

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.

Republic of Bulgaria

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

The project is an official ECPA entry of Bulgaria

3. What is the title of the project?

Together Against Drugs

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

Senior Commissioner Dimitar Mashov – Director of Regional Directorate of Ministry of Interior – Veliko Turnovo, tel. 00359 62 662250

Blagovesta Fakirova – Chairman of contributory association "St. Ivan Rilski", tel. 00359 888142114

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.

In recent years, we have witnessed an increasing use of drugs by a wide range of people. The ways in which narcotic substances are being distributed have been under development, with drug trafficking and the Internet becoming more commonplace lately. Another way of narcotic substances is that new drugs and their analogues are constantly being developed with the aim of hindering from identification. An example is synthetic drugs, which in some varieties do not respond to drugs in field tests.

Addiction is a disaster, an economic and social danger to humanity. That is why the project is aimed at strong and comprehensive prevention.

The Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo, together with local authorities, non-governmental and private sectors, have a tradition in

developing measures to ensure the security of all age groups in the area. Using good experience of partners, in 2014 was successfully developed prevention and trafficking measures for children, while in 2016 there were measures, providing care for elderly people, and in 2017 the focus was on developing prevention and improvement measures for Internet security environment. The project was implemented in 2016 with the participation of partners: contributory association "St. Ivan Rilski", Veliko Turnovo, Pavlikeni and Elena municipalities, Information Prevention Centre for Drug Addiction in Veliko Turnovo municipality, Association of Mayors and Mayor deputies "Yantra 2001" Veliko Turnovo.

The project is active with no actual time limit for activities.

With regard to prevention, it is very important to detect the problem in time so that there are no consequences, since that is where social losses come from. Addiction as a social phenomenon is not only in Bulgaria. There is no place in the world not to talk about drug addiction where unfortunately there is a bigger problem for teenagers. The project partners have prepared universal prevention for the population at regional level. Conducting an information campaign at regional level on drug crime and drug use will raise the awareness of citizens about the impact of drugs on physical and mental health and danger to young society.

For project purpose, in December 2018, contributory association "St. Ivan Rilski" established in partnership with the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo a Centre for Prevention and Sports in the village of Balvan.

The idea of opening a preventive centre in the village of Balvan was dictated by the need to carry out prevention activities of drug use at municipal level with children and young people from the city of Veliko Turnovo and 36 settlements in the municipality of Veliko Turnovo. The aim of the project is fighting and protect health of young people. Due to the well-conducted information campaign in 2017, a Centre for Prevention and Sports was opened in the Municipality of Pavlikeni, which also serves two other municipalities. In 2018, a third Centre for Prevention and Sports was opened in the Municipality of Elena and Zlataritsa. The opening of a Prevention and Sports Centre in the municipalities of Svishtov and Polski Trambesh is forthcoming.

This gives us reason to grow and upgrade project activities. The opening of Centres for Prevention and Sports in the district of Veliko Turnovo was realized as a result of the partnership between the Ministry of Interior and the municipalities in the area.

The project has been built in partnership with the 28 Regional Directorates of the Ministry of Interior in Bulgaria through the construction of preventive drug information centres. For the implementation of the project and the national strategy against drugs, an action plan has been developed with specific measures for the implementation of strategic tasks for reducing the demand and supply of

drugs, as well as deadlines for their implementation by all responsible institutions.

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).

- 08.06.2017 "National conference on drug addiction prevention took place in Veliko Turnovo" - article in the e-portal of the regional daily newspaper „Borba“ www.borba.bg.com
- 22.06.2018 "Children's Police Academy" started <http://regnews.net>
- 08.05.2019 Addiction Centre in Veliko Turnovo with regular training on their prevention" <http://radiovelikotarnovo.com>
- 23.06.2019 "Information campaign marks International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - June 26 - No Drugs Campaign" <http://radiovelikotarnovo.com>
- 26.06.2019 Interview with Ivana Stoyanova - Chairman of the Prevention Centre for Drug Addiction in Veliko Turnovo Municipality "Drug use leads to social, legal and medical consequences for society" <http://ekcarevec.com/index.php>
- 26.07.2019 "Safe Vacation Campaign Continues in Summer" webpage of the Ministry of Interior – Veliko Turnovo <http://publicmvr.mvr.bg>

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

According to current scientific research, the increase in the number of drug addicts at a young age is the result of a number of problems in various aspects. The project aims to understand the reasons for their use and to develop comprehensive prevention and support measures.

For young people, age-related factors are crucial for drug use - lack of life experience. During this period of their lives, when they form themselves as individuals with their own morals and principles, adolescents are most often influenced by the environment.

Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo has developed a methodology for drug prevention in all 10 municipalities in Veliko Turnovo area. The signed agreement gives grounds for a proper way of prevention of drug addiction. "Sport is the best way for children to grow up" is the motto of "Don't Touch the Drug!" campaign.

In Veliko Turnovo Municipality, 20 centres for work with children and youth have been opened, financed by the Municipality. In their spare time, they are engaged in a variety of reasonable entertainment, sports and are up-to-date on drug abuse information. The project brings together the efforts of all state, municipal

institutions, non-governmental organizations, parents' associations and the community to combat drugs activities. As a result of the good work of the 20 centres for work with children and young people in small settlements, like natural extension and development of the project, the Centres for Prevention and Sports were opened in Balvan, Elena and Pavlikeni in partnership with the Brewers Union of Bulgaria. Centres include sport as an integral part of the child's development and upbringing, attended on a schedule by children aged 8 to 18 years. Trainers for the project are specialists from the Ministry of Interior, Preventive Information Centre on Drug Addiction in the Municipality of Veliko Turnovo, Regional Education Directorate, Social Services Municipality Directorate, Child Protection Department, and many other organizations relevant to prevention of drug offenses and harm caused by their use.

The aim of the project is to improve public health and social functioning of the individual, increasing the level of public safety and security of drug distribution by adopting a balanced and integrated approach to drugs and drugs problems and providing reliable and efficient methods for reducing drugs demands.

Indicative prevention introduced the use of screening questionnaires, early and brief intervention and motivational interviewing as an approach to work related early identification and motivation for behavioural change.

For the implementation of drug policy at local level, a very good coordination activity is carried out with the Municipal Centre for Drug Addiction, Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo, Municipalities, Bulgarian Red Cross, non-governmental and school organizations, Foundation for Parents Against Drugs.

What the project focus is for prevention activities and a program for each municipality - collects, stores and analyses information at local municipal and district level which is necessary for preparation, implementation and coordination of drug prevention and control programs.

The essence of the project is developing a strategy for prevention and limitation of environmental risks, creation of health and social service, including social integration of people from at-risk groups and prevention of social outflow. Priority is given to the establishment of treatment and psychosocial rehabilitation programs for children, as well as a program focusing on the social reintegration of at-risk children.

The role of the 28 Preventive Drug Addiction Information Centres throughout the country where training with students, police officers, cadets, etc., seeking to enhance knowledge, skills and competences is crucial, as well as professionals and partners working in other security-related fields.

Success of the project depends on the combined efforts of the Ministry of Interior, local government, civil society, school, family and all other institutions related to the problem.

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**)

In order to raise awareness and attract people's attention, a package of preventative measures has been developed to identify the real risks and factors of protection.

- The Children's Summer Police Academy is held annually on the territory of Veliko Turnovo Municipality. During holidays, children acquire knowledge and skills to curb aggression, limit human trafficking, traffic safety and prevent drug use. Having fun, young people learn a lot of new and interesting things;
- The Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo keeps a record of 7 service dogs, 2 of which specialize in drug detection. In 2018, the animals took part in 280 preventative measures on the territory of the district;
- International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is celebrated annually on June 26 in the Grand Hall of the Municipality of Veliko Turnovo. A movie about harms and consequences of drug use called "Unforgivable" is screened for students and young people. In addition, awareness campaigns are being carried out at schools and media;
- Lectures and discussions with students on "The harm of drug use" topic are held within each school year.

These activities make it easier for young people to identify and protect against hazards.

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.¹

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>

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**)

Through analysis of aggregated data from police statistics arrays over the past years, showing an increase in the number of drug offenses committed, the number of perpetrators and a decrease in their age, it was decided to launch this project. Another reason was the need to raise young people's awareness of the problem. Drug offenses are of high public danger due to several facts: they are committed extremely quickly and easily, targeted and affect a wide range of people, cause great moral, personal and financial damage to population. This is because drug use affects both the individual and the property. The most serious crimes under Bulgarian and European law are those directed against the individual (fornication, debauchery, drugs, human trafficking, child pornography), most of which are committed as a consequence or occasion for use and distribution of narcotic substances.

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

One of project objectives is limiting the risk of drug use by building and maintaining preventative programs for children and young people and raising awareness of institutions and society. Of utmost importance for prevention of drug crime is the implementation of measures to detect, interrupt supply of drugs and identify perpetrators.

In connection with the above information, the main goal of the project is to reduce the number of drug offenses committed as well as the number of perpetrators. The secondary objective is to raise awareness of children and young people by giving lectures and talks in schools, for working with children in cities and small towns, developing a media policy on drug problems, holding press conferences, public debates and other activities in order to familiarize civil society and the media with problems in the field of drug addiction, training specialists working on the problem of drug addiction.

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 analysis was carried out by the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo and project partners, through prepared questionnaires. The data showed partners that there was a lack of information in consumers about substances, harm and consequences of drug use. As a result, they become potential victims of a crime. In this regard, additional preventive measures have been added. This indicates that the project is flexible and operational, but is in the process of being updated during its implementation. The method used through the questionnaires, together with the feedback received during the conversations and trainings with the users, is the most reliable and realistic way of summarizing the results achieved and producing a reliable data.

An analysis is made on a monthly basis on the dynamics of domestic crime in the area, including several types of offenses, as well as drug-related crime. The situation is compared to previous month as data provides information on the status since the beginning of the year. Interactive maps are also included. Along with the monthly analysis, interactive crime maps are sent as well to the Regional department.

From the beginning of the year to 31.07.2019, 68 drug related crimes were registered on the territory of the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo, while for the same period of 2018 they were 117 registered offenses. 50 crimes were concluded in 2019, while in 2018 resolved crimes were 77. The disclosure rate is 73.53% for 2019 versus 65.81% for 2018.

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 method of interviewing persons from target group consists of two stages - interviewed before and after, conducting the informative interviews by specialists working on the problem of drug addiction. The purpose of the survey prior to the events in question is to familiarize us with knowledge of the target group on drug problems. As a result, a follow-up survey was conducted including informational interview with persons, the results of which show an increase in knowledge on the topics covered. The method used through the questionnaires, together with the feedback received during the interviews and trainings, is the most reliable and realistic way of summarizing achieved results.

Assessment of aggregated data from police arrays by years (2013 - 2016) for statistics over the past years, shows an increase in number of drug offenses, number of perpetrators and a decrease in their age, which led to decision of

launching current project. Based on the information provided in tabular forms, it can be seen that there is an increase in cases of drug-related crimes as well as in number of perpetrators. According to the same table, after the start of the project activities in 2016, there is a decrease in the number of cases of identified perpetrators of this type of crime.

Every year a report is prepared - an analysis of the activity of the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo by different states, part of which are activities under the "Narcotics" section. In 2018, 188 drug related offenses were registered. In 2017, there were 163 registered offenses, while for the same period in 2016, 184 related offenses were recorded.

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**)

Many of the mutual preventive measures identified in the project are innovative. The project started in 2016 with the opening of the Centre for Prevention and Sports in the village of Balvan. After taking into account the positive results of its activities, in the next two years, the project multiplied in the municipalities of Pavlikeni and Elena. These centres are one-of-a-kind national centres, aimed entirely at children and young people. Innovation in the project are the set-out sports activities.

Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior – Veliko Turnovo is a major partner in the construction and operation of Centres for work with children and young people. With the opening of the centres in 2016, the Summer Children's Police Academy for Children and Youth in the small settlements of the district was launched in the area.

Last but not least, as innovative in the project, it should be noted that there are a large number of partners working together to achieve the underlying objective of 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**)

A large basis and considerable resources of partnership approach will allow one to better understand the problem of crime, its causes and consequences, and ways of preventing it. Prevention measures will gain greater legitimacy and resilience if they are a result of knowledge, experience and resources of problem areas and entities such as education system, police, local government and civil society.

- Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo – project lead partner which organizes the activities of participants;
- Preventive drug information centres operating in the territories of the 28 Regional Directorates of the Ministry of Interior in Bulgaria - trainings and workshops;
- Regional education management - lectures;
- District Administration of Veliko Turnovo - central government body overseeing state institutions;
- The municipalities of Veliko Turnovo, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Lyaskovets, Strazhitsa, Pavlikeni, Elena, Svishtov, Polski Trambesh - through discussions with the Local juvenile and anti-social commission;
- Contributory association "St. Ivan Rilski" - main partner of the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo;
- Association of Mayors and Deputy Mayors of Veliko Turnovo municipality and Pavlikeni municipality;
- Regional Association of Mayors and Deputy Mayors of the District of Veliko Turnovo;
- "Borba" daily newspaper - articles;
- Sira Printing - printing materials;
- Bulgarian Red Cross Regional Council Veliko Turnovo - information campaigns;
- Regional Health Inspectorate Veliko Turnovo - control of health services and information campaigns.

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

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

Resources to achieve a given goal can be financial, labour and crime information, the ability for transformation into outcomes leading to specific target. Ability consists of legal authority, organizational structure and processes such as trust in and between partners, available material, information systems and knowledge. Unification of resources is done for a variety of reasons, most often quantitative and qualitative, or a mixture of these two options. Such unification can make the steps towards the common goal much more effective and the effectiveness more acceptable and legitimate to society.

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

Overall sources used to achieve a given goal are investments such as financial resources, labour and background information on crime (criminogenic situation), as well as the ability to transform them into outcomes that lead to a specific purpose. Ability consists of legal authority and broader moral legitimacy, organizational structure and processes such as trust in and between partner organizations, available facilities, information systems and knowledge. Partners with their own budgets finance main and internal goals by investing in human resources. They have declared their financial contribution with consent to participate in the project. Institutions where the link between workers and employers is based on employment relations includes sponsorship by socially responsible corporate entities in order to carry out various preventive activities. Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior - Veliko Turnovo, together with its partners: Regional education management – Veliko Turnovo, contributory association "St. Ivan Rilski", Drug Addiction Prevention Centres, "Borba" daily newspaper, are all involved in the project mainly with human resources.

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**)

It should be noted that activities of the project are not intended of raising funds, thus a legal analysis is not being taken for its financial benefits. Preventing crimes of this kind protects financial and physical integrity, as well as the health status of society. This causes serious financial losses on a daily basis to individuals and companies from organized groups of people who manufacture, distribute and use drugs. The prevention of drug use leads to direct financial benefits for the individual and society as a whole, because the treatment of drug addiction is an expensive and time-consuming process.

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

One of the main ideas for the project is multiplying it into a national program. The project is suitable for replication in other Member States of the European Union, taking into account national circumstances and structure of local law enforcement. Strategy, procedures and results of the project, distributed in the EU Member States can be achieved by making a preliminary analysis of which Member States or regions it is suitable regarding mutual activities such as unified prevention for the population at regional and national level, prevention of drug use at multi-national level with children and young people, protecting health, optimized partnership between Ministries of Interior and municipalities,

methodologies for drug prevention, strategies for prevention and environmental risks limitation, information campaigns, adequate and on-time detection of problem and situations and their effective and long-term resolution.

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

European dimension of the project can be sought in solving problems similar to those of other Member States, and in particular in creating a new type of direct interaction at local level between citizens, Ministry of Interior, local authorities and non-governmental organizations. Increasing the percentage of drug users and being unaware of their harmful effects is a pan-European problem and the project can contribute, with its national dimension, to better communicating with this major part of society within the framework of European values and good practices.

Attention of all institutions must be directed to the need of seeking sustainable social and other solutions to limit the impact of spread and use of drugs, especially by young people. A special package of measures to raise their awareness of threats and consequences of drug use needs to be developed. The elaboration of the measures should be tailored to the age peculiarities and needs, as well as to predominant type of crimes committed.

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

Following the needs of a busy and stressful daily life, young people are increasingly resorting to drugs tempted by curiosity and desire to escape from problems. Through analysing these facts, a necessity is concluded in order to develop scientifically and practically significant measures for prevention and support of young people in fighting against drug addiction. In substance, these measures are socio-economic; organizational and management; legal; health and cultural education. The project was developed with the idea of multiplying into a national program and the opportunity for successful implementation in other EU Member States. Given a wide partnership between public, non-governmental and private sectors as well as planned preventive actions, the project is expected to achieve an overall positive result for community. Together Against Drugs is a project which embodies common effort from institutions, non-profit organisations and citizens targeting young people.