



# European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

## Annex I

Please answer the following questions in English language.

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

This is the Bulgarian ECPA 2012 entry.

2. What is the title of the project?

**Youth Civil Patrol – Lozenec Quarter, Stara Zagora.**

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

Description of the Problem:

During the last few years there were cases of crime behavior and violence that attracted public attention in the town of Stara Zagora, Bulgaria and put focus on the topic of social and ethnic tension. This was broadly discussed in media and provoked many different reactions, among them some in favor of stronger measures.

The analysis reveal that the core of the cases is huligans' behavior of around 30 young people divided in groups from two quarters of the town (quarter Lozenec and quarter Makedonski) with has a population of around 25 - 30 000 people.

Part of the population in these quarters (which is mixed - Bulgarian, Roma and Turkish) lives in very bad living conditions. Also the biggest part of it is not educated and is socially unengaged. The year before the analysis is done around 2 000 newcomers from different areas moved in. Some of the newcomers have criminal records, which additionally complicates the crime picture. Crime charactering the area is theft, illegal woodcutting, prostitution, procuring, domestic violence especially under influence of alcohol. There is also information about drug dealing.

Ten Police Officers are responsible for the two quarters. They have relatively good

contact with the inhabitants. They are available in a front-desk for consultation for anyone in the communities daily from 08:00 to 23:00 hrs. Police Officers had experience in prevention activities with children in educational system, although not specifically with youth who are outside the education system.

The delinquent behavior of the groups of youths is a focus of concern to citizens of the city. These youths are intelligent and busy with different activities, however most of them attend neither school nor work. Like anyone in this age group, they have a need to prove themselves and seek opportunities for social integration. Unfortunately this usually involves them in visiting entertainment places and internet clubs in the city center where being under influence of alcohol they tend to do delinquencies, offences, conflicts. This gives rise to public unrest and easily can develop to incidents.

Preliminary Activities:

Police Officers made personal contact with these young people. It was found out that they are ready for dialog and are looking for socially acceptable forms of self expression. Some of them are interested in police work and are ready to assist police. These active contacts with law enforcement officers support their self respect and develop their motivation to behave lawfully. Before the project these contacts were sporadic and systematic positive influence on these youths was missing.

Target Groups:

- 30 young people 16 – 22 years old from two quarters of the town of Stara Zagora;
- 6 young people after a training were engaged in the Youth Civil Patrol;
- 12 young people after a training were engaged as volunteers in the Fire Service;
- 10 informal leaders of the two quarters participate in meetings to support the work of the young people and to discuss security problems in community;
- 5 police officers – specially training to teach in this project.

4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project?

Objective:

Prevention of delinquent behavior of a group of young people and engaging them with responsibilities connected to security, public order and crime prevention.

Aims:

- Development of social competencies and respect of law in young people.
- Creation of opportunities for socially acceptable behavior and competences.
- Increasing the civic activity of young people through engaging them in actions connected with improvement of public order and safety.
- Increasing their skills for integration in society through development of social skills and support for the feeling of self-worth.
- Development and proving a model of prevention activities with similar marginalized youth groups.
- Increasing the community confidence at police and stimulate citizens for participation in dialog.
- Increasing the level of security in community as well as increasing the feeling of safety in community itself and also in neighboring communities.

5. How was the project implemented?

The project was launched in July 2008 with 34 young people voluntarily starting a 3-month training under the program Civil Police Academy that included 3 modules:

1. Module „Order and Law”, directed to develop knowledge in social and law area;
2. Module „Safety and Defense of Public Interests”, directed to support youths readiness for engagement in community service and to develop skills for self-care as well as care for others;
3. Module „Development of Communication Skills”, directed to support the self assessment and social skills of youths and also to stimulate adoption of models to deal non aggressively in conflict situations.

Yet during the training the young people actively took part in different community service activities, prevention campaigns, and security of public events measures.

In December 2008 the training was finalized with test in which 13 young people (12 male and 1 female) demonstrated very good knowledge of legislation in the area public order and law, as well as skills and abilities to use it in exact situations.

The best performing youths received certificates and uniforms and were enrolled in unit Youth Civil Patrol. They participated mutually with police from the Police Unit in activities directed to protect public order in the quarter, to prevent delinquent behavior and offences, to take care for children around school areas, to assist in human rights initiatives.

In 2009 the Patrol continues to assist actively police officers, responsible for Lozenec quarter, for prevention and discovering offences against public order in it, for patrolling in school areas in the two quarters, for prevention activities during election campaigns.

In 2010 r. three young people from the Patrol applied for positions in Police Service. One of them is Police Officer now.

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?

Project includes organizational activities, among them 4 meetings with partners to discuss specific problems of security and safety in community, to schedule project activities, to analyze results and to report the implementation.

During the final meeting were reported the results and discussed possibilities for their future application in order to achieve stable results.

Partners involved in the project – Stara Zagora Police Department, Stara Zagora Regional Court, Stara Zagora Fire Department, local authorities, local Commission for Delinquent Behavior of Youths, NGOs: World Without Borders, Association Samaritans, and non-formal local community leaders.

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

Public Evaluation Council is created to control the fulfillment of project's tasks and activities.

Self-assessment is implemented using the following criteria:

- Number of youths included and continuing their participation in the training Program;
- Number of youths that passed successfully final test of the Program;
- Number of youths participating in project initiatives during and after the end of the Program;
- Number of non-formal community leaders who participated in the Public

Evaluation Council meetings;

- Increased civic initiative and personal engagement of the youths participated to Project and of the non-formal community leaders;
- Capabilities to assert their rights and interests in lawful manner;
- Decreasing number of offences and hooligan acts from youth groups;
- Broader spectrum of partners engaged – institutions, practitioners, NGOs;
- Public interest attracted to project's initiatives.

Sources for self-assessment:

- Final test of the program;
- Patrol's monthly reports;
- Patrol's self-assessment;
- Protocols from Public Evaluation Council meetings;
- Other.

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

Results achieved:

There is decrease of offences and improved public climate and environment in community.

People from the neighboring area declared willingness and readiness to overtake negative perception of members of marginalized and Roma community.

Participation of young people in mutual patrols with police gave them confidence and self respect, and developed their respect for personal property of other people.

Youths show responsible attitude to family and marriage institution.

There is improvement in their communicational skills and abilities to react in different conflict situations.

They are able to take positive decisions and to be active in social contacts.

They possess culture of crime prevention, show intolerance to offences and assistance to victims of crime.

Relations were established with representatives of different institutions who can rely on each one member of Youth Civil Patrol.

Youth Civil Patrol is created with trained members as permanent assistants to Police

and they still after finalization of the project continue to work in order to engage volunteers in securing public order and community safety.

A model to overtake problems in marginalized community and to improve its members' socialization is created. Also it is a model for interaction among local authorities, police, NGOs and volunteers. These models can be multiplied in the other regions of the country as well as in other countries.

9. Give a concrete description of the implementation of the project and the references.

Organizational Activities:

Police training team is organized. Meetings with partners, participants and community representatives are conducted. Training of trainers is implemented. Meetings of Public Evaluation Council are conducted.

Training:

Program Civil Police Academy is accomplished in three modules: Module „Order and Law”, Module „Safety and Defense of Public Interests”, and Module „Development of Communication Skills”. Training ended with final test.

Following Activities:

After the training youths are included in different community service activities – prevention campaigns, security of public events; mediation in conflicts and incidences in community; discussing with police tactics for actions.

Youth Civil Patrol is created.

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

Monthly reports for activities of the Youth Civil Patrol.

3-month assessments for activities of patrols to the Public Evaluation Council.

A number of publications in media and on the Web:

[http://www.starazagora.mvr.bg/pressoffice/news/news\\_459.htm](http://www.starazagora.mvr.bg/pressoffice/news/news_459.htm)

[http://www.starazagora.mvr.bg/pressoffice/news/news\\_453.htm](http://www.starazagora.mvr.bg/pressoffice/news/news_453.htm)

[http://news.ibox.bg/news/id\\_1110762731](http://news.ibox.bg/news/id_1110762731)

[http://dariknews.bg/view\\_article.php?article\\_id=316102](http://dariknews.bg/view_article.php?article_id=316102)

<http://old.bghelsinki.org/index.php?module=news&lq=bg&id=1558>

<http://www.standartnews.com/balgariya->

[obshtestvo/mladi\\_romi\\_bdyat\\_v\\_tandem\\_s\\_polici-5100.html](http://obshtestvo/mladi_romi_bdyat_v_tandem_s_polici-5100.html) .

11. How is the project funded? Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? If so, how? What were the findings? Please provide supporting information.

The Project is financed by Club Open Society – Stara Zagora. Project won the competition „Empowering the Powerless” organized by Open Society Institute and co financed by Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe.

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

Project aims to increase public order and security in the town of Stara Zagora, Bulgaria through prevention of delinquent behavior of a groups of young people living in neighboring quarters, and to prevent the growth of this behavior in offences and social and ethnic conflicts.

Project is initiated by the Police Officers responsible for this area and it is developed in partnership with Club Open Society – Stara Zagora, Association “World Without Borders” and other.

The delinquent behavior of the groups of youths in two quarters is a focus of concern to citizens of the city. These youths are intelligent and busy with different activities, however most of them attend neither school nor work. Like anyone in this age group, they have a need to prove themselves and seek opportunities for social integration. Unfortunately this usually involves them in visiting entertainment places and internet clubs in the city center where being under influence of alcohol they tend to do delinquencies, offences, conflicts. This gives rise to public unrest and easily can develop to further tension, conflicts and even social and ethnic motivated incidents.

Police Officers had previous experience in prevention activities with children in educational system, although not specifically with youth who are outside it.

Team of trainers is organized and teaching methodology for the training Program Civil Police Academy is developed. The Academy consists of 3 modules - Order and Law, Safety and Defense of Public Interests and Development of Communication skills.

After the training 6 youths are organized in Youth Civil Patrol. They participate mutually with police officers in activities directed to protect public order in community - patrolling, checks, assistance to citizens during personal documents issuing, initiatives for crime prevention activities.

Other group of 12 youths is trained for volunteer assistance to Regional Fire Service.

Results are as follows: decreased number of offences in two quarters and successful model to overcome problems in marginalized communities and to interact among the

community, local authorities, police, NGOs and volunteers is established.

Project is accepted by the Ministry of Interior Servants as well as by the participating young people. This allows the project to be prolonged, to achieve stable results and engage them with responsibilities connected to security, public order and crime prevention.

### 13. Resurses

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Finance</b>
Kick-off meeting and closing meeting with all the partners – 20 participants	Room 2 x 20 BGN Coffee break 2 x 20 BGN Participants' materials 2 x 20 BGN Total - 120 BGN
Training of trainers – 15 participants	Travel – 60 BGN. Daily allowances - 12 BGN per person. Accommodation - 30 BGN per person. Consumables - 15 x 3 BGN Other – 165 BGN Total - 765 BGN
4 working meetings of the Public Evaluation Council	Coffee break 4 x 10 BGN Total – 40 BGN
Program Civil Police Academy	Participants' materials 20 x 10 BGN Fee for the trainers of the 3th module (NGO) - 2 x 50 BGN Certificates 20 x 1,5 BGN Other – 20 BGN Total – 350 BGN.
Youth Civil Patrol	Uniforms 6 x 50 BGN Remuneration for patrols - 3390 BGN TOTAL– 3690 BGN
Other Expenditures	Total - 100 BGN
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5065 BGN = ~ 2600 Euro</b>