

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.

Austria

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

ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

Gemeinsam.Sicher in Österreich (Security.Together in Austria)

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

Brigadier General
Dr. Hans-Peter STÜCKLER
CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AUSTRIA
Head of Crime Prevention & Victim Support
1090 Vienna, Josef-Holaubek-Platz 1
Phone : +43-1-24836-985450
Fax: +43-1-24836-985090
e-mail: hans-peter.stueckler@bmi.gv.at
www.bundeskriminalamt.at

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.

01.04.2016 was the start of the project.

The project is now still running but as part of a standardized process.

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).

<http://www.gemeinsamsicher.at/>

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

Security is a basic need. Only those who feel secure can feel protected and comfortable. This is why the initiative Security.Together in Austria aims to create security together with citizens in a holistic approach that encompasses not only the executive branch and citizens, but also third parties from industry and academia. As such, the initiative brings together citizens, local municipalities as well as other responsible organizations, and together with them, is actively working on specific measures for security issues in their common living environment.

So-called Security Officers call for a group in which, in addition to the police, the municipality and other responsible persons, above all also voluntary citizens, the so-called Security Partners, actively participate. From retirees to schoolchildren, doctors and tobacconists to the local council, everyone can be a security partner. To do so, one must only express his or her interest to actively participate and to work together with the police in solving problems.

The addressing of problems in this context encompasses everything from minor issues affecting the well-being and subjective sense of security of the members of a community to large scale campaigns with notable companies in the private sector in order to increase the security of customers and employees.

The stated goal of Security.Together is to positively develop the safety of all of us as a "society of respect and active, responsible action". In this way, every citizen, regardless of age or gender, can actively contribute to their own safety.

The initiative aims to promote community policing through a number of different activities and projects. From nation-wide events at schools to specific training for employees, who do not feel safe in their local environment (as they may work in a specific hotspot for example), the objective is to make it clear to the general public that the job of the police is not only repression of criminal conduct but also the prevention of crime together with citizens before it can even occur.

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**)

Security.Together tackles the reduction of crime from different angles and by using a whole variety of methods. Awareness raising is a large portion of media campaigns related to crime prevention using social media, the print media and road shows. Designated prevention officers are also encouraged to actively

approach citizens in order to find out where potential sources of insecurity or discomfort may lie.

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.¹

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 reasons for setting up the project were scientific studies that showed that even though the actual occurrence of crime in Austria has been falling steadily, the actual feeling of safety amongst citizens has decreased despite this trend. This data corroborated the desire by the Austrian Ministry of Interior to enhance the involvement of the community in finding collective answers to common problems by actively engaging citizens, which is how Security.Together came into existence.

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

The primary objective of Security.Together is the increase of both actual safety as well as the subjective feeling of security of Austria's citizens.

The secondary objective of Security.Together can be summarized as incentivising not only individual citizens to become partners of the executive branch but also prominent organisations from the private sector.

In the end it is the goal of Security.Together to communicate to everybody, that their contribution to the safety of Austria matters and that they are always able to approach the police with their concerns.

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*

Yes. There has been a process evaluation throughout the whole implementation process of the initiative carried out by the University of Vienna. The main results were mainly concerned with the effect on the subjective feeling of security of different factors such as age and economic background. The study also concerned itself with Security.Together and how to adjust existing practices in order to accommodate the findings. Measures in order to optimize the participation of

¹ 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>

citizens where developed accordingly/were altered as the result of the study.

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*

Along with an evaluation by the University of Vienna, also an internal outcome and impact evaluation was carried out by the Project Office of the Criminal Intelligence Service of Austria. In order to carry out this evaluation, data concerning the subjective understanding of security were collected in sample districts (Eisenstadt, Mödling, Graz und Schärding). Questionnaires were the primary tool of data collection and the respective answers by citizens used as indicators. The main result of the evaluation was that Security.Together has the potential to become more successful by incorporating different strands of society by using a combination of practices. The results were communicated to the different departments of the Criminal Intelligence Service of Austria and our colleagues altered their approach in accordance with the recommendations expressed in the final report.

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**)

Security.Together uses a variety of methods and approaches in order to reach citizens and other third parties. Social media campaigns form a substantial part of awareness-raising efforts and also other ways of approaching the general public are frequently evaluated and implemented. Partnership-agreements with a whole range of companies in the private sector are one of the methods that further innovative solutions to common problems.

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**)

As stated in the question above, partnership agreements with academia and prominent companies in the private sector are amongst the most relevant achievements of the initiative Security.Together. These include companies from public transportation, large supermarket chains, schools, and all other partners that are willing to cooperate with the police in order to increase safety in Austria. True to the philosophy of Security.Together solutions to problems are developed

collectively and in accordance with the specific needs of partners. It is our job to find out, where problems lie and how to deal with them in a way that helps the party that approached us by using professional insight from the executive branch.

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 received no external funding and was covered entirely by the Ministry of Interior of Austria.

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

The costs were actually rather minimal, as the innovation brought about by the initiative was a change of mind amongst officers already carrying out their duties. Notable costs only came about as the result of the external evaluation by the university of Vienna. The budget needed for this study was Euro 60.000.

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**)

Due to the fact that the initiative can be considered to be an internal change in the Ministry of Interior of Austria and the resulting lack in large scale expenditures that would go beyond the daily conduct of business a separate cost-benefit analysis was only indirectly conducted through the mentioned evaluation reports. The main findings regarding this particular aspect of Security. Together would indicate that the initiative does provide a significant added value at very reasonable cost to the Austrian tax payer.

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

It is our understanding that adjustments have to be made in order to accommodate the specific needs and local peculiarities of every country. This relates as much to language and culture as it does to the prevalent forms of crime. Other than that it would seem that the initiative can and at this point already is implemented in a similar fashion in other countries. Respective delegations from other EU-Member States have indeed come to the Criminal Intelligence Service of Austria in order to participate in knowledge exchange and the discussion of best practices.

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

Community Policing describes a general practice of engaging citizens, which holds value to the community of all Member States of the European Union. The European dimension of the project therefore is clear: By cooperation with other European countries we will certainly be able to pass on knowledge that may help other countries as well as to learn from their experiences, respectively.

The ultimate goal is to increase the subjective understanding of security as well as safety in terms of the prevention of crime across Europe and to exchange best practices accordingly.

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

The guiding principle underlying the project "Security.Together in Austria" is the active involvement of civil society in the design of internal security. This idea of intensifying citizen participation is followed by the concept of community policing, where actors are brought together to form a so-called "community partnership", in the framework of which community-based prevention work and effective crime prevention are carried out. "The increased involvement of citizens in the prevention of crime and the institutionalization of this security partnership between the population and the police should, on the one hand, contribute to an increase in public safety in the immediate living environment and, in the longer hand, significantly increase the subjective sense of security of the population. In order to realize this, new organizational structures will be set up inside and outside the police and new work processes will be integrated into daily police activities.