

## 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.

Hungary

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 is Hungary's ECPA entry.

3. What is the title of the project?

„Not a private matter!”

4. Who is leading the project? Contact details.

The project was delivered by Csongrád County Police Headquarters (Crime Prevention Department)

Address: 22-24. Kossuth Lajos Ave. Szeged H- 6722

Contact person: pol. Lieut.-Col. Márta M. Toronykőy, head of the Crime Prevention Department

E-mail: [mozesnetm@csongrad.police.hu](mailto:mozesnetm@csongrad.police.hu)

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

The project is a complex one, its different modules have been continuously developed and introduced in the last years (between 1997 and 2012).

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

The project based on four modules, is aimed at preventing domestic violence. It contains police-led services targeted to potential victims via patrolling among inhabitants living separately in low density areas (module 1) as well as “visiting network” for those inhabitants living in block house areas (module 2). The risk of victimisation is high by the members of both inhabitants’ groups. In order to raise awareness of the problem among the general public as well as among professionals, who might detect unreported cases (members of the early warning system), information on the phenomenon of domestic violence and victim support possibilities are provided via age-specific programmes within the education system among children (from kindergarden to schools) and university training programmes among future professionals (module 3). Finally, the project uses modern tools to provide the proper flow of information via websites, electronic newsletter and press to inform the general public on the issue (module 4).

**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 project contributes to the prevention and reduction of crime by programmes aimed at informing potential victims on the issue of domestic violence and on possibilities, which can be used in cases of violence. Since the targeted persons have different social and economical background, in the framework of the project, special methods were developed for the different target groups, living in different conditions and for police officers working with children and youth. The police patrols and other professionals involved in patrolling and in the visiting network are working on building of close contact with the inhabitants also in order to be able to find out even unreported cases of violence against children or youth.

The training of future professionals on the issue of domestic violence could as well increase the efficiency of preventing and reducing domestic violence.

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

The „Not a private matter!” project focuses on three target groups that are highly vulnerable to fall victim of domestic violence. 1) People living in low density areas are put at high risk due to their isolated physical situation, besides, these people are mostly elderly, which means a cumulation of risks. 2) Those living in block houses are vulnerable for the opposite reason, namely because of the increased potential of

conflicts developing on the basis of intense relationships stemming from living closely together. 3) Children involved in the education system are targeted from an early age with age-specific information on the issue. In all three groups, the project does not only provide information, but by the means of patrolling, visiting and regular programmes in education institutes, personal contacts are established with the target group members, which provides a possibility for detecting and channelling in unreported cases through the early warning system.

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

Besides personal presence and contacts with potential victims, the core of the project is awareness-raising on the issue of domestic violence among different levels of the public, adjusted to the specific needs of those informed. 1) Potential victims are targeted with specific services and information (see more detailed under question 8). 2) Professionals working with potential victims are as well trained on the issue of domestic violence and its prevention. Special educational methods were created for police officers working with children in the kindergardens and schools and awareness-raising programmes are also available for university students, who are expected to be future professionals. 3) Finally, printed and electronic media is used for informing the local citizens about the problem of domestic violence and the possibilities, which can be used when they need support. Three short videos are also available on the issue.

**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**)

Csongrád county is the second most urbanized county in Hungary. In the cities, a large number of inhabitants live in block houses, which represent a special environment for crime. Besides the urbanisation, each tenth of inhabitants live in outer areas (in so called „tanya” houses built for living and farming). In both territories mentioned, most people are at the edge of society in terms of economic and social situation. These facts very often lead to tense situations and conflicts, which escalate mostly within close relationships, families. Economic crisis and the high level of unemployment feed dissatisfaction even more in the last years, and give ground for addictions, which are increasingly related to domestic violence cases.

Domestic violence used to be a hidden phenomenon before, staying “inside the four walls” of family homes, particularly by people living in low density or in block house areas. Since the early 1990's, the issue of domestic violence has been gaining more and more publicity and attention. Thus the project deliverer launched effective

intervention methods to reduce domestic violence within the project.

11. 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 project is to reach potential victims or perpetrators of domestic violence and choose the perfect crime prevention tools for them. Effective coordination among state services supporting victims is of key importance by reaching this objective. Support and information provided in the project are appropriately adjusted to individual demands. While in some cases, this means activity based on personal, even confidential contact (e.g. by the work of the „visiting network”), in other cases anonym electronic preventive communication is needed (e.g. work with youth or intimidated victims).

Thinking on a long term, changing of the public approach to domestic violence and the decrease of dark numbers by presenting educational modules as a secondary objective was determined. Using the mass and electronic media also contributed to reaching this objective.

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

#### Module 1

The project was introduced with focus on the emerging problems after the political transformation in Hungary. The project was designed on the basis of statistical data of this period (1990-1997) and prevention Module 1 for those living in outer areas was kicked off. With the “public safety - crime prevention” patrolling scattered, low-infrastructured area’s inhabitants could be reached and informed. Thanks to the presence of professionals taking part in patrolling (police officers, representatives of different authorities and volunteers), many cases of domestic violence, which would otherwise have been unreported, became known. Patrolling takes place regularly at the outer areas along an adopted plan. On each occasion, they visit 5-9 houses and spend 30-60 minutes at each house, where they inform inhabitants on crime prevention and draw the inhabitants’ attention to dangers.

#### Module 2

The project broadened with the introduction of Module 2 – with setting up the „visiting network” for the urban block house areas, which have similar problems. Besides police officers, this network involves social workers, psychologists and volunteers, who coordinate institutional support, visit the inhabitants and provide them with necessary information.

#### Module 3

This part of the project aims to shape citizens’ knowledge and point of view by using different educational programmes. By shaping public approach, it is essential to start at an early age. In the „Kindergarten-Cop” programme, police officers use special

methods to give age-specific information to children and detect hidden cases of domestic violence at the same time. Similar programmes are provided for elementary- and secondary school students as well. For the effectiveness of prevention work, training of future professionals to be dealing with domestic violence is considered of key importance. So the project deliverer has been running three courses at the University of Szeged since 1999.

#### Module 4

The last module supports wide-spread information flow. In line with the demands of the informational society, the project takes advantage of the possibilities provided by the internet and electronic media. The public is permanently informed by the Police Mail (electronic news), „Cop-blog” (blog at the local news’ webpage). The actualities are published continuously in the county news in an especially dedicated column. A crime prevention webpage was also set up ([www.bulisbiztonnsag.hu](http://www.bulisbiztonnsag.hu)).

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

There was a pre-measurement before elaborating the project modules. Measurement components were the following:

- Preliminary situation analysis and background study about the citizens’ satisfaction. The measurement was made by a special team using structured questionnaires.
- SWOT analysis.
- Criminal and municipal statistics (data provided by the members of the early warning system).

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 has been evaluated continuously, results are analysed in annual reports. Since 1997, surveys are made in each five year to measure progress regarding the outer areas. The number of reported crimes is permanently followed up. The “public safety - crime prevention patrolling” (Module 1) is as well a direct means of detecting unreported cases of domestic violence.

Evaluation results of the already running modules have induced the introduction of the later modules. This is how project modules were started one by one and made the project complete. E.g. by broadening the evaluation system of the project, similar problems at the block house areas were revealed, thus the “visiting network” (Module 2) was set up. Simultaneously with the project, there were preventive presentations running for citizens, which later were extended to children and youth (kindergarten and school programmes, university courses) within the project. It was also the evaluation, from which we learnt that the project should open to digital world and the

idea of the „PoliceMail” and the blogpage were born.

Besides self-monitoring, annual surveys by the University of Szeged Faculty of Sociology had an important role in the project development.

In the last 5 years the number of registered crimes in connection with domestic violence was: 578 (2008); 705 (2009); 646 (2010); 605 (2011); 565 (2012).

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 has been started in 1997. In the last 16 years the Csongrád County Police Headquarters worked out four project modules.

The main objective was to address potential victims and perpetrators of domestic violence with special prevention tools and the coordination of work by services that may support victims. This objective was met by organising the outer area's patrolling. The outer areas' inhabitants' feeling of security increased because of personal meetings with the patrolling services, while the latency of domestic violence decreased. These facts were proved by statistical data.

Regarding the secondary objective, a breakthrough was reached in public awareness when age-specific preventive programmes were introduced in the institutionalised education. As an added part, university courses were run. The future members of the „visiting network” will finish school with knowledge of up-to-date studies and of the early warning systems' operation.

The shaping of the public's approach and the decrease of dark numbers in the field of domestic violence were supported by the media. By the devices of modern communication, the call for attention and the message of „not a private matter” got to wide circle of concerned people. The webpage helps anonymous learning, the electronic letters help fast and effective information flow, the „Zsaru-blog” supports the opportunity of the up-to-date message communication. The various preventive informative brochures, posters complete information sharing both in printed and downloadable version.

During the development and implementation of the programme there were not any unexpected factors or effects.

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. 2004: EUCPN – presentation about the project regarding the outer area module.  
[www.eucpn.org](http://www.eucpn.org)
2. 2011: National Development Agency supported two important modules of the project (crime prevention partolling and block house areas visiting network) by the TÁMOP 5.6.1.C-11/2.  
[www.nfu.hu](http://www.nfu.hu)
3. 2012: The [www.bulisbiztonsag.hu](http://www.bulisbiztonsag.hu) webpage won the „Webpage of the year 2012” award of the Hungarian Marketing Association.  
[www.bulisbiztonsag.hu](http://www.bulisbiztonsag.hu)  
[www.azevhonlapja.hu](http://www.azevhonlapja.hu)
4. 2012: In connection with “2012 the year of the child- friendly justice administration” (programme of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice) a child-friendly hearing room was set at the Police Department of Szeged.  
[www.kim.gov.hu](http://www.kim.gov.hu)
5. 2013: The outer areas’ module of the project represented Hungary at the SELPE (Sharing Experiences in Local Policing in Europe) seminar and conference in Valencia and Sofia.  
[www.iga-bg.org](http://www.iga-bg.org)

**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)

According to the previous years’ experiences we found out that we have to adjust the prevention of domestic violence to inhabitants’ personal demands and daily routine. One tool can be creating confidential atmosphere based on personal meetings. We invented two types of „visiting network” for these meetings. A „crisis intervention team” was as well set up in 2012, which could provide immediate help for victims of serious crimes.

The other innovative part of the project is the usage of modern communication techniques. The electronic newsletters guarantee fast information flow. At the crime prevention webpage necessary information is available to each user. The “Cop-blog” is a kind of internet „diary” operating on the local media’s webpage and is accessible by everyone. With this blog we can reflect to news immediately.

#### **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**)

- Municipalities provided funds and other necessary conditions.
- Families' Temporary Home which can be the primary help for the victims of domestic violence.
- Csongrád County Civil Guards Organisation.
- The members of crime prevention patrolling (eg: public place inspectors, river- watchers, rangers, Nature Protection Authority's experts) and of the „visiting network”.
- Churches, which have special connection with the inhabitants.
- Family Support Services and relatives of the persons directly concerned with domestic violence cases.
- Local and national media, which can help the fast information giving.

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**)

Given the need for close inter-agency cooperation within the project, we provide opportunities for regular meetings of professionals dealing with domestic violence. We regularly organise conferences for the South Great-Plain Regio's professionals (police officers, members of different authorities), where they can exchange relevant information and best practices. We also invited authorities from the national level to these programmes and conclusions and lessons learnt at these meetings were also channelled in the project implementation in order to improve our work.

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

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

- From the beginning, the project was financially supported from local funds by the municipalities several times.
- Three times the Police won support from the following national agencies:  
2004: Ministry of Interior 3 800 000 HUF  
2011: Ministry of Interior 4 734 352 HUF  
2012: National Development Agency 4 525 263 HUF
- Several parts of the project are self-sustaining.



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

The most important part of the „Not a private matter!” project is the operating of the “visiting network” (including patrolling as well). Our colleagues’ tasks in the project are in hardly separable interconnection with their daily work, therefore, it is very hard to determine the exact costs of the project.

Patrolling (both in outer areas and urban areas) means generally 2 police officers, with 1 car (120 km/time) at least once a week (6 hours long) in connection with the project. According to the data of the police, the entire cost of daily patrolling is 94 million HUF/year (central budget). Moreover, some technical instruments (laptop, projector, screen) and also safety technology tools, brochures, hand-outs needed to be procured, which costed about 0,5 million HUF (and was covered of the support from the Ministry and the Municipality).

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 the planning period, fundamental requirement was the reduction of the number of the crimes concerning citizens, the reduction of dark numbers and the shaping of public perceptions of crime. Besides this, we made efforts to put the project on a self-sustaining basis, and to minimalise expenses. We tried to find those points in police’s work, which could be integrated into the “visiting network”. We also tried to support the implementation of the tasks in every possible way.

Thanks to the project, in the last years the number of this kind of infringements decreased, and the subjective results in connection with victim support also show positive feedback.

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 project’s objective is to reduce the number of criminal acts of domestic violence, to address the victims, to decrease dark numbers, and to change the public approach to this type of crime.

The project has been launched to address challenges induced by the changes in the 1990’s in connection with the political transformation, when several phenomena, among others domestic violence entered the focus of crime prevention and criminal policy. This kind of crime was known as a private matter before, but after the national and international economic and social changes, the demand of an efficient, social approach to these kinds of infringements arose. This was the context of the project on

national level.

On the local (county) level, the need for intervention within the project was determined by the specific conditions presented above (see under question 10), and so were the means of intervention, that had to be adjusted to the specific needs of the different target groups.

Regarding the legal context, it is important to be mentined that domestic violence was not a *sui generis* criminal act in the Hungarian criminal law before 2013. Several other criminal acts were to be considered as domestic violence in case those were committed against relatives. The first important improvement in the criminal field was, when the criminal act of harassment was introduced in the Criminal Code in 2008, and when the law of protection order between the relatives entered into force in 2009. Because of public expectations, international obligations and the more and more intensive claims by proffessionals, violence between relatives was introduced as a new, *sui generis* crime in the Criminal Code this year.

Besides the criminal law, legal background of fighting against domestic violence is provided by the laws on protection of the institution of marriage and family and on the protection of children.

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

The objective of the project „Not a private matter!“ is to elaborate effective measures to prevent and reduce domestic violence and raise awareness of and promote social commitment in the fight against the phenomenon on different levels of society. The core of the project is the proper provision of information towards the different groups of citizens (potential victims, professionals, general public), which can be completed by the means of personal contact (patrolling, visiting network, education programmes) as well as electronic and mass-media communication.

The project reacts on needs of intervention stemming from the national approach to the prevention and reduction of domestic violence on one hand and from the specific, locally emerged particular demands of citizens put at the risk of this kind of crime. These conditions have determined the means and modules used and implemented by the project.

Module 1 provides “public safety - crime prevention patrolling” for reaching and informing scattered, low-infrastructured area’s inhabitants. Thanks to the presence of professionals taking part in patrolling (police officers, representatives of different authorities and volunteers), many unreported cases of domestic violence became known. Patrolling takes place regularly along an adopted plan. On each occasion, 5-9 houses are visited and 30-60 minutes are spent at each house.

The project broadened with the introduction of Module 2 – with setting up the “visiting network” for the urban block house areas, which have similar problems. Besides police officers, this network involves social workers, psychologists and volunteers, who coordinate institutional support, visit the inhabitants and provide them with necessary information.

Module 3 aims to shape citizens’ approach by using different educational programmes. In the „Kindergarten-Cop” programme, police officers use special methods to give age-specific information to children and detect hidden cases of domestic violence at the same time. Similar programmes are provided for elementary and secondary school students as well. For the effective prevention, training of future professionals to be dealing with domestic violence takes place by running courses at the University of Szeged on the issue.

The last module, in line with the demands of the informational society, takes advantage of the possibilities provided by the internet and electronic media. The public is permanently informed by the Police Mail (electronic news), the “Cop-blog” (blog at the local news’ webpage). Actualities are published continuously in the county news (printed media) in an especially dedicated column. A crime prevention webpage was also set up ([www.bulisbiztonnsag.hu](http://www.bulisbiztonnsag.hu)) within the framework of the project.

Effective crime prevention work can only operate with such methods that are in accordance with age-specific needs in terms of the means and content of communication. That is why the project is a user of the Crime Prevention Short Film Collection. The films present everyday situations, threats and solutions in an understandable, interactive way. (The collection consists of 70 crime prevention short films, three of which deal with domestic violence.)

Domestic violence is a great challenge for centuries. Society needs incentive techniques that enable citizens and their communities to protect themselves against this type of crime.

