

European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I

Approved by the EUCPN Management Board in 2018

Please complete the template in English in compliance with the ECPA criteria contained in the Rules and procedures for awarding and presenting the European Crime Prevention Award (Par.2 §3).

General information

1. Please specify your country.

Portugal

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

ECPA

3. What is the title of the project?

Elderly in Security Project (*Projeto "Idosos em Segurança"*)

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

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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 began in January 2011 and is still running.

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.gnr.pt;
<http://www.gnr.pt/comunicado.aspx?linha=4186>;
<http://www.gnr.pt/comunicado.aspx?linha=4206>;
<http://www.gnr.pt/comunicadoMapa.aspx?id=4206>;

<https://www.publico.pt/2017/04/04/sociedade/noticia/mais-de-metade-dos-idosos-em-portugal-vivem-sozinhos-1767648>;

<https://observador.pt/2017/04/04/gnr-sinalizou-mais-idosos-a-viver-sozinhos-ou-isolados/>;

<https://www.cmjornal.pt/cm-ao-minuto/detalhe/gnr-sinalizou-mais-idosos-a-viver-sozinhos-ou-isolados>.

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

GNR intervention in protecting the population it serves begins with suiting the policing model, which is vital so that the GNR can respond to its current challenges. It is through Community Safety that the GNR ensures an adequate and proper intervention, fitting within a citizen of safety conception, not only because it sets the defence of the citizens' rights as first priority, but also because it should be the citizens themselves the stakeholders of their own fate.

Community Safety focuses on the main social exclusion areas with strong crime rates, establishing partnerships with the local councils and the civil society organisations, developing a set of diversified programmes, some of an eminently civilian character of combatting social exclusion (economic development, urban planning, education), undertaking here a markedly solidary aspect, and other with a clear police component, called "Special Community-oriented Policing Programmes", where the guiding principles of community safety are applied, seeking the close cooperation between the GNR and different social and public entities.

The main lines of action of the Special Community-oriented Policing Programmes are: the promotion of an integrated policy of crime prevention and containment; the strengthening of local partnerships with government agencies, local councils and civil societies, aimed at a more effective approach to the specificity of each community; and foster citizens' responsibility and participation.

Over the last few years the *Guarda Nacional Republicana* has been developing several community policing programmes with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable population strata. One of the population stratum that has deserved particular attention by the GNR are the elderly. The GNR has sought to be attentive to the insecurity problems that affect the elderly, mainly those that live alone or far from population centres.

In order to achieve this desideratum, since 2011 (with 15.596 elderly) the GNR has been developing the "Senior Census" Project that aims to make geo-referencing and identify the number of elderly citizens who are isolated and/or live alone, covering the entire national territory, signalling in 2017, 45.516 elderly.

This geo-referencing allows the GNR to target the patrolling effort and to respond more effectively to the demands of elderly citizens in situations of greater vulnerability.

During the contact with the elderly, a "Senior Card" and a magnet are distributed in order to facilitate contact between the elderly and the GNR and ensure greater proximity with the population.

This project simultaneously includes two other important objectives. One of which involves promoting awareness raising, within this more unprotected age group in society, drawing their attention to the need to adopt preventive behaviours in relation to those crimes to which they are most often victims of, namely fraud, theft and robbery. Another goal is to signal the elderly who are in potentially more serious situations, in terms of health, hygiene and well-being, and refer such cases to local social support institutions, as to decisively foster better living conditions for these persons. It should be noted that, in April 2016, the GNR signalled 864 elderly living in inhuman conditions and informed or fostered contacts with local social support institutions, as to decisively improve the living conditions of these elders.

In this context, the GNR has yearly held in October a series of campaigns to raise the awareness of the elderly population in its area of action, through personal contacts or awareness sessions, to advise on security procedures, namely in situations involving fraud, con games and house burglaries, in order to enhance a feeling of security among this population stratum that is more affected by this type of crime, thus contributing to develop awareness of safe behaviours that allow the elderly to gain the confidence and feeling of security needed to have a more active life.

Further promoted within these awareness raising actions are intergenerational encounters, which are intended to be the principle of "Safe Elder, Active Elder".

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

8. How does the project contribute to crime prevention and/or the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? Does it focus on raising citizens' awareness or does it apply other mechanisms? (**Max. 200 words**)

The main goal of the "Senior Census" Project is to make geo-referencing and identify the number of elders who live isolated and/or in situations of isolation, covering all of the national territory.

This geo-referencing allows to target the patrolling effort and to respond more effectively to the demands of elderly citizens in situations of greater vulnerability. During the contact with the elderly, a "Senior Card" and a magnet are distributed in order to facilitate contact between the elderly and the GNR and ensure greater proximity with the population. Moreover, leaflets are distributed and safety tips conveyed.

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

9. What were the reasons for setting up the project? Was this context analysed before the project was initiated and in what way (How, and by whom? Which

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>

data were used?)? In what way did this analysis inform the set-up of the project? (**Max. 150 words**)

The Portuguese elderly population has been increasing, thus, as is acknowledged, their capabilities are reduced and, by living alone and/or isolated, some of these elders run greater risk of being victims of crimes. The centralisation of labour in the country's main urban centres along with the desertification of the country's inland areas contribute towards the worsening of the situation of elderly isolation, increasing their vulnerability to crime.

Before the project was initiated, a work group was constituted at the GNR Headquarters that, through various information reports and an in-depth analysis of the 2011 census results, allowed to highlight the fragilities that the country may face in the future and further led to make the decision to develop the "Senior Census" project as a means of prevention.

10. 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 identify the elderly that live alone and isolated to target the patrolling effort. The secondary objectives are to raise awareness of risk behaviours, distribute identification and fostering direct contact with the GNR personnel to enhance the feeling of security among the elderly population and refer to other institutions all elders that are in a situation of risk, thereby ensuring greater proximity.

11. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what were the main results? Which indicators were used to measure the process? Did you make changes accordingly? (**max. 300 words**) - *for more information on process evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.9-10 & part 2 - section 2A*

The project will be assessed at a national level by the Portuguese Board of Assessment and Accountability that evaluates performance in Public Administration and internally within the GNR 2020 Strategy.

In addition to the assessment of public institutions (QUAR), the GNR, by way of university institutions, encourages carrying out master's theses that through the research and use of the scientific method seek project analysis and evaluation.

Internally reports are made on the lessons learned, which are taken into consideration before operations are developed.

12. 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? Which indicators were used to

measure the impact? (**Max. 300 words**) - for more information on outcome or impact evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.7-9 & part 2 - section 2A

The GNR has conducted a systematic evaluation of the project through a (qualitative and quantitative) statistical analysis of the outcomes achieved by the different Community Policing Sections and encouraged carrying out academic research of Master's Theses in coordination with the Military Academy or the Military University Institute. The GNR is currently developing an investigation project through the Masters' theses made available by the Research and Development Centre of the Military University Institute.

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**)

A Research-Action Method has been adopted to achieve the project, seeking to carry out a descriptive study on criminal phenomena, and sample assessment and signalling. Intervention through door to door patrolling, monitoring and referring of the signalled persons to other partners is undergone after data treatment.

In order to foster the development of awareness raising actions, partnerships are established with the local councils and civil society organisations, as to guarantee that the GNR Community Policing Sections will have the resources needed to carry out awareness raising actions. The elderly and the nursing homes are personally contacted to participate in awareness campaigns and related activities. Schools are also contacted to participate in the intergenerational encounters.

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 partnerships made have been essential to quickly solve the problems of the elderly persons that are identified by the GNR personnel during the awareness raising and signalling actions and that go beyond the area of competence of a security force.

The following partners are thereby highlighted: local councils, parish councils, health care centres, Microsoft, PT Foundation, CTT, parishes, nursing homes, schools/nurseries/kindergartens, day centres, senior universities and other civil society organisations with responsibilities involving elderly.

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 will be funded by the GNR budget with the support of other partners.

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

The costs result essentially from human (police salaries) and logistic (fuel, paper, printing, etc.) resources used to conduct the various programme actions. Magnets and other support resources have been borne with partner backing.

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**)

A cost-benefit analysis was carried out in a concise manner as patrolling expenses were already foreseen in the budget; it was only necessary to survey the location of the elderly that resort to the geo-referencing system available on the radios of the GNR staff, allowing for the mapping of the elderly and targeting the patrolling effort, maximising and saving resources in targeting the effort to the most needed locations.

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

We believe that no major adjustments are necessary so that the project can be replicated in another Member State, given that all European countries are currently developing a community policing culture by creating their own teams to guarantee greater proximity with citizens.

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

The project is relevant within the EU context. The population aging phenomenon is taking place in all European countries. Taking steps to create social awareness on problems pertaining to isolation will enable citizens to be more suited in the future to live aging with greater security.

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

The GNR, through the Special Community-oriented Policing Programmes, has developed activities markedly of social nature in the field of human rights, in order to protect the vulnerable victims of crime, mainly the elderly.

To achieve this goal, since 2011 the GNR has been developing the “Senior Census” Project that aims to make geo-referencing and identify the number of elderly citizens who are isolated and/or live alone, covering the entire national territory, signalling in 2017, 45.516 elderly (started in 2011 with 15.596 elderly). This geo-referencing allows the GNR to target the patrolling effort and respond more effectively to the demands of elderly citizens in in situations of greater vulnerability.

This project simultaneously includes two other important objectives, promote awareness campaigns, warning the elderly citizens about risk behaviours, and signal the elderly who are in worse welfare conditions, and refer such cases to the Local Social Support institutions.