provides guidance to professionals to build a common language, embrace and reinforce common principles of intervention on risk assessment and management. It is available in two versions: an E-Manual (full electronic version) and a booklet (short version).
- **Training Package for Professionals:** with its six modules on relevant aspects related to IPV, it provides trainers with concrete materials and tips on how to deliver training to professionals working in the field of IPV.

- **Training Package for Women Survivors:** with its ten modules it gives trainers guidelines and tips on how to work with women survivors in order to support them in rebuilding their lives without violence.

The project outcomes are special directed on law enforcement and legal practitioners, and frontline professionals. It also targets all professionals who intervene in the field of domestic violence, taking into account that the implementation of risk assessment and management has an impact on all levels of intervention. Moreover, E-MARIA addresses directly women survivors for whom training sessions were developed. It aims a cascading effect.

These instruments were recognized as important tools during the E-MARIA Final Conference. Partners firmly intend to continue to distribute the project results and to offer E-MARIA, having signed a Copyrights Agreement.

All the design of the project were thought taking into account different realities, contexts and minimum standards, good practices, tips and recommendations were presented in order to be implemented all around the European Union.