

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 of Procedures for awarding and presenting the European Crime Prevention Award (Par.2 §3).

General information

1. Please specify your country.

Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)

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

ECPA

3. What is the title of the project?

"Kurve kriegen" ("U-Turn")

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.

01/04/2020/ Yes

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).

1. Website www.kurvekriegen.nrw.de;
2. Evaluation report (process and impact), Kiel University (CAU Kiel);
3. www.kfn.de, evaluation/cost-benefit analysis (evaluation report - cost-benefit analysis) Prognos AG;
4. CTC Green List Lower Saxony

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

"Kurve kriegen" ("U-Turn") with a focus on clan crime

Backdrop

In addition to implementing numerous repressive measures to combat clan crime, NRW focuses on using preventive measures to reduce or prevent the manifold effects of clan crime on the population. To this end, the "Kurve kriegen" initiative, effectively and successfully in place for many years and scientifically evaluated several times, has been specifically adapted to the phenomenon of clan crime.

Aim of "Kurve kriegen" with a focus on clan crime

The aim of this project is to offer participants a way out of crime and to bring about an autonomous rejection of a criminal way of life. However, this is not a drop-out programme as such, as the aim of these measures is not the exit from the "family" system, but the change of the system through behavioural changes of the participants and their families. The aim is to make the consequences and perspectives of a criminal lifestyle for themselves and especially their children unmistakably clear to the families and to develop a sufficiently attractive alternative to crime - thus, the integration of these people into the community and the creation of real life perspectives. This also requires genuine role models for these people. For this reason, successful participants are to be encouraged to become "ambassadors with credibility", who are to demonstrate to the others, "I have managed to leave my criminal past behind, and so can you".

Idea:

Drop-out programmes traditionally employed in politically extremist spheres cannot be applied to the phenomenon of clan crime. Unlike in extremist scenes, for instance, there is no integration process into family clans that could be used as a starting point for preventive measures, as one usually joins a clan by being born into it. Conventional drop-out programmes are therefore ineffective; they have to be "reconceived". Consistently, the project's measures are aimed at offering a way out of crime to younger family members (8-17 years) - before they become involved! To this end, five of the 23 existing "Kurve kriegen" sites which are particularly affected by clan crime have been specially outfitted for this phenomenon (additional specifically trained pedagogical staff, provision of funds for specific crime-prevention measures, deployment of specialised language and integration professionals). Within the scope of the prevention project, we also work closely together with the "Sicherheitskooperation Ruhr zur Bekämpfung der Clankriminalität" ("Ruhr Security Cooperation against Clan Crime"). To this end, an experienced criminal investigation officer, who is exclusively responsible for the (further) development, implementation and coordination of existing or new preventive measures and for the synergetic dovetailing with the repressive approaches of the security cooperation, has been appointed to the interdisciplinary and repressive steering group of the "Sicherheitskooperation Ruhr". In addition, the entire prevention project is scientifically monitored and partially evaluated. For this purpose, the Criminological Research Unit of the State Criminal Police Office of North Rhine-Westphalia has set up a scientific advisory group as a platform for experts on the topic of clan crime from all over Germany to network and exchange views with the aim of further developing existing preventive measures and developing new approaches in this area.

Achievements to date:

Since the start of the project in April this year, the pedagogical and police experts have succeeded in convincing 21 children and young people (age: 8-17 years; 19 male, 2 female) along with their families to participate voluntarily, as the whole project rests upon a voluntary basis.

I. The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme.

8. Which **crime prevention/ reduction mechanisms** were used in this project to contribute to crime prevention and/or the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? Multiple answers are possible.

Establishing and maintaining normative barriers to committing criminal acts

e.g. 'Offenders, we are watching you' campaigns

Reducing recruitment to criminal social environments and activities by eliminating or reducing the social and individual causes and processes that lead to criminality

e.g. social and financial support for disadvantaged families

Deterring potential perpetrators from committing crimes through the threat of punishment

e.g. decreasing the time between arrest and punishment

Disrupting criminal acts by stopping them before they are carried out

e.g. increasing police patrols in vulnerable areas

Protecting vulnerable targets by reducing opportunities and make it more demanding to carry out criminal acts

e.g. placing locks and cameras

Reducing the harmful consequences of criminal acts

e.g. initiatives to recover stolen goods

Reducing the rewards from criminal acts

e.g. restorative justice programmes

Incapacitating (or neutralising) perpetrators by denying them the ability (capacity) to carry out new criminal acts

e.g. imprisonment of key gang members

Encouraging desistance from crime and rehabilitating former offenders so they are able to settle back into a normal life

e.g. prison rehabilitation programmes

Explain how this/these crime prevention mechanisms were used ((**Max. 300 words**))

The aim is not the punishment, stigmatisation or isolation of the target group. Our project is about appreciation, voluntariness and understanding. It is about making it clear to the families that they are welcome as human beings, but that their criminal behaviour cannot be tolerated. The actual pedagogical work is not carried out by a state authority, but by independent youth welfare organisations. They are neither police nor the youth welfare office, giving them a higher chance of being accepted by the target group. They are tasked with building up trust and a sustainable relationship as the basis for further work.

Nevertheless, the police play a crucial role. They are responsible for identifying and probing the target group, thus ensuring police interests. Eventually, however, not only the crimes known to the police are a factor, but also and especially the entire familial and extra-familial setting - so-called risk factors, which, according to the assessment - first by the police and later also by the social workers - warrant the prognosis that further criminal behaviour with regard to these children and young people is to be expected.

The social workers are further tasked with analysing the participants and their families very precisely, identifying individual needs and developing apposite measures.

The police, on the other hand, are still involved. Their collaboration with social workers continues and remains transparent to the participants, but - and this is immensely important for the target group - regulated by data protection. The social workers are not obliged to report to the police, nor are they police officers by extension. Nevertheless, the social workers rely on their work. They receive first-hand information from the police about further incidents or noticeable problems on a daily basis. They may jointly agree to intensify supervisory measures in order to increase the willingness of the target group to accept help.

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives. For more information on evaluation, click [here](#)

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 fight against "clan crime" is a central focus of the government of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Since September 2018, the Ministry of the Interior has been involved in the Ruhr Conference on "Combating Clan Crime" of the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia. Within that framework, the symposium "360° - Measures against Clan Crime" was held in Essen on 30 January 2019, attended by 560 participants from all over Germany.

Evaluating the results of the symposium particularly helped identify preventive approaches, the optimisation of which will make the fight against clan crime even more efficient at various levels. The prevention project described above was developed on the basis of these results.

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

Main objectives:

- Leaving crime behind
- Offering and facilitating alternative ways of life
- Creating real prospects for families
- Producing "ambassadors with credibility"
- Social integration

Secondary objectives:

- (Further) development of existing and new preventive approaches

11. Has there been a process evaluation¹? 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)**

The "Kurve kriegen" initiative, which was specifically adapted to the phenomenon of clan crime, has already been evaluated with regard to its effectiveness. The process was evaluated by Kiel University and has been published on the programme's website (www.kurvekriegen.nrw.de). Another scientific process evaluation (2020/2021) is currently being carried out.

12. Has there been an outcome² or impact³ 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)**

The "Kurve kriegen" initiative has been evaluated with regard to both process and impact. In addition to that, a cost-benefit analysis has been conducted by the Prognos AG.

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)**

¹ **Process evaluation:** Also called *implementation evaluation*, or *monitoring*, this process documents **how the activities were implemented** in order to determine any deviations from the original planning. It facilitates finding explanations for when the results of the intervention are not as expected.

² **Outcome evaluation:** Measures the **direct effect** (i.e., extent of the changes) **of the intervention on the target group, population, or geographic area**. The information produced by the outcome evaluation determines at what level the **objectives were achieved**.

³ **Impact evaluation:** Measures **long-term effects** of the intervention on the target group, as well as **indirect effects** on the broader community. The information produced by the impact evaluation determines at what level the **ultimate goals** of the intervention were achieved.

So far, clan crime has been fought almost exclusively or at least predominantly with repressive measures. "Blueprints" or models for preventive projects in this area exist neither on a national nor an international level. With this project/approach, North Rhine-Westphalia is a pioneer throughout Germany.

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 project is closely linked to the "Ruhr Security Cooperation against Clan Crime", in particular through their so-called Coordinator for Prevention. The security cooperation consolidates the police, federal police, customs and local authorities to create a "single point of contact", where information is collected, processed and evaluated in order to make it available to the respective agencies involved as quickly as possible. The prevention project benefits from the constant exchange of information and experience, as the knowledge gained there is passed on to the police and pedagogical staff of the five pilot authorities and can thus be incorporated into their daily work.

In addition, the Coordinator for Prevention facilitates the establishment of contact with other ministries and areas of responsibility. We are, for instance, already working with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia, exploring the possibilities of integrating previously criminal children and young people into the world of work after a successful participation in the "Kurve kriegen" initiative.

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 action programme is funded by the Ruhr Conference of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

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

The entire project is funded with 1 million euro p.a.

17. Has a cost-benefit analysis⁴ 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**)

A cost-benefit analysis has been carried out on the "Kurve kriegen" initiative, certifying a return rate of 1:3 – 1:10, meaning that each euro invested is offset against € 3 – 10 of social expenses saved.

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

The action programme can be adapted to any country.

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

The phenomenon of clan crime is not exclusive to Germany but also affects particularly the Scandinavian countries (e.g. Sweden/Malmö). Furthermore, this systemic approach can be applied to other crime phenomena committed by extended families or comparable structures.

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

North Rhine-Westphalia has set itself the task of reducing or preventing the manifold effects of clan crime on the population by means of preventive measures. First, recourse was taken to the "Kurve kriegen" initiative within the federal state, effectively and successfully in place for many years and scientifically evaluated several times. To this end, five of the 23 "Kurve kriegen" sites have been specially outfitted for this phenomenon (additional specifically trained pedagogical staff, specific crime-prevention measures, deployment of specialised language and integration professionals). Within the scope of the prevention project, we also work closely together with the "Ruhr Security Cooperation", whose interdisciplinary and repressive steering group was staffed with an experienced criminal investigation officer exclusively responsible for the (further) development, implementation and coordination of existing or new preventive measures and for the synergetic dovetailing with repressive approaches. In addition, the entire prevention project is scientifically monitored and partially evaluated.

⁴ **Cost-benefit analysis:** A type of economic evaluation that compares the direct and indirect cost of the resources employed in the intervention, with the equivalent economic value of the benefits.

