

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.

Belgium

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

Additional project

3. What is the title of the project?

VIRTUS

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

The project is supported by the Municipal Administration in collaboration with the local police force. The Mayor is the sponsor of the project. A coordinator was hired by the municipal administration for operational monitoring: Euthimiou Despina, Place du Conseil 1 à 1070 Bruxelles- 32 2 800 07 63 or 0491 865 705-mail : deuthmiou@anderlecht.brussels.

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 : 01/05/2015. No term planned.

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).

<http://www.anderlecht.be/sites/default/files/medias/Files/CP/CP312F.pdf>

<http://www.anderlecht.be/sites/default/files/medias/Files/CP/CP402F.pdf>

<https://bx1.be/anderlecht/police-de-proximite-anderlecht-se-felicite-projet->

virtus-creeantenne-locale-a-cureghem/

http://besafe.jdbi.eu/sites/besafe.localhost/files/indekijker/besafe40_fr_lr.pdf

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

The VIRTUS project is an integrated approach to nuisances and crime. It consists of coordination of actions in terms of prevention, security (police) and cleanliness with the aim of improving the individual and collective living conditions of citizens / users within a determined neighborhood. Here, it is the district of the old center of Anderlecht.

The project is based on two major axes:

- 1) the creation of a new police unit in the idea of community policing
- 2) a strengthening of municipal services (cleanliness and prevention) on the determined area.

A coordinator ensures that cooperation and collaboration is guaranteed.

This project is therefore summarized by the creation of a structure that aims to achieve positive results in terms of securing and improving the living environment in the center, including:

- Improve the living environment in the center of the municipality;
- reduce the feeling of insecurity;
- Increase security;
- Empower the neighborhood and increase its attractiveness.

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 consists of the creation of a coordination, a multidisciplinary team, working to the well-being of users in the predefined area. This team focuses on the implementation of prevention, cleanliness and security actions for the neighborhood at first. It is a coordination of actions of multidisciplinary services.

At the communal level, the work consists of securing the public space through the implementation of actions of cleanliness, prevention and physical security of these spaces. The goal is the reduction of incivility and a daily attention to the area.

For the police axis, the essential mission is to reduce the feeling of insecurity generated by urban crime, nuisances, street dealers, road trafficking, as well as crime in public transport. This is intended, inter alia, to reduce the number of facts recorded in these fields applying the basic concepts of "community policing".

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

The start point was based on feeling of insecurity (evaluated in numbers and in perception), the feeling of degradation of public space and of living in the center of the city. Citizens had signed petitions and delivered strong messages in this regard and local civil servant in charge of this area also reported serious elements. The mayor then wanted to put in place new initiatives, including an integrated safety and prevention policy targeted on the Center district and more particularly on the Place de la Vaillance and the street Wayez. We had few indicators at the beginning. So, we decided to realize a local security diagnosis on the defined neighborhood consisting of police and social statistics conducted by the municipality's prevention service and completed by:

- The number of hours of street work prevention and security team and their reports or indication of incidents;
- The number of hours of street work cleanliness team and the number of communal taxes concerning the cleanliness and the number

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>

of special garbage collection operated on the neighborhood.

10. What were the objective(s) of the project? Please, if applicable, distinguish between main and secondary objectives. (**Max. 150 words**)

The strategic objective of the project at the municipal level is to secure the public space through the implementation of actions of cleanliness, prevention and physical security of these spaces. The improvement of the living environment is essentially through three axes: safety, prevention, cleanliness.

The operational objectives at the municipal level are reflected in an increase in the number of staff for the identified area: increase in the number of cleaning service staff, the number of prevention agents for the Axis "Presence Deterrent" and for the Axis "Social Development of neighborhoods", recruitment of a coordinator.

Specific objectives of inter-service work:

- create optimal work opportunities between various municipal services and the local police;
- ensure the embellishment of public spaces (actions to be determined with the services);
- quickly put in place a timetable of actions;

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*

Quantitative evaluation figures are collected by the project coordinator. They come directly from the services collaborating on the project. It's about :

- for prevention and security team: the number of hours of street work, number of reports or indications of incidents; reports or indication of incidents of the type fix my street;
- for the local civil servants in charge of cleanliness: the number of hours of street work, the number of municipal taxes on cleanliness and the number of removal of clandestine waste deposits on the neighborhood.
- For police figures, we used police figures related to street crime (numbers of violent and non-violent incidents) on the determined neighborhood.

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 evaluation is done internally and is based initially (first triennium) on existing quantitative indicators. This evaluation should be submitted by the end of mandate of the College of Mayor and Aldermen. The results of the analysis of the figures for the selected indicators are positive:

- a net decrease in incivilities and minor crimes.
- Increase of administrative penalties
- Offenses against property decreased by 16% in 2017 compared to 2014.
- Offenses against persons, decreased by 11% in 2017 compared to 2014.
- With regard to narcotics offenses, there is an increase in the number of annual percentage change in 2015 of 6%, followed by a decrease of 20% in 2016 and an increase of 21.4%. Drug offenses after decrease increase, consequence of the proactivity of the police forces in this context.

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 basic ideas are the will to change our approach, create an interaction between the participating public services, a revitalization of the neighborhood in a "Secure Urban Territory".

The coordination of the project monitors the actions defined with the partner (s) such as the Police force, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the various departments of the administration, the actors of the civil society among others.

The person in charge of the project and coordination ensures the mobilization of partners for the planned specific actions and the general coordination of the regular activities of the project. Its role is to modify the environment so that it maximizes interactions between stakeholders.

The objectives of the coordination are:

- Recall the primary purpose;
- combat the undesirable effects of specialization;
- regulate the consequences of differentiation;
- Put in place processes or factors of integration of each one to the project.

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 partners are the local police, the municipal administration, the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Actions are decided jointly and co-ordinated between services and organizations. Partners identify priorities for the project and its objectives in good collaboration.

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

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

At the initiative of the alderman in charge of Finance, Fabrice Cumps, the Municipal College presented in 2014 the municipal budget to the Municipal Council. In the municipal budget, resources were available to put in place new initiatives, including an integrated safety and prevention policy targeted on the Center district.

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

The overall budget is 400,000 €, financed by the municipality on own funds. The budget is divided between the city administration and the police in 2 equal parts (50%) and it consists of funding an increase of the staff of police force and of the municipal administration for the identified area.

For this project, we have:

- an increase in the number of cleanliness agents: recruitment of 2 civil servants and 1 outreach officer;
- an increase in the number of prevention agents, Axis Presence dissuasive: recruitment of 2 prevention and security assistants;
- an increase in the number of prevention officers, Social Development Axis neighborhoods, responsible for entertainment with various audiences: recruitment of a street worker;
- recruitment of a project coordinator;
- an increase in police personnel: increase in the staffing: +25 police officers are available.

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**)

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

Yes: it must be put into perspective of municipal prerogatives and other public entities specific to each Member state. The project must evolve according to the needs and realities of the users and administrations. Local prevention services do not exist in all countries: it will be necessary to adapt that to the reality on the field.

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

The notion of community policing in police work as well as collaboration with Prevention and cleanliness agents are essential today. It must be ensured that the work be seen in all aspects in collaboration between the officials of the management of public spaces.

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

The VIRTUS model lies in an integrated approach to nuisances and crime. It consists of the coordination of actions in terms of prevention, the police and cleanliness service with the common goal of improving living conditions individual and collective citizens / users within a specific neighborhood. Here it is of the district of the old center of Anderlecht. The teams of the municipal administration have as a goal to overcome insecurity and feelings of insecurity in the determined perimeter. For the police axis, the essential mission is to contribute to reducing the feeling insecurity generated by urban crime, nuisances in the broad sense, illegal street dealings, road trafficking offenses, as well as crime in public transport, with a view to stabilization or even decrease in the number of criminals facts recorded in this area and this in applying the basic concepts of "community policing".