

European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I – new version 2014

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.

Bulgaria

2. Is this your country's ECPA entry or an additional project?

Bulgaria's ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

Open your eyes! There are people who can help you!

4. Who is responsible for the project? Contact details.

Vania Ananieva – Secretary of The National Commission for combating trafficking in human beings – Veliko Turnovo Region
Blagovesta Fakirova – Chairwoman of Association "St. Ivan Rilski", village Balvan
Valentin Kundev – Head of Public Order and Security Police Sector, Police Station of the Balvan village

5. Start date of the project (dd/mm/yyyy)? Is the project still running (Yes/No)?
If not, please provide the end date of the project.

The project starts 30 May 2007 and officially ends in the end of 2008. The project has a positive response in the society and its activities have shown sustainable results throughout time.

6. Where can we find more information about the project? Please provide links to the project's website or online reports or publications (preferably in English).

www.veliko-tarnovo.bg
www.veliko-tarnovo.mvr.bg

7. Please give a **one page** description of the project (**Max. 600 words**)

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

In the period 2007-2008 Donation Association „St. Ivan Rilski“ of the Balvan village, financially supported by the International Organisation for Migration and the U.S. Agency for International Development works on a project called “Open your eyes! There are people who can help you!” focused on prevention of human trafficking. The project is initiated after a survey among the citizens of small towns and villages of the Veliko Tarnovo region. The results of the survey indicate lack of information among children and youngsters regarding THB risks. As a first step of the implementation of the project are established “Open your eyes” clubs in three villages (Balvan, Resen and Shemshevo), which main goal is to work with children from the age of 7 to 18 and educate them about the risks of becoming a victim of THB.

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

The focus of the project is prevention of THB, especially among children and young people, as one of the most vulnerable groups, due to their inability to protect themselves in risky situations and to recognise the danger. Therefore, through prevention trainings and educational discussions, led by police officers, the children are informed about the dangers of becoming a THB victim and the involvement mechanisms, as well as about the appropriate institutions and organisations where they can ask for help.

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

During the implementation of the project, as well as after it ended, awareness discussion are organised in the smaller villages and towns, usually in the “Open your eyes” clubs, the town’s libraries or the city halls. Occasionally, the National Commission for Combating THB, the International Organisation for Migration and other organisations present informational materials on the subject.

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.¹

10. What was the reason for setting up the project? What problem(s) did it aim to tackle?

The project is initiated due to a determined deficit of information, knowledge and

¹ For more information on evaluation, see Guidelines on the evaluation of crime prevention initiatives (EUCPN Toolbox No.3): <http://www.eucpn.org/library/results.asp?category=32&pubdate>

skills for dealing with risky situations in regards to THB among citizens of small towns and villages in the Veliko Tarnovo region. Usually (not always) people there have a lower social status and less job opportunities and therefore often search for jobs abroad, usually in the field of agriculture, construction, etc. Many of them often become victims of sexual and labour exploitation. The main purpose of the "Open your eyes" project is to support these vulnerable groups in their search for a job and to inform them about the involvement mechanisms and the risks of becoming a THB victim.

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

Before the initiation of the project, the St. Ivan Rilski Association works with a child, victim of THB for a year. The good results and the improvement the child is the reason why the Association decides to look into the topic of THB. After the Association does the survey among the population, on which basis the Open your eyes project is initiated.

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

The main objective of the "Open your eyes project" was prevention of trafficking in human beings and its reduction on a local level. A secondary objective of the project was occupying children's free time with useful and entertaining activities. Therefore the activities of the "Open your eyes" clubs include also sports activities, discussion on different topics, which makes the clubs a natural environment for the children, where they gather information on certain subjects, instead of spending time in risk zones such as dangerous neighbourhoods, etc. Occupying children with different activities in the clubs is a factor for children's safety and parents' calmness and it also eases the work of the police forces and other institutions, involved in securing children's safety.

13. Did you build in internal goals to measure the performance of the project? If so, please describe at what stage of the project and how you measured whether the project was moving in the planned direction. (**Max. 150 words**)

The project started in three villages, and it was aimed mainly at working on preventive activities with children. Subsequently, due to the good results, achieved by the children, the clubs received positive response both on local and national level. It has been highly appreciated from the institutions and organisations, working in the field of preventing and/or combating THB.

14. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what were the main results? (**max. 300**

words) - for more information on process evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.9-10 & part 2 - section 2A

The project received a wide positive public response and was highly rated by all organisations and institutions, involved in the field of preventing and/or combating THB. In April 2008 the first three pilot clubs were invited to Sofia from the International Organisation for Migration to present an open class session on Trafficking in human beings in front of the Minister of Education and the whole diplomatic community. The session is broadcasted on national television. Another indicator for the success of the project is the support of the Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo in the setting up of additional 16 clubs for preventive work with children. It should also be considered as a high evaluation of the project that there are expected more clubs to be open in the near future in other regions, as well.

15. Has there been an outcome or impact evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method were used and what were the main results? (**Max. 300 words**) - for more information on outcome or impact evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.7-9 & part 2 - section 2A

In the beginning of the project, it was planned only three clubs to be set up, but after the positive perception of society and support of the Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo, they become 19 in total and the costs are covered by the municipality. The target groups of the clubs widen and they also start working with teenagers and adults. The issues, discussed in the clubs also widen their scope and include other risk areas such as drugs, AIDS, aggression, safely browsing the Internet and others.

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

16. How is the project innovative in its methods and/or approaches? (**Max. 150 words**)

The project is entirely implemented on the basis of innovative methods and approaches. The children are trained in the clubs, specifically set up for the purposes of the project. They can decorate and arrange the facilities as they wish. They also have the chance to be trainers of other children by forwarding their knowledge and experience. During discussions they can participate equally with the leader of the group. The methodology includes methods such as brainstorming, role and simulation games. During the awareness discussions, led by police officers, there are also practical demonstrations, such as, for example, capturing a drug trafficker, working with police dogs, in action manoeuvres with police motor vehicles, testing people for use of drugs and others. These types of interactions are extremely interesting to the children and one of the most innovative training methods.

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

18. Which partners or stakeholders were involved in the project and what was their involvement? (**Max. 200 words**)

The project is won and executed by the St. Ivan Rilski Association, in tight cooperation with the Police Station of Veliko Tarnovo. The police officers work throughout the year with children in small villages and towns, which makes it easier to communicate with the parents, considering that in part of the conversations participate both parents and children.

The Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo supports the project from its beginning and its continuation in time would have been considerably shorter without the support of the Municipality. Since 2008 the activities of the 19 clubs is financed by the Municipality, through Social Activities and Healthcare Directorate.

Other partners are organisations, such as the Bulgarian Red Cross, the Regional Healthcare Inspectorate, the European Information Centre and others.

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

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

The project is executed by the St. Ivan Rilski Association, with the financial support of the American Agency for International Development and The International Organisation for Migration. As part of the project three clubs are set up and equipped and part-time managers are recruited, in order to deal with the logistics and the distribution of classes. Officially the project ends in 2008 but the good practice is continued and another 16 clubs are set up.

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

The costs of the project are 14 000 dollars. After the end of the project, the good practices continuation is financed by the Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo. In regards to the human resources, the only paid position is of the managers of the clubs. All the trainings, discussions and games are on a volunteer basis.

21. Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? If so, describe the analysis, including how and by whom it was carried out and list the main findings of the analysis. (**Max. 150 words**)

The benefits of the projects repeatedly exceed the expenses. A survey among the population of the Veliko Tarnovo region shows that the trust in the law enforcement authorities has risen and juvenile crime has decreased, due to the personal contact with the children and teenagers.

22. Are there adjustments to be made to the project to ensure a successful replication in another Member State?

In order to be assessed whether the project can be replicated in other Member States, a detailed analysis of the current issues in that MS should be done.

23. How is the project relevant for other Member States? Please explain the European dimension of your project.

Considering certain economic factors and insufficient incomes of many Bulgarian citizens, they are potential victims of THB. As many surveys show Bulgarians are one of the main group of victims of THB in other MS. Therefore, as a Member State of the EU, Bulgaria should provide sufficient information to its citizens, regarding the risks of becoming a THB victim and the involvement mechanisms. As the most vulnerable groups, children and teenagers should be educated and it is a responsibility of the state institutions and NGOs to raise awareness and to create preventive mechanisms.

Please provide a short general description of the project (abstract for inclusion in the conference booklet – **max. 150 words**).

The “Open your eyes! There are people who can help you!” is initiated after a survey among the population of the Veliko Tarnovo region, regarding the risks of becoming a victim of trafficking in human beings. The survey shows there is lack of information on that topic, and therefore the Association “St. Ivan Rilski”, initiates the project with the financial support of the International Organisation for Migration and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The project starts in the beginning of 2007 and during its implementation three “Open your eyes clubs” are set up. In the clubs children in the age of 7-18 participate in discussions, where they are taught what trafficking of trafficking in human beings is and how to protect themselves of becoming a victim.

The project ends in 2008 but due to the positive results the Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo financially supports the continuation of the good practice of the project and 16 more clubs are set up in the Veliko Tarnovo region.