



# European Crime Prevention Award and EUCPN Best Practice Conference 2011

## Project Entry Form

The theme for this year's European Crime Prevention Award and EUCPN's Best Practice Conference is: ***"Sport, science and art in the prevention of crime among children and youth".***

Because of the theme of the competition and general subject of the trio, projects should be linked with:

- activities of allowing young people avoiding the risks of crime or move away of it
- creating the system which allows juvenile to the creative development and which is choice to the juvenile delinquency
- education and related fields (i.e. sport, art, science) used in the crime prevention system

The list is not exhaustive. The projects may address any question relevant to this year's theme.

Please complete the attached form (the boxes are expandable). Note that the last point is for a one-page description of your project.

Entries should be in English, but may be accompanied by a version of the entry in the national language if wished. Each country may enter one project as its ECPA entry and up to two other projects to be presented at the conference. Projects should be submitted only through the National Representatives. The full ECPA rules can be found at [www.eucpn.org](http://www.eucpn.org)

Deadline for entries is **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.

Send your entry or entries to: [eucpn@mswia.gov.pl](mailto:eucpn@mswia.gov.pl).

If you have any questions, please contact [eucpn@mswia.gov.pl](mailto:eucpn@mswia.gov.pl).



## ECPA/BPC 2011

**Please answer the following questions in English.**

- 1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project? (Only one ECPA entry per country plus up to two other projects.)**

Swedish ECPA entry 2011

- 2. What is the title of the project?**

Young Subway

- 3. Please give a short general description of the project.**

In 2010, the project Young Subway has involved approximately 120 children and youths from a socially disadvantaged neighbourhood (Granängen) in the municipality of Tyresö, in Greater Stockholm. The project's objective is to reduce vandalism. The young people have been given the opportunity to actively influence their local environment by designing the artistic decoration of the pedestrian subways leading to and from their neighbourhood. The number of reported graffiti offences in both the neighbourhood and the wider municipality has increased between 2008 and 2010, and the subways are places where many of the reported graffiti offences have been committed. It is notable that very few incidents of graffiti or vandalism, or none at all, have occurred in and around the subway which the young people have been involved in decorating. One of the project's guiding ideas is that vandalism and other crimes can be prevented by actively involving young people in the artistic and architectural design of their local environment.

- 4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project.**

The project is focused on youths. The primary objective has been to reduce levels of graffiti and vandalism, first and foremost in the subway whose decoration and design the young people have been involved in. The project has been based on three guiding principles: 1. Active participation in designing and forming the local environment should promote participation in society at large. 2. A beautiful environment promotes a desire to preserve it. 3. It is possible to reduce vandalism by architectural means. In brief, the project is about getting children and youths to feel a greater sense of participation, pride and responsibility for their neighbourhood, thereby reducing their motivation to engage in vandalism.

- 5. How was the project implemented?**

The municipality of Tyresö lies close to Stockholm. Large parts of the municipality comprise areas of terraced and detached houses. Certain parts of the municipality are what are termed Million Project areas, with large blocks of flats that were built during the 1960s. Many of the residents of these areas have an immigrant background, unemployment levels are high and many are dependent on welfare benefits to support themselves. The Granäng Ring is one of these neighbourhoods. There are several pedestrian subways leading into the area



which are often subject to what the police have described as increasing levels of graffiti crime, which costs the municipality large amounts of money to clean. In 2010, the municipality decided to devote special resources to involving young people in the artistic design of one of these subways. Local youth centres were involved along with various parts of the municipal administration and the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning. A project leader was appointed and additional funding was provided by an insurance company (Skandia). A total of 120 youths, the majority aged between twelve and sixteen, have participated in the artistic design of the subway. 75 percent of the youths have an immigrant background (at least one parent born outside Sweden). In collaboration with an architect and youth centres, the young people have painted the subway and laid the mosaic tiles. The project has gone well and in 2011–2012 more youths will be involved in the artistic decoration of additional subways.

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

Young Subway has involved the collaboration of several actors.

1. Tyresö municipality, Technical Services Office: Contributed 100,000 SEK for new lighting, paint, plants and tools.
2. Youth centres (run by the municipality): At the youth centres, the youths involved in the project gathered for workshops, at which they worked with design, practised painting and learned to produce and put up mosaic tiling prior to decorating the subway.
3. Project leader/Architect: The project leader was a trained architect who led the workshops and was responsible both for implementing and documenting the project.

**7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project? Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?**

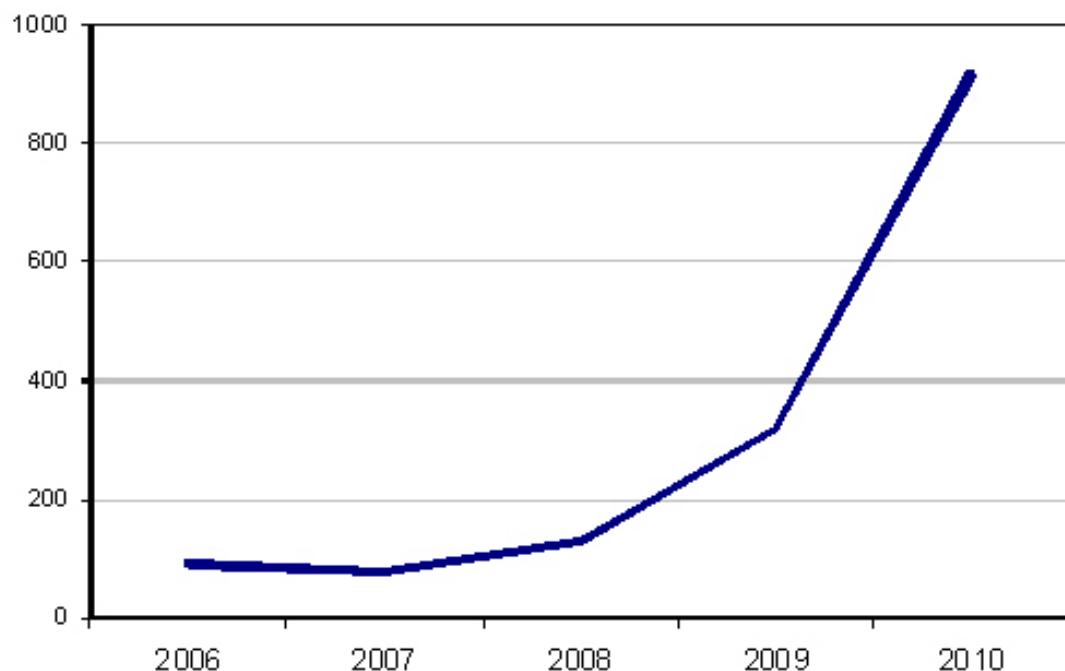
The project's effects have not been evaluated but have been followed up using detailed police statistics on trends in graffiti and vandalism at different places in the municipality of Tyresö. The municipality has compared the number of reported graffiti offences in other subways in the area with the subway designed and decorated by the youths.

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

The project's principal objective was to reduce levels of graffiti and vandalism, first and foremost in the subway whose design the youths had been involved in. The subway that the youths had participated in designing and decorating has in principle not suffered any graffiti during 2010 and 2011 (this ECPA entry has been written in October 2011). This can be compared with other pedestrian subways in the area, that have been subject to extensive graffiti and which produce substantial cleaning costs for the municipality every year. Figure 1 and Table 1 below show changes in the number of graffiti offences in Tyresö municipality for the period 2006–2010.



**Figure 1. Number of reported graffiti offences (excluding graffiti on public transport) in Tyresö municipality, 2006–2010**



**Table 1. Number of reported graffiti offences (excluding graffiti on public transport) in Tyresö municipality, 2006–2010**

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
91	78	129	317	916
Percentage change compared with previous year				
-14	65	146	189	

The figure and table show that the number of reported graffiti offences (excluding graffiti on public transport) have increased between 2006 and 2010 in Tyresö. In 2006 and 2007 less than 100 graffiti offences were reported each year. There is a substantial increase between 2009 and 2010 in the number of reported offences. A total of 317 graffiti offences were reported in 2009 and 916 in 2010. This represents an increase of 189 percent over the course of a single year (see Table 1). The substantial increase in the number of reported offences should be interpreted with caution. In Tyresö, as in large areas of the rest of Stockholm, the number of reported graffiti offences has increased between 2006 and 2010. Part of this increase is due to an increased reporting propensity on the part of large public transport companies, municipalities and housing companies, which have photographed and reported the graffiti to the police in connection with their graffiti cleaning activities. The new



opportunities for digital reporting routines mean that many of the graffiti offences that were previously not reported are now being brought to the attention of the police. A part of the substantial increase probably does reflect a real increase in the level of graffiti. If one looks more specifically at those locations in Tyresö municipality that are most affected by graffiti, so-called hot-spots, there are four schools, together with their surrounding areas, that stand out. The pedestrian subway that has been renovated by the youths is located in the neighbourhood of one of these four schools, and "should" have been exposed to graffiti and vandalism, but has remained untouched. According to local police officers in Tyresö and representatives of the project, the likely reason for this crime preventive effect and for why the subway has not been subjected to graffiti is that the youths were involved in its design. People feel a sense of responsibility for what they have been involved in designing, and want to preserve it.

The municipality of Tyresö spends large sums of money each year removing graffiti. Part of the municipality's strategy for reducing vandalism and graffiti also involves costs for private security firms. In the schools and the area around the pedestrian subway, the municipality spent around 450,000 SEK in 2010 on measures to deal with graffiti and vandalism. This can be compared with the total cost of the Young Subway project, which was 204,920 SEK (for the year 2010). The project has worked well and the municipality is in the process of involving more young people, who will renovate additional subways in 2011–2012.

**9. Are there reports or documents available on the project? In print or on the Web? Please, give references to the most relevant ones.**

[www.arkitekturOchVandalisering.se](http://www.arkitekturOchVandalisering.se)

**10. Please, write a *one page* description of the project:**

The project Young Subway was conducted in 2010 and involved approximately 120 children and youths from a socially disadvantaged neighbourhood (Granängen) in the municipality of Tyresö, in Greater Stockholm. The neighbourhood is characterised by high levels of unemployment and welfare support recipiency, and many of the residents have an immigrant background. The goal of the project has been to reduce vandalism and graffiti. The young people have been given the opportunity to actively influence their local environment by designing the artistic decoration of the pedestrian subways leading to and from the residential neighbourhood. An architect, who led the project, held workshops with the young people, who learned to lay mosaic tiles and paint on concrete. The number of reported graffiti offences had increased dramatically between 2008 and 2010, and the subways are places where large numbers of graffiti offences are reported. It is notable that no graffiti or vandalism has occurred in the subway that the youths participated in designing and decorating either in 2010, when the project was conducted, or in 2011 (this ECPA entry was written in October 2011). One of the project's guiding ideas is that vandalism and other crimes can be prevented by actively involving young people in the artistic and architectural design of their local environment.

The number of reports of graffiti (excluding graffiti on public transport) have increased between 2006 and 2010 in Tyresö. In 2006 and 2007 less than 100 graffiti offences were reported each year. There was a large increase in reported graffiti between 2009 and 2010. A total of 317 graffiti offences were reported in 2009 and 916 in 2010. This represents an increase of 189 percent over the course of a single year. The substantial increase in the number of reported offences should be interpreted with caution. In Tyresö, as in large areas



of the rest of Stockholm, the number of reported graffiti offences has increased between 2006 and 2010. Part of this increase is due to an increased reporting propensity on the part of large public transport companies, municipalities and housing companies, which have photographed and reported the graffiti to the police in connection with their graffiti cleaning activities. Part of the substantial increase probably does reflect a real increase in the level of graffiti. The pedestrian subway "should" have been exposed to more graffiti and vandalism by comparison with other subways in the area, which would have involved substantial annual cleaning costs for the Tyresö municipality. According to local police officers in Tyresö and representatives of the project, the likely reason for this crime preventive effect and for why the subway has not been subjected to graffiti is that the youths were involved in its design. People feel a sense of responsibility for what they have been involved in designing, and want to preserve it.

The municipality of Tyresö spends large sums of money each year removing graffiti. Part of the municipality's strategy for reducing vandalism and graffiti also involves costs for private security firms. In the schools and the area around the pedestrian subway, the municipality spent around 450,000 SEK in 2010 on measures to deal with graffiti and vandalism. This can be compared with the total cost of the Young Subway project, which was 204,920 SEK (for the year 2010). The project has worked well and the municipality is in the process of involving more young people, who will renovate additional subways in 2011–2012.