

# 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.

Lithuania

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

It is the Lithuanian ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

We Are

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

Šiauliai City and District Police Unit of Šiauliai County Police Headquarters, Community Police Group Chief Investigator Danutė Jakubkienė, phone +370 700 61433, e-mail [danute.jakubkiene@policija.lt](mailto:danute.jakubkiene@policija.lt)

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.

The start date of the project was 01/01/2019 and the end date was 31/12/2019. The project was being implemented during the 2019. The implementation of a certain successful activities has been continued in 2020.

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).

During the implementation of the project, the information about the project and its activities were announced by Šiauliai County Police Headquarters, Šiauliai District Municipality, Open Šiauliai District Youth Center. A substantive part of

information was disseminated through social networks. Also leaflets were distributed in communities which were involved in the project. Online reports and publications are available in Šiauliai County Police Headquarters Facebook account:

<https://www.facebook.com/siauliu.apskritis.policija/posts/>

and Šiauliai Community Police Facebook and Instagram accounts:

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

<https://www.instagram.com/siauliubendruomenespareigunai/>

The project was recognized as the best crime prevention project of the national Crime Prevention Projects and Community Initiatives Awards 2020 organized by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania (MoI):

<https://www.facebook.com/Vidaus-reikal%C5%B3-ministerija/posts/>

The information about the project is also available on the official internet website of the MoI:

<https://vrm.lrv.lt/lt/naujienos/skelbiamas-konkursas-geriausi-nusikaltimu-previnciniai-projektai-ir-iniciatyvos>

All sources are in Lithuanian only.

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

Lithuania is a small country and family-based organized crime is not widespread here. But due to its attractive geographical location, Lithuania becomes a corridor both for the transportation of drugs or other illegal (including stolen) items and for human trafficking. The main threat is constantly growing immigration. The newcomers are coming from Ukraine, Belarus and other countries of the former Soviet Union and definitely not all of them are law abiding citizens. Some groups, whose members are related by family or family-like relations, having established a strong position in their country of origin, "grow up" and seek for contacts with other groups throughout the EU for further development of their illicit activities. Other immigrants are coming for economic reasons. Most of them do not speak Lithuanian, lack basic information about Lithuania (legal system, social security, labour market, etc.), these factors increase their vulnerability. The network of prostitution is expanding, women are coming being forced or voluntarily. They believe the "business" has a police cover (criminals pretend to be officers, use fake certificates) as it often happens in their home countries.

Another threat is local Roma families selling drugs and begging. These are family-based organized groups with rigid hierarchical structures, tasks and responsibilities for each member. Usually they do not evade "employing" children as couriers, which are entrusted with drugs and money to deliver. Young persons growing up in such an environment are at high risk of perceiving and accepting criminal activity as the normal way of life.

It is worth mentioning that family-based organized crime is extremely latent so official statistics do not reflect the real situation.

As this issue is not matter of police only, but border guard, NGO and other institutions, media and local communities, some of them were involved in the project as partners and stakeholders.

The main objective of the project **We are** (hereinafter "the project") was to reduce the number of criminal acts and other violations of law related to family-based organized crime, to "break the wall" and help members of different groups to integrate into the local community.

The project contains a variety of prevention activities performed by community police in cooperation with partners and stakeholders:

- **Educational activities** – meetings with different target groups, i. e. foreign employees and their employers, *Erasmus* students, representatives of different ethnic groups, local communities. Open Youth Center (attended by young people from the families of high risk, including Roma teenagers) provides the non-school education – sports, cultural, handicraft and other leisure activities on a regular basis.

- **Suppression activities** – real-time exchange of information with other law enforcement agencies (State Border Guard Service, Migration Department), checks of gathered data.

- **Safe environment strengthening measures** - the implementation of the voluntary activities (police supporters, young police supporters, safe neighborhood groups) and the improvement of their quality had intensified the existing link between police and the public. Their trust in the police increasingly grow and the public is more willing to cooperate with the police and provide relevant and useful information to the officials. This synergy helps not only to prevent crimes and other violations of law, but also to disclose qualitatively and quickly the crimes and other violations of law that have already been committed.

- **Situational and individual prevention** – working with people who are at high risk of being involved or already involved in the family-based crime activities but want to quit. There is always a "way out" for them in spite of the strong ties inside the family of family-like group.

**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 programs

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

**Establishing and maintaining normative barriers to committing criminal acts.** Police cooperation with businesses (logistics, construction, etc.) has increased significantly in 2019. There were 25 meetings held with managers of mid-level and top-level. Most of these meetings were initiated not by police. Their motivation to participate in joint activities to solve emerging problems together is obvious. As they are the main employers of the foreigners, they were introduced the legal issues. Some cooperation measures were agreed. Also, approximately 80 meetings were organized for the employees. The information

about Lithuanian legal system, social security, labour market, etc. was presented, leaflets disseminated.

**Reducing recruitment.** Police in cooperation with social partners works with the disadvantaged families. The main attention is payed to the children and youth who are in risk to be involved in different types of crime. Children and youth living in foster houses are even more vulnerable. Open Youth Centre creates a safe and cozy environment for them to come and spent time. The focus is on those young people who have a lot of free time, face difficulties and have harmful habits.

**Disrupting** criminal acts by stopping them before they are carried out. The Unit of Crime Analyses is preparing the statistics on "hot spots" every month. On their recommendations the patrol routes are being adjusted. Police supporters and young police supporters are invoked for patrolling regularly.

**Protecting vulnerable targets.** The municipalities install video cameras in public places. Due to the words limit more detailed information could be provided if asked.

**Reducing the harmful consequences.** There is an electronic item marking system [www.pazymetas.lt](http://www.pazymetas.lt) in Lithuania. It's a platform that solves the problem of lost, stolen and found items. Lithuanian police use it on regular basis. Also, it was used during the project activities.

**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**)

Family-based organized crime is not widespread in Lithuania. But due to its geographical location, Lithuania is becoming a corridor both for the transportation of drugs or other illegal (including stolen) items and for human trafficking. Family-based organized crime is extremely latent, so official statistics do not reflect the real situation.

Also, the number of immigrants in Lithuania is constantly growing. They are coming mainly from Ukraine, Belarus and other countries of the former Soviet Union. They are attracted by the stable political and economic situation in Lithuania, wages and a relatively short distance from home. The table shows that in 5 years the number of immigrants in Šiauliai County has almost doubled, and these are only official statistics.

	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Registered persons in Šiauliai County	2836	2562	3390	4021	5719

Source: <https://osp.stat.gov.lt/statistiniu-rodikliu-analize?region=all#/>

The growing number of immigrants increases not only the number of offenses they commit, but also the risk of becoming victims of crime themselves.

Another problem related to family-based offenses is the distribution of drugs by Roma people.

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

The main objective of the project was to improve the general security situation in Šiauliai city and district, to reduce the number of criminal acts and other violations of law related to family-based organized crime.

The secondary objectives were:

- To acquaint the representatives of the target groups with relevant information about their rights, duties and responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the Republic of Lithuania;
- carry out the education of members of the respective ethnic groups as well;
- to promote skills and habits of appropriate behaviour in society, to develop psychological resilience of members of ethnic groups to the negative impact of the environment;
- provide counselling to victims of crime;
- expand the activities of safe neighbourhood groups and police supporters;
- to increase the involvement of social partners in joint activities, to promote cooperation of all interested parties, sharing of good practice;
- search for and apply new methods that are understandable and interesting for all target groups.

11. Has there been a process evaluation?<sup>1</sup> 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 final evaluation was carried out both internally (by the project promoters) and externally (by partners) during the project activities and after the project was completed. Interim evaluation was carried out at the end of the first half of the year.

Before the project application was submitted to Šiauliai District Municipality, the consistent list of project activities with deadlines had been approved. Relevant process indicators were discussed and multiple process indicators were agreed.

Training of officials and other specialists was considered as an indicator of process evaluation. As for today any extensive research has not been carried out in Lithuania neither methodological recommendations on the prevention of family-based organized crime have been prepared. Therefore, it was necessary to provide officials and other specialists with special knowledge about the traditions of certain ethnic groups, their way of life, religion, common crimes and effective prevention measures. 8 training courses were organized with about 280 participants.

On June 3, 2019, the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Coordination Commission of Šiauliai District Municipality was formed. It should be noted that such commissions are in 17 municipalities (out of 60) in Lithuania so far.

Another indicator of process evaluation was the involvement of community members. A total of 10,000 people was planned to be involved. The mid-term evaluation was carried out at the end of June with about 3,000 people being involved in various project activities. However, over 8,000 people were reached in the second half of the year indicating that the project had "turned on". Some entertainment events led to create informal communication which very important for the honest feedback and mutual trust.

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<sup>1</sup> **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.

12. Has there been an outcome<sup>2</sup> or impact<sup>3</sup> 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 general evaluation of the results was done by systematic analysis. Same as for process evaluation, extensive outcome evaluation was chosen, multiple process indicators were agreed.

Police communication with the communities of national minority groups grew significantly in 2019 (8 in 2018 vs 21 in 2019). Approximately 80 meetings were organized with work immigrants newly arrived to Lithuania. They were provided with the initial relevant legal information. 4 lectures were organized for *Erasmus* students studying at Šiauliai University and Šiauliai College (2018 - 2). Only 2 meetings with businesses (logistics, construction, etc.) were held in 2018. There were already 25 in 2019, so their motivation to participate in joint activities to solve emerging problems together is obvious. More representatives of state, public and private institutions were involved on their initiatives in this prevention project (we had more than 10 partners) compared to previous years.

12 inspections were carried out in cooperation with the Šiauliai Branch of the Migration Department in places of residence (hotels, guest houses, etc.) where foreigners usually live. Documents for their legal stay in the Republic of Lithuania had been checked.

Police officers participated in 3 meetings with the representatives of Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation. 3 women who became victims of crime were temporarily accommodated in the Public Institution Mother Teresa Family House; it was applied to the Embassy of Ukraine for their return. 12 women who worked as prostitutes in Šiauliai were helped to return to their country of origin.

2 pre-trial investigations into the possession of narcotic or psychotropic substances were initiated and 1 administrative offense was registered in Kuršėnai in 2018. Due to active dissemination of project activities 5 pre-trial investigations were initiated and 3 administrative offenses were registered under the

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<sup>2</sup> **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**.

<sup>3</sup> **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.

information received from the population in 2019.

**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**)

In addition to the traditional preventative measures, there were some new directions, which had never been applied in Lithuanian police before:

1. Development of cooperation with business enterprises. As the number of foreign employees increases in Šiauliai region, the representatives of business companies are involved. It is about both the dangers that arrivals may face and the violations they commit by their own. Representatives of companies are introduced to the situations where the representatives of other countries may become victims of human trafficking.
2. Demolition of stereotypes when a Roma person becomes a good neighbour. Representatives of the nation practicing the nomadic lifestyle become members of safe neighbourhood groups and take care of their living environment.
3. Preparation of mobile app ("Security" section) together with Šiauliai Tourism Information Centre. This app was created for the first time and the information about Šiauliai region is available in 4 languages.

**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 main partner of the project was:

- Šiauliai District Municipality Administration, Vilniaus str. 263, LT-76337 Šiauliai, Phone +370 41 596642.

Partners and stakeholders (State Border Guard Service at the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania Pagėgiai Frontier District Šiauliai frontier station, Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania Šiauliai Territorial Unit, Public Institution Center for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation, education and training institutions, Probation Service, Public Health Office, Children's Rights Protection Unit, Public Institution Mother Teresa's Family House, Open Youth Center, Šiauliai Ukrainian community "Karpaty", logistics companies "Girteka", "Transmėja", "Transimeksa", "Saudingos autotransportas", "RV transportas", "Refta" etc.) have participated in various project implementation activities.

This integrated approach based on close cooperation between all partners and stakeholders was successfully performed in this project.

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

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

Šiauliai District Municipality allocated EUR 3,000 for the implementation of the project.

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

Šiauliai District Municipality allocated EUR 3,000 for the implementation of the project. These funds were intended for discussions, lectures, conferences, campaigns, events on the prevention of violations. Part of the funds was also used for the development and translation of information leaflets into Russian and Ukrainian.

Šiauliai County Police Headquarters, partners, stakeholders and local communities also have contributed with human resources and organizational decision making.

17. Has a cost-benefit analysis<sup>4</sup> 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 was quite difficult to identify the cost-benefit factors precisely, but some steps were taken.

The expenses for meetings, discussions, lectures, the legal training for the different target groups, the prevention of the offenses had the direct effect "here and now" and also created the persistent intellectual and material value of the project, which will undoubtedly be used in the future.

Feedback received from different social groups and their immediate environment and involvement of a new project partners highlighted the relevance of the problem and the need for preventative measures. Requests for the project continuation were got.

Comparing the expenses used for the implementation of this project with its outcomes it's clear that good results were achieved with really low costs.

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<sup>4</sup> **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.

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

The project activities are universal and would not be difficult to replicate elsewhere. Therefore, only slight adjustments might be needed taking into consideration the peculiarities of a certain area.

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

As it stated in Library Briefing of the **European Parliament** 06/09/2013<sup>5</sup>, "Numerous organised crime groups are active in the EU, often with cross-border reach and multi-ethnic composition. <...> Some groups, having established a strong position in their countries of origin, go on to engage in illicit markets throughout the EU. They make use of their reputations and sophistication in certain types of crime to form profitable alliances with other groups. Italian, Russian and Albanian-speaking organisations are but a few of the "leaders" in transnational crime in the EU." Some of these groups have family-based or clan-like structures. **Europol** supports the Member States in preventing and investigating a wide range of crimes - from economic crime to terrorism, cybercrime to child sexual exploitation and drug trafficking to the facilitation of illegal immigration being committed by organized groups.

Conclusions of the **European Council** June 27, 2014, point 10: It is essential to guarantee a genuine area of security for European citizens through operational police cooperation and by preventing and combating serious and organised crime, including human trafficking, and corruption.

At the same time, it is very difficult for law enforcement agencies to penetrate these groups. This is a major challenge as for investigation, as for prevention activities.

Considering the mentioned aspects and the importance and high necessity to the exchange of good practices we believe that this project is relevant for other Member States as it shows how we can tackle crime through education and mass participation. In our opinion, some elements of the project can be applied in other countries.

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

**We Are**

Awarded Best Crime Prevention Project at the National Prevention Projects and Community Initiatives Awards 2020 (MoI, Republic of Lithuania).

The main objective of the project **We are** was to reduce the number of criminal acts and other violations of law related to family-based organized crime, to “break the wall” and help people who are at high risk of being involved or already involved in the family-based crime activities but want to quit. Their problems have no simple solutions, but knowing the facts can help people deal with them and make a proper choice.

The implementation of the voluntary activities (police supporters, young police supporters, safe neighbourhood groups) and the improvement of their quality had intensified the existing link between police and the public. Their trust in the police increasingly grow and the public is more willing to cooperate with the police and provide relevant and useful information to the officials.