

ECPA 2007

Czech Entry

1. What is the title of the project?

Domestic violence prevention – change of practice and legislation in the Czech Republic

2. Please give a short general description of the project

Project title : Domestic violence prevention – change of practice and legislation in the Czech Republic

Date : 2001 - 2006

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Basic description :

More than 5-year systematic project was realised by Bílý kruh bezpečí (BKB) - White Circle of Safety, NGO

Initial impulse :

- source based on empirical evidence of BKB monitoring
- high number of clients (36%) threatened by domestic violence
- no state systematic policy
- opinion stereotypes – domestic violence is a personal affair
- fundamental barriers regarding detection and prosecution of domestic violence

Stages of project:

1st Stage

Representative research within respondents of age 15 and more focused on awareness campaign, attitudes and personal experience with domestic violence

- minimally 16 % of respondents become domestic violence victims in the course of their lives
- majority of respondents agreed with state intervention
- outcome - mandate to see changes in public opinion

2nd Stage

Establishment of Dona Helpline - support to victims, operating 24 hours a day

- qualified assistance and support for domestic violence victims (up to present more than 21 000 calls), an integral part of campaign
- launching of the project was supported by mass media promotional campaigns (advertising spots, promotional billboards, editorial support)

3rd Stage

2003 – 2004 The Interdisciplinary Cooperation Project, pilot model combining medical, social and police assistance for detection and prosecution of domestic violence in the town of Ostrava

- BKB – coordinator of the project, supported by 11 institutions (Police Headquarters, Municipal police, Municipal council, Crisis centre for children, Social workers division, Charita's shelter, general practitioners...)
- Successful project transferred to other towns, publicity of the project disseminated by BKB to all districts via meetings and lectures
- output – “even maximum practice” cannot sufficiently protect victims
- urgent needs of significant legislative changes

4th Stage

October 2002

The Parliament of the Czech Republic, Chamber of Deputies – Founding of The Alliance Against Domestic Violence and The Expert group at the Alliance

- the Alliance was established in order to contribute to building of a full-coverage reaction system to domestic violence, specifically its prevention, timely detection, efficient intervention and repression
- the Expert group started working on a new legislative proposal in order to protect society against domestic violence with complex of preventive measures
- manuals and leaflets for professional public
- the Bill for protection against domestic violence in the CZE discussed, approved and taking into effect on January 1st 2007

5th Stage

Methodological measures, training of all experts who come into contact with domestic violence, communication with the professional public

- * BKB as the project manager developed necessary tools, measures and methodology for implementation of the new methods into theory and practice
- * BKB created lector's fund – power point presentation and manuals for professionals who come into contact with domestic violence for 7 specialisations (police, doctors, social workers...)
- * BKB transferred (from abroad) SARA DV diagnostic method for the police officers and judges in order to assess the jeopardy of danger to victims

6th Stage

BKB as the project manager with the assistance of Ministry of Labour and social affairs and The Hetman Association helped to set up the regional interventional centres

* trained and co-ordinated the workers of the centres and monitored their activities

* after 6 months analyses an explicit output – in the CZE fundamentally improved situation of awareness and effective protection of DV victims

3. Please, describe the objectives of the project

The aim of the project was to change the state policy on the domestic violence in order to ensure timely and effective protection of potential victims. BKB was determined to prefer prevention to prosecution through the implementation of social – legislative measures.

The aim was to change the law and, at the same time, to implement a new approach, new methodology and new practical tool. These aims were supported by huge multimedia campaign and activities on state, regional and local levels. Extremely successful was the promotional campaign focused on villages and isolated dwellings “DONA helpline to each gamekeeper lodge”. The target group were people directly threatened by domestic violence.

4. How was the project implemented?

The project was implemented in the frame of 5-year co-ordinated project headed by 3-member team. BKB managed to acquire VIP business and mass media partners for this project, as well as the support of top management and experts from various fields.

In 2005 and 2006, the project was financially supported from European Social Funds, and from the State budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. But the most important for the significance of achievement were the people who implemented this project with the clear purpose across the fields and regions. BKB reached the success by co-ordinating the synergy and using it for the implementation of the project.

5. Were partners involved in planning and /or development and/or implementation of the Project? If so, who were they and what were their roles?

The manager of the Project :

Bilý kruh bezpečí, a civic association with the whole territory activity; BKB led the project as the social innovator and organiser

Phillip Morris , CZE :

A social investor and a member of the steering project team. The company provided its managerial skills and supported the quality of communication on all the levels

The Expert Group:

11 people from judges, psychologists, policy-makers, police officers and representatives from NGO were working for 8 months on a new legislative proposal without any financial benefit

The Alliance Against Domestic Violence :

7 people from Ministries, Hetmans, MP members, non-profit and business sector were working 4 years without any financial benefit

NGOs :

The representatives from various NGOs (town Ostrava, Ústí nad Labem and Brno) successfully collaborated on the dissemination of BKB pilot program

Police Presidium, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Justice Academy :

The representatives co-operated with BKB on the training of lecturers and implementation of "lecturers fund"

Media partners and partners that provided space for campaign :

The representatives during the period of the project played significant role in communication with the target group (threatened persons, potential victims of domestic violence, professional experts and general public). BKB would like to express its thanks for their kind and long-lasting assistance.

6. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project ?

The author of the project set concrete tasks for each stage that could be regularly evaluated and assessed. For example, The Alliance fulfilled the plan consisted of 21 single tasks and each of them could be controlled via public web sites. Each activity had its title, own implementing team led by 1 person, time schedule, target products, and indicators how they were complied. The whole project was led, supervised and controlled.

7. Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom :

The project was continuously monitored and evaluated on these levels

- Core team
- Supervisors
- Board of Directors
- Independent audit
- Social investor
- Grand and appropriations providers

8. What were the results? How far were the objectives of the project achieved?

The results of evaluation were always very positive, both the contents and the economical issues.

The planned tasks were completed in a high quality and indicators were overcome several times. Nowadays, there are thousands of users of measures and methods, hundreds of experts are trained and the project has been highly appreciated abroad, for example, by European Forum of Victim Service, Mr and Ms Schwab Foundation, World Economic Forum in Davos, at International conferences in Istanbul or in Moscow.