



1. Project title

"Safety Health Program"

2. Main theme

Prevention of violence in the health sector

3. Project purpose and outcome (in two sentences)

On January 5th, 2022, the Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence in the Health Sector was approved in Portugal by the resolution of the Council of Ministers, which proposed the creation of a health sector-oriented proximity policing program. Following this publication, Public Security Police, took the initiative, on April 2022, to create the "Safety Health Program".

4. Project submitter (Member State), project leader(s) and project partner(s)

Public Security Police (PSP)

5. Links to the project's website or online reports/publications (preferably in English)

[Situações de violência em hospitais e centros de saúde aumentaram 16%, denuncia PSP \(sapo.pt\)](#)

[Expresso | 'Saúde em Segurança': PSP vai reforçar a presença policial e formar agentes para prevenir violência em contexto hospitalar](#)

6. Short summary of the project (**max. 100 words**)

In Portugal the National Health Service (NHS) is supported by a body of health professionals numbering more than 148,000, including doctors, nurses, senior health technicians, technical assistants, operational assistants, pharmacists, and support workers. In 2019 it started to be discussed the need to promote the safety and security of the health professionals and mainly a better

coordination between the LAE rule by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the NHS departments rule by the Ministry of Health. In 2021 health units reported 961 episodes of violence, corresponding to an increase of 16% compared to 2020, in which 825 episodes were reported. About 80% of the hospital units and medical centres belonging to the NHS structure are in the PSP's area of responsibility. Therefore, police action at hospitals, within a preventive context, is carried out both through awareness-raising activities for health professionals, where various safety tips are provided during face-to-face care, and during home visits by health professionals, as well as by reinforcing police visibility at hospital units.

7. Project description

This program had three implementation phases. The first one was training: a session that lasted 7 hours and was aimed at the network of PSP Official Contact Points and police officers allocated on Hospital Police Stations throughout the country. The training was developed in collaboration with PSP, the Ministry of Health's Security Office and the Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence in the Health Sector Team. The second was implementation: turn out into institutional articulation, at the regional and local level, between the Official Contact Points of PSP and Focal Points of the NHS. In these contacts, safety issues are addressed, recommendations are made, and a risk assessment of the facilities is performed using a proprietary template. The last one was operationalization. In this phase PSP conducted awareness-raising activities in hospitals setting for health professionals, addressing issues of violence prevention; reinforcement of visibility policing actions in hospital centres, hospitals and local health units, since they are places of great concentration or movement of people and carried out actions aimed at the detection and identification of private security guards, in an irregular situation and exercising their functions in health units.

8. Project objectives

- Preventing and monitoring the occurrence of episodes of violence in the NHS;
- Promoting a safety culture in the NHS;
- Encourage the creation of partnerships at regional and local level;
- Conducting training for police officers as well as for health professionals;
- Increase police visibility with hospital centres

9. Project outcome

In the national operation that run from April 7th (World Health Day) to April 28th (World Day for Safety and Health at Work), PSP involved 719 police officers and conducted:

- 75 meetings with NHS Focal Points;
- 93 awareness actions with a total of 1355 health professionals;
- 651 visibility policing actions

10. Start and end project, timescales and key milestone dates

The program started in April 2022 and PSP will concentrate, annually, on carrying out visibility and awareness-raising national operations with the health units, between April 7th (World Health Day) to April 28th (World Day for Safety and Health at Work).

11. Funding (total budget and type of funding (e.g. ISEC, EUCPN Fund,...))

No funding.

12. Evaluation

In order to continue the Safety Health Program, PSP plans to continue to hold periodic meetings with the NHS focal points to carry out awareness-raising actions whenever deemed necessary.

13. Contact details project

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