

# 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 Croatia

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

This project represents Croatia's ECPA entry project.

3. What is the title of the project?

"MOJA ODGOVORNOST JE NAŠA SIGURNOST" (My responsibility is our safety)

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

Varaždin Police District, Darko Dragičević and Tatjana Novak,  
prevention police officers, [ddragicevic@mup.hr](mailto:ddragicevic@mup.hr), [tnovak@mup.hr](mailto:tnovak@mup.hr)

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.

It started in September 2017, is running in Varaždin County and will be implemented in the future.

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).

<https://www.facebook.com/Maturantika/>

<https://varazdin.hr/kalendar-dogadanja/190/>

<http://zupan.hr/vijesti/varazdinska-zupanija-predstavljena-maturantika-2018-proslava-zadnjih-srednjoskolskih-dana>

[https://feedback.facebook.com/GradVz/videos/1854426077940877/?hc\\_ref=ARTooyedfDgCLd3H6IqPSTQ9KfzZChg-DcdhCuqWiiWSxnpGkEB6Jho7Tzh-qBGYIV8](https://feedback.facebook.com/GradVz/videos/1854426077940877/?hc_ref=ARTooyedfDgCLd3H6IqPSTQ9KfzZChg-DcdhCuqWiiWSxnpGkEB6Jho7Tzh-qBGYIV8)

<https://europski-tjedan-sporta.hr/sportski-dan-maturantike-2018/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGBhlopIEdY>

<https://www.gdck-varazdin.hr/dezurstvo-volontera-gdck-varazdin-pruzanje-prve-pomoci-danima-maturanata/>

<https://www.totalno.hr/uspjesno-realiziran-maturantika/>

<https://www.varazdinske-vijesti.hr/magazin/savjet-mladih-i-vijece-ucenika-razgovarali-o-danima-maturanata-29760/>

<https://varazdinska-policija.gov.hr/print.aspx?id=30682&url=print>

<http://www.sips.hr/o-nama/erasmus/270-maturanti-doprinesimo-desetljecu-sigurnosti-cestovnog-prometa.html>

<https://varazdinska-policija.gov.hr/vijesti/maturanti-doprinesimo-desetljecu-sigurnosti-prometa-na-cestama/30698>

<http://www.varazdinske-vijesti.hr/magazin/mimohodom-maturanata-danas-zapocinje-maturantika-2019-32151/>

<https://www.vecernji.hr/vijesti/i-varazdinski-maturanti-plesu-quadrillu-1320948>

<https://ess.hr/index.php/component/k2/item/650-maturantika>

<https://sjevorni.info/maturantika-2019-u-varazdinu-prosla-bez-vecih-incidenata-zabiljezene-dvije-intervencije-hitne-zbog-prekomjerne-konsumacije-alkohola/>

<https://varazdin.hr/novosti/odrzana-tribina-alkohol-mladi-varazdin-2179/>

<https://varazdinski.rtl.hr/vijesti/drustvo/3189993/tribina-varazdin-mladi-alkohol-vazno-je-mladima-ponuditi-sadrzaj-ne-alkohol/>

<https://www.gdck-varazdin.hr/radionica-piti-ili-ne-piti-pitanje-je-sad/>

<https://www.gdck-varazdin.hr/završen-ciklus-provedbe-edukativno-preventivnih-radionica-piti-ne-piti-pitanje-sad/>

<https://magazin.hrt.hr/420413/zajedno-protiv-govora-mrznje-na-nogometnim-utakmicama>

<https://evarazdin.hr/nasim-krajem/krece-nacionalni-projekt-zajedno-protiv-govora-mrznje-366887/>

<https://www.varazdinske-vijesti.hr/sport/ministar-bozinovic-u-varazdinu-nogometni-stadioni-su-postali-poprista-govora-mrznje-21030/>

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

**The purpose of the Project "MY RESPONSIBILITY IS OUR SAFETY"** is to raise awareness of young people about their own responsibility related to safety, as well as development of a socially responsible community while developing cooperation among all relevant stakeholders. It also promotes safety and care for the youth, especially prevention of the abuse of narcotic substances, promotion of violence-free culture, tolerance, sport and healthy lifestyle, preservation of cultural goods and environment on the part of individuals responsible for safety of the society.

**Project target groups include** 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade high-school students and their parents and (head)teachers. It involves over 1,500 students in Varaždin plus their parents.

The Project is conducted through the following interlinked and harmonized components:

**I. COMPONENT: Interactive workshops for 1<sup>st</sup> grade high-school students**

Prevention police officers and the Croatian Red Cross representatives conduct workshops in schools aiming at actively changing attitudes and detrimental habits regarding addiction, raising self-awareness and responsibility for their own and other young people's health with the purpose to prevent the abuse of drugs, alcohol and other types of addiction.

**II. COMPONENT: Campaign dubbed „Alcohol?- No, thank you!“ (Alkohol? Ne, hvala!“)**

The Police, the City of Varaždin and the Croatian Hospitality Association (CHA) certified socially responsible hospitality establishments participating in the campaign. They offer a non-alcoholic drink, which is highlighted on the menu list, using the campaign slogan. This drink is offered to minors at a symbolic price.

They all have a certificate and a sticker they place on the entrance. All of the hospitality establishments are listed on the City of Varaždin and CHA web sites.

The campaign also aims at urging hospitality establishments to adhere to legal regulations concerning minors, to inform parents and other citizens on the establishment with higher safety standards.

**III. COMPONENT: Amending regulations**

The City of Varaždin Crime Prevention Council drafted a proposal for amending the General Local Regulation to include a prohibition on the consumption of alcoholic drinks and other narcotic substances for minors in the City of Varaždin. The procedure to adopt the amendments is ongoing.

**IV. COMPONENT: High-School Leaving Celebration ("Maturantika")**

Preventative three-day program is intended for the high-school leaving students in the Varaždin County. It is organized in May, three days prior to the official end of the graduating class school year to joyfully and safely celebrate the end of their high-school days. The police cooperate in the preparation and implementation of this component, as do Crime Prevention Council of the Varaždin County and the City of Varaždin, as well as Youth Council and the Council of Elementary- and High-School Students of the Varaždin County and the City of Varaždin.

The three-day program consists of the following activities:

DAY 1: Music program with a slogan "*Glazbi se veselim, nasilje ne želim*" (I rejoice in music, I don't want violence) – graduates parade through downtown Varaždin where they show their school leaving costumes to their parents and other citizens, after which they return to the city park where a four-hour concert is organized.

DAY 2: Sports program with a slogan "*Sportom protiv ovisnosti*" (With sport against addiction) – the city park hosts funny sports games, aerobics, weight-lifting competition, rope jumping, endurance and strength polygon, rowing machine and other activities for graduates.

DAY 3: Humanitarian activity with the slogan "*Maturanti, humanitarcji*" (Humanitarian graduates) where high schools present themselves at the main town square with their creative works of art while dancing the unavoidable Quadrila. Afterward, graduates go to the Youth Park where a DJ and a four-hour music and dance program waits for them.

The class with the best graduate costumes and who behaved in a responsible and appropriate manner receive an award – a one-day excursion to adrenaline park while the best, fastest and most skillful get awarded individually as well.

#### **V. COMPONENT: POLICE-PARENT PATROLS**

Joint patrols are organized where police officers and parents patrol in the evening hours on weekends in areas with hospitality establishments and where the young people mingle, especially during the three-day school-leaving celebration period. The goal is to encourage parents to take an active part in the efforts to ensure safety of their children with patrols having an exclusive prevention purpose, and responding only in cases of risky behavior of the youth to avoid incidents of larger proportions. During the 'peak-period' school teachers are also involved.

**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**)

Active change of the attitude of the young people regarding the detrimental effects of the consumption of narcotic substances, promotion of positive lifestyle and development of responsible and assertive behavior of the youths is the key to bringing up responsible individuals that will grow into productive society members while enhancing safety of the community.

Amending regulations and thus introducing factors that impede consumption of narcotic substances in public areas, which is often connected to vandalism, disruptive behavior, violence, property crime and other forms of deviant behavior while offering alternative activities encourage young people to engage in positive ways of using their free time while preventing criminal behavior.

Active work of the police and other relevant stakeholders in the local community with the young people, their parents and the whole local community, contributes to reducing both crime and the fear thereof.

**II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.<sup>1</sup>**

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**)

We made youth crime rates analysis regarding addiction, on the basis of collected information from the field, information from the media and analysis of the data gathered from surveys of students made by the Public Health Institute of the Varaždin County examined various habits and behaviors of high-school students regarding their free time and use of addictive substances: tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

The analysis of the police statistics for the period from 2014 to 2018 regarding underage perpetrators (15- to 18-year olds) showed no data that would suggest that safety situation significantly deteriorated.

However, information received from the field and from high-school professionals show low personal feeling of safety among the youths.

Thus, we established that majority of the young people gather in hospitality

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

establishments and in the open in the Youth Park, during and after school, demolish property and pollute the environment, consume alcoholic beverages, narcotic drugs, engage in brawls. All of this is intensified during the school-leaving festivities and takes place throughout the city.

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

MAIN GOALS OF THE PROJECT:

- Raise safety among the young people in the local community,
- Raise personal feeling of safety in the local community,
- Prevent youth crime and deviant behavior linked to consumption of narcotic substances,
- Encourage the youth to form positive attitude in accordance with positive values of the society, history and culture in which they live,
- Advance cooperation between the police and all relevant shareholders in the local community regarding the topic of youth safety
- Encourage the community to behave responsibly to protect children and youth

SECONDARY GOALS OF THE PROJECT:

- Inform the youth on consequences of alcohol and drug consumption, of destructive behavior, peer violence, hate speech and Internet violence,
- Encourage students to behave responsibly – it is their responsibility to choose between safety and fear due to non-safety,
- Raise awareness of parents regarding responsible parenting,
- Directly influence, through Crime Prevention Council of the City of Varaždin and Varaždin County, amendments and finalization of legal regulations for them to be aligned with real situation and current safety situation.

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*

Internal impact evaluation was conducted by Varaždin Police District prevention police officers, encompassing the following indicators:

Participation of students and most of their parents, number of the community entities involved and number of police officers envisaged in project activities (in individual project components, which increased due to enhanced interest) show a high successfulness of the Project.

Direct contacts through interactive workshops with students and their parents, meetings held with representatives of the Youth Council and the Council of Elementary- and High- School Students, heads of Crime Prevention Council and high-school headmasters and representatives, gave the Project highest marks for planning, organizing and raising personal feeling of safety among young people.

Students pleased with interactive workshops, which they deem useful for life, and especially with three-day high-school leaving celebration, which they found appropriate, fun and useful.

Parents untroubled by safety of their children, high-school headmasters pleased with pedagogic approach and the involvement of teachers and parents in citizens' patrols.

The City of Varaždin and Varaždin County pleased with the costs and with the involvement of small entrepreneurs and utility companies; Police District very pleased with optimal number of police officers involved.

The successfulness of the Project is visible in its implementation in the future while adapting it to the current situation in life, safety and joint cooperation of the local community with participation of the Crime Prevention Council of the City of Varaždin and Varaždin County.

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

Internal impact evaluation was conducted by prevention police officers of the Varaždin Police District regarding comparison of statistics on the youth crime situation and trends related to drug crimes, theft, disruptive behavior, violence and traffic accidents taking place under the influence of narcotic substances.

Other information was also used, such as from the City of Varaždin on vandalism-caused damage in public areas.

All indicators used showed improvement after the implementation of the Project.

Special analysis was made in relation to deviant behavior of graduates on leaving school celebration. In 2019 only one incident of disruptive behavior was noted with no criminal offenses at all, as opposed to previous years when several criminal offenses and misdemeanors had been committed by young people. Also, in 2019 not one medical intervention was noted for overindulgence in alcohol or other narcotic substance.

Due to its remarkable results, the Project will also be implemented in the neighboring Međimurje County in the upcoming period.

**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**)

We have introduced modern teaching forms: the conversation and discussion method instead of the ex cathedra method (recording messages of public figures of the city of Varaždin; we included the victim of violence – this allows young people to clearly see the consequence of hooliganism; we showed a documentary and educational film and created an opportunity for young people to apply what they learned, in practice).

Innovation reflects in organization of the three-day high-school leaving celebration, part of "Maturantika" program, through which we gathered all graduate students in one place, in a safe environment, respecting their interest and needs, implementing high pedagogical and safety standards, using the modern technologies and involving the community. We have deterred youth from harmful and deviant behavior by organizing music, dance, sports and humanitarian activities, conditioning their responsible involvement through series of educational and interactive workshops.

By involving hospitality establishments as partners on the Project, we gave an innovative approach in prevention by having such establishments promoting non-alcoholic beverages consumption by reduced prices.

**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 Varaždin Police District, as the Project initiator, and with the support from the General Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Croatia, achieved close cooperation with the following partners:

at national level:

- Central State Office for Sport

at local level:

- Crime Prevention Council, the City of Varaždin
- Crime Prevention Council, Varaždin County
- St. Michael Crime Prevention Foundation, Varaždin County
- County Soccer Association, Varaždin
- Varaždin County High schools
- Varaždin Red Cross city association

- Students Council and Youth Council of the city of Varaždin and the Varaždin County
- Concert Agency, Varaždin
- Parkovi Varaždin d.d., utility and horticulture agency
- Čistoća d.o.o. Varaždin, waste disposal utility company
- Hospitality Association of the city of Varaždin
- Hospitality establishments in the city of Varaždin

All project partners gave their full contribution in terms of expertise in their respective fields of work and cost-effectiveness of the Project. This altogether created synergy in the implementation of prevention of substance abuse, violence and vandalism, and in raising the general safety of youth.

#### **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 Project was financed from regular budget resources of the city of Varaždin and the Varaždin County.

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

The Project implementation costs:

- HRK 6,400.00 (cca EUR 850 ) – preparation and manufacture of promotion materials (posters, t-shirts, bracelets)
- HRK 3,500.00 (cca EUR 450) – DJs/presenters costs
- HRK 2,000.00 (cca EUR 250) – royalty costs (broadcast songs)
- HRK 3,800.00 (cca EUR 500) – P.A. system costs
- HRK 11,700.00 (cca EUR 1,500) – security service costs
- HRK 12,500.00 (cca EUR 1,700) – stage and stage barriers rental costs
- HRK 5,000.00 (cca EUR 700) – portable eco toilets rental costs (12 pcs.)
- HRK 4,500.00 (cca EUR 600) – award for the best graduate costume
- HRK 6,500.00 (cca EUR 850) – other costs

Grand total: HRK 55,900.00 (cca EUR 7,500)

Organization and implementation, transport, and other material expenditures – police and other partners employed assets usually used in their day-to-day tasks (workshop facilities, vehicles, IT equipment, etc.) which is the reason why such expenditures were not monitored in detail.

#### **Human resources:**

Police officers, Varaždin Concert Agency representatives, the Varaždin Red Cross city association representatives and other experts involved in this project

performed activities within their regular office hours, and were not additionally compensated.

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**)

Police officers at Prevention Unit, the Varaždin Police District, have made cost-benefit analysis. They compared the projected material costs and the HR costs needed for successful implementation of project activities with expected results and outcomes of project activities.

All prevention activities are implemented based on operational plan, without any particular amendments, incident-free, city streets stayed clean, no graffiti and destruction of preserved old downtown, graduates and their parents very pleased and relaxed, police employed minimal human resources and assets, expressed their contentment with high level of safety in the city during the graduates' day.

The City of Varaždin and the Varaždin County significantly decreased the financing costs.

The cost-benefit analysis shows that projected costs were justifiable and acceptable, especially if we consider the safety of youth and consequences of socially unacceptable behavior among youth, which is often brought in correlation to substance abuse.

Project activities are sustainable in the long run.

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

Given that substance and alcohol abuse is brought in correlation to deviant and punishable behavior among the youth, and that it presents a major problem or the great evil not only in Varaždin, Croatia but also in the EU countries, the project based activities can be modified, adapted and implemented at the local, regional, national and transnational level, and bring, long term, welfare to the entire community.

This Project protects youth from the consequences of substance abuse, develops their assertiveness, sense of responsibility towards themselves and others, cultivates the unity, safeguards the cultural heritage of the city, parks and the environment, follows contemporary positive trends in youth-related entertainment, respecting the educational methods.

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

By implementing the project we strive to influence the development of young

persons who are socially responsible, and who in that manner contribute to development and well-being of their local community, the Republic of Croatia, but the EU as well.

By providing education and information at the beginning of a high school year, we ensure, long term, a reduction in consumption of narcotic drugs, and consequently the youth related crime, it being a consequence of substance abuse.

By giving alternative ways to the youth, respecting their interests and needs, and engaging the local community stakeholders in the prevention-based activities, we promote the message of care and concern of the local community toward young people.

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

“Moja odgovornost naša je sigurnost” (*eng.* My responsibility is our safety) is a prevention-based project, targeting youth – students between 15 and 18 years of age, high-school students, their parents, teachers, but also the local community. It aims to improve the safety of youth, prevent crime related to substance abuse and to raise safety and citizens’ personal sense of security in local community.

This is a project comprising of several interrelated components whose relevant activities are aimed at promoting positive lifestyle as the opposite to vandalism, violence, hooliganism, hate and intolerance.

Project-based prevention activities broaden the perception of youth in relation to their identity; through the spectrum of youth crime prevention, they are empowered to be ready to act responsibly, which is important part of the decision-making process.

Organization wise, this is a very broad and complex Project. However, its successful implementation creates a sense of general satisfaction in celebrating youth and the end of a stage in the life of young generation.