

## 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.

Romania

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

ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

*Broken Wings* - National domestic violence prevention project

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.

Start date: July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 / End date: December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

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).

<https://www.politiaromana.ro/ro/prevenire/campanii-proiecte/campania-de-prevenire-a-violentei-domestice-aripi-frante>

<http://www.necuvinte.ro/current-projects/broken-wings-campaign/?lang=en>

<http://www.necuvinte.ro/events/?lang=en>

<http://www.necuvinte.ro/events/national-campaign-broken-wings-at-its-end/?lang=en>

[http://galasocietatiicivile.ro/participants\\_project\\_2018.php?id=391&section\\_id=6](http://galasocietatiicivile.ro/participants_project_2018.php?id=391&section_id=6)

<http://www.necuvinte.ro/news/premiul-invatam-sa-spunem-stop-la-g3p/?lang=en>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=MSIevNsnvtE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=MSIevNsnvtE)

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

“Broken Wings” is a national project launched by The General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police with the aim to raise awareness on and prevent domestic violence. The project was implemented nationwide, in partnership with “Necuvinte” Association, an NGO specialized in supporting women-victims of domestic violence.

The project presents the abusive cycle from a different perspective to those developed before, that is women with no access to information, turning from victims into abusers and taking matters into their own hands, resulting in murdering their abusive spouses.

The centre piece of the project was the “Broken Wings” documentary, built around the stories of women who had lived a life of abuse and fear, which made them give up all their hope and eventually turned from victims to abusers, ending up in killing their abusive spouses.

The only women’s penitentiary in Romania, Targosor, located in Prahova County, was the starting point of the campaign, the place where the documentary “Broken Wings” was filmed. The film includes 4 interviews with women victims of domestic abuse, imprisoned for killing their abusive spouses. Thus, the title itself is a metaphor for the lack of choice the women felt when deciding to end the abuse by eliminating the abuser.

Taking into consideration the statistics (the gender distribution of the victims of domestic abuse shows that 85% are women, 12% children and only 3% men), the increasing number of complaints registered and the fact that the real magnitude of the phenomenon is still unknown (many women continuing to suffer the abuses without asking for help), as part of the campaign, different materials were created (eg. Leaflets, posters), each targeting a different social group. Although “Broken Wings” addressed all victims of domestic abuse, the main focus was on women, social disparities and gender equality.

The project was managed by a team consisting of representatives of two police departments at national level (The Crime Research and Prevention Institute and the Public Order Department within the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police) and a team of experts from "Necuvinte" Association (a lawyer, a legal counsellor, a social worker and a psychotherapist).

810.500 materials were created and distributed nationwide in all 3.537 police stations in the country, in both urban and rural areas.

The materials were created from a multidisciplinary perspective, based on the current legal framework of Romania by the campaign team.

- The slogan "Domestic violence is a crime under Criminal Code and it is punishable by imprisonment" targeted the general population as a means of information and awareness raising;

- A TV Spot having the message: "Ask for help, don't become the next news flash" addressed potential victims of domestic violence to encourage reporting of abuse;

- The "Safety Guide for the Victims of Domestic Violence" is an information brochure dedicated to people who understand that they are in an abusive relationship and take the first steps towards leaving that environment.

- The Poster, an A4 format material containing basic information and useful phone numbers, was distributed by the Public Order officers in the main hallways of apartment buildings targeting the "black number" of domestic abuse – women who either do not acknowledge that they are in an abusive situation, or they do not trust authorities to provide support or are too afraid to ask for help.

Another component of the project, the Broken Wings Information Caravan, started at national level in July 2017. The Caravan was the first action of this kind used as an instrument to promote access to justice and raise awareness towards human rights violations in the country.

The Caravan was developed in 15 counties in Romania and aimed at organising awareness raising events that brought together representatives of local institutions and stakeholders with responsibilities in the field of preventing and countering violence.

The main objective of these events was to find out what the situation at local level is, what are the main issues the victims are facing, as well as to identify institutions which offer local assistance and identify solutions to local problems.

**The National Campaign „Broken Wings” was awarded by Civil Society Gala in *Defending general and individual human rights* category.**

**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 project had multiple targets:

- to raise awareness and increasing the level of information in the **general population**;
- to train **police officers** in how to deal with the victim who presents herself and what information to provide them with;
- to increase the level of **victims' trust** in Police in order to increase the number of reports registered in police stations;
- to reduce the dimension of the phenomenon by promoting the legislative framework and raise abusers' awareness on the fact that domestic abuse can lead to imprisonment.

The project was thus designed as to contribute to both crime prevention and crime reduction.

The project had a complex mechanism, working on different levels: on one hand, training police officers in how to deal with victims of domestic abuse (being well known the dynamic in which victims change their mind and withdraw the complaints they had filed, as well as the emotional state in which they usually arrive at a police station) and involving local police departments in the distribution of the materials. On the other hand, involving all the local public institutions (Mayor's Office, County Council, Social Assistance and Child Protection Services, etc.) in order to achieve accountability and a sense of empowerment.

One of the results of this approach was that in one of the counties which had no shelter for the victims of abuse, one was opened in 3 weeks after the information caravan.

## **II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.<sup>1</sup>**

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

Violence against women undermines women's fundamental rights such as dignity, access to justice and gender equality. The project was a necessary step towards preparing public institutions, police officers and the general population for the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention signed by Romania in June 2014.

According to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) EU-wide

<sup>1</sup>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>

survey, physical and sexual violence are prevalent to other types of violence. The data corresponded to the Romanian Police statistics which showed that, in the last years, the number of registered complaints regarding domestic violence increased especially for crimes under the Criminal Code, art. 193 - "Battery and other acts of violence".

The analysis of the context and utility of this project was performed by the Romanian Police based on the data collected from the EU, Police and other public institutions involved in preventing and countering criminality and took into consideration the feedback from the civil society, as well.

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 was raising awareness and increasing the level of information and prevention in the **general population**.

The secondary objectives of the project were:

- training **police officers** - the project aimed at informing them about the recent legislative changes and also raising awareness regarding the level of stress the victims are subjected to the moment they decide to leave the abuser;
- increasing the level of **victims'** trust in public institutions, in general, and in the institution of Police, in particular; increasing the number of complaints registered in police stations;
- reduction of the dimension of the phenomenon by promoting the legislative framework and raising abusers' awareness on the fact that domestic abuse can lead to imprisonment;
- influencing the methods national and local media use in presenting the cases of domestic abuse - increasing the level of understanding of the phenomenon by the **media**.

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 process evaluation was conducted by a team of representatives of both partners, the Romanian Police, through the Crime Research and Prevention Institute and Public Order Department, and experts from "Necuvinte" Association.

The process evaluation was performed internally, quarterly, by the project team taking into consideration the following criteria:

- the number of materials distributed both in police stations and at public events;
- the number of policemen informed and involved in the implementation;
- the number of activities performed;
- the number of partners/stakeholders involved in/attending the activities
- press coverage.

During the implementation stage, the **11.600 policemen** involved have performed **9,000** activities in **urban** areas and **17.300** in **rural** ones, involving **5.000 pre-university** educational institutions, **12.697 companies**, **124 non-governmental** organizations, and **977 public institutions**. The project had over **1.800 media appearances**.

The project had a total of over **3.000.000 direct and indirect beneficiaries**, and the total cost of the project was only **77.000 Euros**.

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 impact evaluation was performed internally by the project team in August 2018 and took into consideration Polices' statistics regarding:

- the number of complaints registered by the police – there was an 8.5% raising, compared to the previous year;
- the number of the protection orders issued against abusers – 36% raising, compared to the previous year.

Those numbers reveal not an explosion of the phenomenon, but raising awareness amongst victims of domestic abuse, together with better trust in law enforcement agencies entitled with tackling it. This led to uncovering the "black digits" of the phenomenon.

Conclusions of the project are roughly the following:

- The necessity to continue developing information and awareness raising campaigns;
- The utility of running an information caravan in the rural areas of the country;
- Awareness programs should be developed for both police and magistrates;
- Campaigns should aim broad public awareness - specific intervention of bystanders;
- The need for more shelters for victims and creating shelters for

perpetrators;

- The need to implement a system for monitoring perpetrators;
- Legislative changes targeting two objectives should be in place: the temporary protective order, issued by the police (already in place); to punish more severely abusers who violate protection orders;
- Endeavours to modify the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.

The effects of the project are still visible, part of the materials being still present in the police stations nationwide, victims of domestic abuse continuing to be informed about their rights.

The documentary has been used and continues to be used as a preventive educational tool in public events and debates, in schools and public education institutions.

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

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

The novelty of the project consisted in the innovative approach towards the phenomenon of domestic violence, meaning a reversed perspective that put the victims in the "spotlight", for the first time. This approach revealed the serious consequences of constant abuse that leads, in many cases, to crime and the death of the abuser.

The concept of the project took into account the biased perception of this phenomenon in Romania, victim blaming, and the way media presents cases of violence, from the perspective of the woman – victim, with less or none focus upon the abuser.

The information Caravan covering 15 counties, with the involvement of most of the local/regional stakeholders, is another innovation in the field of domestic violence.

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

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

The entire project was designed and implemented in an equal partnership between Romanian Police and "Necuvinte" Association (NGO). "Necuvinte" Association found the financial source to support the endeavour and their involvement in the implementation, they also participated in all the activities of

the project from creating the materials, to organizing public debates. They were the financially responsible partner in the project.

Other stakeholders involved in the project, in the implementation stage were: companies, NGOs, organisations and public institutions at local level: City Halls, County Councils, County Libraries, Social Assistance and Child Protection Services. They attended the activities organized by the partners and they contributed to spreading the messages of the project. Punctually, they participated in the activities, together with the police officers, offering their professional support, according to their expertise and field of action.

The project also benefited from the support of the USA and Israeli, which, through representatives of the embassies in Romania, participated in activities and promoted awareness raising messages.

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

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

The entire cost of the project was covered by the company Kaufland Romania through a sponsorship contract signed with "Necuvinte" Association.

The financial support was offered in 2 instalments through bank transfer for the detailed activities of the project "Broken Wings".

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

Total cost: 77.000 Euro

From the total cost:

- 72% design and printing materials; implementation of information campaign
- 20% salaries of the "Necuvinte" Association employees
- 8% supplies/IT and administrative costs

Detailed costs:

- 38.696 Euro – design and printing of the 810.500 preventive materials (posters and guides);
- 4.925 Euro - creation of the documentary film;
- 1.500 Euro – creation of the TV spot;
- 2.700 Euro – the national caravan;
- 15.400 Euro – salaries;
- 7.555 Euro – administrative costs;



- 6.224 Euro - supplies.

17. 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**)

An external cost-benefit analysis was not conducted. Only internal accountancy carried out by "Necuvinte" Association – the financial management of the project – analysis that was sent to the sponsor of the project - Kaufland Romania.

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

The adjustments should be made regarding legal framework of each country and maybe the social context meaning the range of population involved in crime prevention. An analysis of the level of understanding of the phenomenon should be made prior to launching a similar project.

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

Violence against women – particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence – is a major public health problem and a violation of women's human rights.

Global estimates published by World Health Organization indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

Most of this violence is intimate partner violence. Worldwide, almost one third (30%) of women who have been in a relationship have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime.

Globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by a male intimate partner.

From both the European Union studies and reports and United Nations, what emerges is a picture of extensive abuse that affects many women's lives but is systematically under-reported to the authorities. The scale of violence against women is therefore not reflected by official data and taking the subject outside the box of conformity, obsolete traditions and prejudices, is a necessity for every member state. One of the conclusions after the implementation of the project was that there is still a great need for awareness raising campaigns and including domestic violence in the public and political agenda worldwide.

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

“Broken Wings” is a national project launched by The General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police with the aim to raise awareness on and prevent domestic violence. It was implemented nationwide, in partnership with “Necuvinte” Association, an NGO specialized in supporting women-victims of domestic violence.

The project presents the abusive cycle from a different perspective to those developed before, that is women with no access to information, turning from victims into abusers and taking matters into their own hands, resulting in murdering their abusive spouses.

The centre piece of the project was the “Broken Wings” documentary, built around the stories of women who had lived a life of abuse and fear, which made them give up all their hope and eventually turned from victims to abusers, ending up in killing their abusive spouses.

Through the materials created and distributed (almost 900.000), training of professionals and public events carried out, the project managed to reach a number of approximately **3.000.000 direct and indirect beneficiaries with minimum costs.**