



**Portuguese Presidency
2007 European Crime Prevention Award
(Domestic Violence)**

Lisboa, (9) 10-11 December 2007

Jury Report

The Jury of the 2007 edition, in accordance with the existing provisions, comprised the national representatives of the quartet of Presidencies, i.e., Germany, Portugal, Slovenia and France.

For the 2007 edition of the ECPA Competition there was a record of 15 entries from other 15 Member States, which is a sign that the ECPA prize is stimulating the development and sharing of crime prevention projects across Europe. The Jury even had extra-EU projects seeking to apply for the ECPA competition.

According to the ECPA rules adopted by the EUCPN, the projects shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme selected by the organising Member State and agreed by the National Representatives of the EUCPN.

The ECPA theme for 2007 was the Prevention of Domestic Violence, in a very holistic and horizontal approach, covering all forms of violence and all potential perpetrators and victims living in a family environment, its causes, consequences and possible remedies.

The ECPA prize of 20,000 Euros will be awarded, within some minutes, to the national project that better fulfilled the 4 established criteria, which I remind you:

- The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives;
- The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches;
- The project shall be based on co-operation between partners, where possible;
- The project shall be capable of replication by organisations and groups in other Member States.

In terms of procedure, in a first moment, the national juries of the 15 candidate Member-states

went through a selection process of different projects, at domestic level, and elected their national candidate. Then, it was up to an European jury, including the quartet of presidencies, to evaluate and select the best among the best.

Therefore, the jury, based on the ECPA rules and procedures, had the before him difficult task to decide, in a process that is always subjective and relatively unfair, no matter what the rules and criteria are.

Against this background, I will put an end to the suspense and announce the winner of this year's competition: the European jury decided to award the 2007 edition ECPA award to the Swedish national project named after «The Integrated Domestic Violence Programme - based upon what women need when they have been subjected to assault», from the Swedish southern town of Malmö.

Some of this project's main features that impressed the most the European jury are:

- 1) The fact that the project envisages to make violence that occurs in intimate relationships visible;
- 2) The project is a large-scale collaborative one, putting together the local authority, police authority, health care, prison and probation, women's shelter, schools, social services, NGO's and the local community as a whole,
- 3) These actors play a central role, actively participating in the different stages of the process: designing, implementing, assessing and correcting.
- 4) The design is customer-oriented, drafted on the basis of a concrete picture of what a woman needs;
- 5) The project provides both integrated and specific responses at the different stages of the process, by the different actors: treatment, by health care; report of the assault, by the police; support, in the form of counselling, to break the abusive relationship, by the local authority;
- 6) The project has its own organisation and structure to ensure its sustainability, including a steering group, a co-ordinating group and a full-time co-ordinator;
- 7) The project is a learning one, based on the development of methods and skills for the different actors;
- 8) The project is based on information and education, aiming at changing attitudes and raising public awareness of the problem;
- 9) The project includes a range of initiatives carried out by the different actors but with common goals: from specific crisis centre for men, women, children and youngsters, to a women's clinic, to a programme to influence men convicted, to a special police division and special prosecutors, ending with a joint professional handbook drafted by all the

- agencies involved; and, last but not the least,
- 10) The project presents tangible results: since 1996, an increase of 50% in police reports and an increase of 100% in reports that lead to a criminal prosecution.

Two other projects deserved the special attention of the jury:

- A) The Lithuanian project «Help for Women who suffered domestic violence and for their family members», for the following features:
- 1) Targeting at both at women and their children;
 - 2) Working with abusers (psychological and legal support);
 - 3) Providing complex help (social, psychological and legal);
 - 4) Being a community-based project;
 - 5) Providing training and education for women, notably in self-defense;
 - 6) Looking forward to influencing the legislator;
 - 7) Providing specialists with high qualifications; and
 - 8) Working on improving women's self-esteem and confidence, through an enhancement group.
- B) The Hungarian project «Protection of our children, protection of our future», for the following good practices:
- 1) Having the logical methodological approach (from diagnosis to evaluation);
 - 2) Based in a large partnership (health, family and child support, police, local authority and school);
 - 3) Having a holistic and systemic approach; and
 - 4) Using a system of signalization.

Besides these three more remarkable projects, the jury must stress that all of them are very good projects, addressing effectively their local or national problems in their specific context, based in broad partnerships, with very clear objectives and with tangible results. All of them will, in fact, be included in the EUCPN website, in the coming weeks, as interesting or promising crime prevention practices in the field of domestic violence.

All these people deserve the highest consideration and admiration of the European jury for their dedication and spirit of solidarity, working on a daily basis for the well-being and for a better quality of life of the European citizens.

Finally, the 2007 ECPA Jury wishes to congratulate and all the candidate project leaders and workers, hoping that this EU initiative was another occasion for a fruitful networking and exchange of knowledge and best practice in the field of the prevention of domestic violence.