

European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)
Annex I
Approved by the Management board of the network in 2018

Please fill in the form in English in accordance with the ECPA criteria included in the "Rules and procedures for awarding and presenting the European Crime Prevention Award"

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Please indicate your country

Republic of Bulgaria

- Is it an official application or is it an additional project?

The project is an official application

3. Project name

„With a thought for the future“

4. Project manager. Contacts

Senior Commissioner Dimitar Mashov – Director of the Regional Directorate of the MoI –
V.Tarnovo, 062 662250

5. Project start date. Is the project active? If not, please indicate the end date.

The demographic situation in our country and in particular in V. Tarnovo District is characterized by a continuing decline and aging of the population, and this circumstance is among the victimogenic factors, especially for the elderly in remote areas. Imbalances as a result of the economic recession, low birth rates among groups with high social status and huge birth rates among marginalized communities are changing the structure of society

The area is home to various Roma community groups - yerli, rudari, kaldarashi and millet. The largest compact Roma communities are in the town of G. Oryahovitsa, the town of Pavlikeni, the town of Polski Trambesh and the town of Strazhitsa.

Typical crimes committed by this community are crimes against property - telephone fraud, pickpocketing, theft of ferrous and nonferrous metals, etc.

Prevention is targeted at all crimes committed, but special emphasis is placed on combating organized group crime, which characterizes part of the community and its way of life. Telephone frauds and pickpocketing come to the fore as the main organized groups of crimes. These are the most frequently committed crimes by an organized group of people and with the highest public response, because they usually affect the most vulnerable part of society - the elderly and single people. Analyzing the criminogenic situation in Veliko Tarnovo district in the period from 2016 to the present, it is clear that the main percentage of perpetrators are representatives of certain Roma families who for years and generations have committed the above crimes in the country. An analysis of their profile found that the Roma community of "burgudzhii" is the most common perpetrator of telephone fraud, and "bakurdzhii" specialize in pickpocketing. These genera are encapsulated and act independently. Considering the nature of the crimes and the need for mobility and improvisation in their commission, they go beyond the borders of Veliko Tarnovo district and naturally spread throughout the country. In connection with globalization, the accession of our country to the EU and the removal of restrictions on travel outside the country, members of some Roma families have directed their criminal activities in a number of European countries. A characteristic feature of this type of criminal activity is that the families dealing with it in an organized manner include juvenile family members in its commission. This is most strongly observed in the commission of pickpocketing, telephone fraud and begging, as the use of minors in this type of crime excludes the criminal liability of the perpetrators upon their detection. Ethnicity in the Roma community is seniority in the family (single-headedness). Every Roma family has one leader, who is usually the oldest male member, called a "patron". He enjoys the greatest authority and power in the family and determines all the rules in it,

including the role of everyone in criminal activity.

Conservatism and the closed type of Roma society create significant difficulties in working with it by outsiders and institutions. This is one of the reasons for low education and frequent early marriages among Roma. Through the work of state institutions - social services, prosecutors, police and NGOs, positive results have been achieved in limiting these phenomena, which currently do not give the desired result. In this regard, in 2017 a decree of the Council of Ministers approved the Mechanism for joint work of institutions for coverage and retention in the educational system of children and students of compulsory preschool and school age, which aims to cover minors in the education system.

The role of the three prevention centers is significant, as they work with adolescents on the territory served by the Regional Offices in the town of Veliko Tarnovo (Centre for Prevention and Sports in the village of Balvan); Pavlikeni (Centre for Prevention and Sports) and Elena (Centre for Prevention, Creativity and Sports). Centres with the same focus operate in the cities of Sofia, Burgas, Targovishte and Sevlievo. The centres aim to engage children's free time and raise their awareness on a number of topics related to their daily lives and safety.

In order to improve the interaction and communication with the Roma population, Amalipe Centre for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance has been involved as a partner in the project. Together with representatives of Amalipe, trainings of local police officers are periodically held, as well as round tables with the participation of the district governor and representatives of the municipalities from Veliko Tarnovo district.

Periodic meetings are held with representatives of local Roma communities and NGOs working on projects related to the integration of Roma in society, in order to obtain information about the mood in the communities and to organise the implementation of joint preventive events.

Meetings with formal and informal Roma leaders are organized jointly with *Amalipe* Center; the leaders are used as mediators in the event of group violations of public order and other offences related to the Roma population.

The project is developing, and in the current complicated anti-epidemic situation, some of the activities reach the target groups through online seminars. There is no deadline for completion of project activities. The idea is to implement it and establish it as a national program, from which other EU member states could learn.

6. Where can project information be found? Please provide Internet links, publications, project related reports (preferably in English).

- 07.06.2016 „Good practices for interaction were discussed between the directors of the Regional Directorate of the MoI - Veliko Tarnovo and representatives of the Roma community in the region” – website of the RDI - Veliko Tarnovo (www.veliko-tarnovo.mvr.bg);
- 08.06.2016 „Final meeting between the Ministry of Interior, Amalipe Centre, formal and informal leaders of the Roma community ” – (<http://amalipe.com/index.php?nav=news&id=2616&lang=1>);
- 21.06.2016 „Representatives of Amalipe Centre took part in a forum for security in small settlements” – (<http://amalipe.com/index.php?nav=news&id=2639&lang=1>);
- 16.01.2017 „For the first time sourvakars visited the RDI - Veliko Tarnovo, on the occasion of Vasilitsa (www.veliko-tarnovo.mvr.bg);
- 10.02.2017 „Human rights - topic of a regional forum with the participation of police officers, lawyers and judges in Veliko Tarnovo district” – website of the RDI - Veliko Tarnovo (www.veliko-tarnovo.mvr.bg);
- 21.06.2017 „The Director of the RDI - Veliko Tarnovo held receptions with the residents of Elena and the villages of Maisko, Konstantin and Kamenari” – website of the RDI - Veliko Tarnovo (www.veliko-tarnovo.mvr.bg);
- 20.02.2019 „A workshop with representatives of the JustRom project was held at the RDI - Veliko Tarnovo” – website of the RDI - Veliko Tarnovo (www.veliko-tarnovo.mvr.bg);
- 03.09.2019 „Amalipe Centre prepared seven regional events aimed at protection against

hate crimes- (<http://amalipe.com/index.php?nav=news&id=3542&lang=1>);

- 10.07.2019 „The district governor opened a discussion organized by "Amalipe" Centre for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance
- (<https://regnews.net/news/15627489739569/oblastniyat-upravitel-otkri-diskusiya-organizirana-ot-tsentara-za-mezhduetnicheski-dialog-i-tolerantnost-amalipe>);
- 22.06.2020 "Regional Administration - Veliko Tarnovo hosted the program organized by JUSTROM3" (<https://www.facebook.com/111753383872041/posts/143179557396090/>);

7. Provide a one-page description of the project

In view of the wide public response and the frequent commission of certain types of crimes - telephone fraud and pickpocketing, in 2016 the RDI- Veliko Tarnovo announced the idea of preparing a systematic plan - a project aimed at prevention and suppression of this type of crimes. After an analysis of the criminogenic situation on the territory of Veliko Tarnovo district for the previous years, it was established that the perpetrators of these crimes are mainly representatives of the Roma ethnic group. Criminal acts are organized in nature, have a clear leader and in many cases the activity extends to all members of the represented families, even among children. This is one of the things that causes high public danger and necessitates the development and implementation of systematic, preventive and social impact measures by the institutions. The issue of the role of the state for the implementation of effective control and educational function among individual social groups is on the agenda and cannot be postponed. The main causes of this type of crime are the following: low education, low social status, marginalization of the community, feelings of impunity, the desire to get rich quickly, lack of employment and work habits, unwillingness to integrate.

In connection with the above, the team developed the following joint preventive measures, some of which have been worked on, some are currently being worked on and others are identified as future activities:

1. On 22.05.2018 at Akvaya hotel in Veliko Tarnovo, a training was conducted by the Consortium "Stemo-GAMA Consult" for users of a software system for monitoring, evaluation and control of the implementation of the "National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration 2012-2020".

2. On 20.02.2019 a meeting was held with a representative of the Council of Europe in connection with the implementation of the JustRom project for Veliko Tarnovo region. The issues of working with minority groups, specific opportunities for joint work, exchange of experience, prevention and raising awareness regarding discrimination against Roma women, providing access to legal services were also discussed at the meeting.

3. For the period from February 19, 2019 to March 19, 2019, joint trainings were held at the District Police Departments with representatives of the Amalipe Centre. The trainings were conducted in the presence of the maximum number of police officers, as well as leaders and representatives of local Roma communities.

4. On 09.07.2019 A round table entitled "No-hate-BG" was held: Together in the protection of minorities and in the prevention of hate crimes. The discussion was held in the building of the Regional Administration of Veliko Tarnovo, where an analysis of the latest recommendations of international organizations to Bulgaria were presented.

5. On 17.06.2020 a workshop was held on "Intensification of hate crimes and cases of domestic violence among minority communities and in particular women in the district of Veliko Tarnovo during COVID-19 pandemic". The discussion was held in the building of the Regional Administration of Veliko Tarnovo.

6. The Local Commissions for Combating Antisocial Behavior of Minors in the district conduct preventive information campaigns in the Centres for Work with Children and Youth, together with the local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Veliko Tarnovo municipality. The campaigns address various topics: Criminal liability of minors and educational initiatives for minors, in cases of anti-social acts; Human rights and the problems of minorities; The harm from the use of alcohol, cigarettes and drugs, 112 call procedure.

7. Police officers give lectures to school children under the national program "The

Police in the schools".

8. Police officers hold meetings with children from specialized clubs for work with children and youth from Veliko Tarnovo district, and from 2016 at the Centers for Prevention and Sports. The talks were held mainly during the holidays and in the free time of the children and young people.

9. Implementation of activities under the Mechanism for joint work of the institutions for coverage and retention in the educational system of children and students of compulsory preschool and school age, according to Decree № 100 of 08 June 2018 of the Council of Ministers.

10. As an innovative preventive measure, online conferences and trainings through multimedia communications are envisaged.

• **The project focuses on the prevention and / or reduction of domestic crime and the fear of crime defined in the topic**

8. What crime prevention / reduction mechanisms are used in this project to contribute to the prevention and / or reduction of crime or the fear of crime? Several answers are possible.

- **Creating and maintaining regulatory barriers to committing criminal acts**
Eg. campaigns such as: "Perpetrators, we are watching you"
- **Reducing the involvement** in criminal social environments and activities by eliminating or reducing social and individual causes and processes, which lead to criminalization
- **Preventing potential perpetrators of crimes through the threat of punishment**
Eg. reducing the time between detention and punishment
- **Prevention/dismantling of criminal acts by stopping them before their commission.**
Eg. increasing the number of police patrols in vulnerable areas
- **Protection of vulnerable targets** by reducing opportunities and making it more difficult to commit criminal acts
Eg. installation of padlocks and cameras
- **Reducing the harmful consequences** of criminal acts.
Eg. initiatives to cover damage from stolen goods
- **Reduction of profits** from criminal acts.
Eg. restorative justice
- **Preventing** (or neutralizing) perpetrators by depriving them of the ability (capacity) to commit new criminal offences.
Eg. imprisonment of key gang members
- **Encouraging** the refusal to commit a crime and rehabilitation of former perpetrators, so that they can return to a normal way of life.
Eg. prison rehabilitation programs

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

In relation to raising the awareness and attracting the attention of people from the target group (marginalized Roma societies/ clans) the community development centres established by "Amalipe" in the municipalities and local clubs with the respective women's, youth and leadership volunteer clubs in over 30 settlements. Initially, the clubs were opened in the municipalities of Strazhitsa and Pavlikeni, and later the idea was implemented throughout the country through local and regional offices. Over 600 volunteers work for the implementation of the activities of the organization. It has experts and field workers from various fields. Thanks to the established network of clubs on the territory of Veliko Tarnovo district and the work of the mediators in them, the police officers managed to establish effective communication with the Roma community.

On the occasion of prevention of criminal acts and stopping them before their commission, an organization for management of orders in the structural units of RDI - Veliko Tarnovo was established, which aims to ensure optimal deployment and proper use of forces and means of patrol activities, the necessary maneuverability and activity in prevention,

interception and detection of violations of public order and crimes. Priority is given to servicing public places and vulnerable areas with specific traffic routes. The RDI prepares interactive maps of crime for the territory of the region, which consist of:

- map of registered assertions on the territory of the region;
- crime concentration map;
- map of the concentration of crimes by neighborhoods;
- map of the concentration of crimes against property in different time intervals;

a table providing data for all crimes committed on the territory of RDI - Veliko Tarnovo with for the number of the protected area, dates, time intervals, perpetrators, disclosure and specific ess.

In order to prevent, intercept and detect crimes related to telephone fraud, in 2017 in RDI - Veliko Tarnovo a "Counteraction to telephone fraud" group was formed.

II. The project has been evaluated and has achieved the main or all its goals.

9. What were the reasons for developing the project? Was the context analyzed before the project was initiated and in what way (how and by whom, what data was used)? How was this analysis informative of the project design? (max. 150 words)

Human behaviour is formed from the earliest childhood. Factors such as family environment, friends and professional environment need to be highlighted as the main reasons for the formation of the personality. In early childhood, the psyche and knowledge of life are formed on the basis of the pattern of behaviour that children have acquired in their family environment - from their parents, relatives and friends. It is generally believed that the upbringing of children in a family environment is most important for the formation of personality. This is because due to the lack of life and social experience, the child perceives every behaviour of adults in the family environment and unconsciously accepts it as true and correct, and in most cases it supports him in his later life. It is in this way that sustainable patterns of behaviour are built and fixed in the human psyche, from the earliest childhood, which guide a person throughout his life.

10. What are (were) the goals of the project? Please, if applicable, distinguish between the main and secondary objectives of the project (max. 150 words)

The main goals of the project are:

- prevention, suppression and prevention of group organized crimes by marginalized societies/clans by implementing a set of measures by the partners, including effective communication with their representatives, and forming in them a responsible civil position and behaviour. The purpose of these measures is to achieve a positive result even for the youngest members of the families /minors/, as in many cases they are knowingly and purposefully involved by their relatives in committing this type of crime;
- an attempt to implement the developed measures at national level and, if possible, their multiplication in the other EU member states.

Secondary goals of the project are: increasing the involvement of the representatives of the Roma community in the educational system; care and prevention of risky family environment; raising awareness of criminal liability in committing crimes; clarification of the possibilities for using legal aid.

11. Was there an evaluation of the process? Who carried out the evaluation (internal or external) and what were the main results? What indicators were used to measure the process? Did you make any relevant changes? (maximum 300 words)

The internal evaluation of the project includes an analysis of the conducted joint trainings of the police officers by representatives of "Amalipe". Communication with the community has been improved by raising the professional qualification of police officers. This leads to increased trust in the relationship and easier integration of the represented groups

As a result of the activity in the Centres for work with children and youth on the territory of Veliko Tarnovo district, lasting knowledge and skills have been built for a number of everyday topics. The establishment of direct contact between the police officers and the children from the centers helps to facilitate the integration of those of Roma origin with the others.

The activity is carried out on the territory of schools throughout the country under the National Program "Police Work in Schools". This increases the confidence of the Roma community in state institutions, in particular the police. There is a desire of Roma children and their parents to join more initiatives and cultural events organized by the institutions. As a result of the good work, it is also necessary to note the growing tendency of young people from the Roma population to study in higher education institutions. This, in turn, serves as an example to other members of closed groups, for whom education is becoming increasingly important.

Another way to evaluate the project is the external evaluation, achieved by conducting trainings in the marginalized groups and receiving feedback through surveys. As a result of the joint activities under the project, the data obtained from the feedback with the target group should be displayed. The conducted trainings and surveys have increased their awareness of criminal liability for committing crimes, the consequences for adolescents, their involvement in these crimes, the need for inclusion in the education system of persons subject to school and preschool education, as well as opportunities for use of legal aid.

12. Was there an evaluation of the results and impact of the project? Who carried out the evaluation (internal or external), what data and evaluation methods were used and what are the main results? What indicators have been used to measure the impact? (maximum 300 words)

The results of the project work are evaluated internally through an analysis of the results achieved over the years. The main indicator for the internal assessment is the comparative analysis of the criminogenic situation in this type of crimes from its beginning to the present.

According to the analysis of the statistical results, there is a clear downward trend in registered telephone fraud in the last 5 years: from 62 in 2015 to 5 in 2019, and this year there are no registered crimes of this type. At the same time, the detection rate is steadily increasing - from 39% in 2015 to 80 in 2019.

During the period under review, criminal liability was realized against 101 persons who committed telephone fraud in various complicities. Among these persons are detained organizers of criminal activity, the removal of whom leads to a long-term interruption of telephone fraud by marginalized groups.

With regard to pickpocketing, a relative decline was observed during the period considered. In 2016, 122 thefts were registered, and at the end of 2019 the number was 111, or there is a decrease of nearly 10%. The detection process is growing from 40.16% in 2016 to 51.35% in 2019, which is an increase of more than 11%.

The decrease in the number of registered pickpocketing thefts is due to effective preventive activities against the representatives of the marginalized groups. RDI - V. Tarnovo has established partnerships with non-governmental organizations working towards the inclusion of representatives of these communities. The target result is the retention in school of adolescents, who are of school age, the prevention of early marriages and the permanent renunciation of criminal activity.

III. The project will be as innovative as possible through the inclusion of new methods or new approaches

13. What is innovative in the methods and / or approaches used in the project? (max. 150 words)

With a view to crime prevention and effective response to reports of crimes in areas with a compact Roma population, as well as in connection with the implementation of the action plan for the implementation of the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Roma Integration (2012-2020), in RDI - Veliko Tarnovo local trainings were organized and conducted by representatives of "Amalipe". The presence of the maximum number of police officers working

in areas with a compact Roma population, leaders and representatives of the local Roma communities, as well as representatives of the relevant regional prosecutor's offices and district courts is ensured.

In connection with the introduced anti-epidemic measures on the territory of the country, a large part of the activities for the implementation of the joint preventive measures were suspended. This is what necessitated the introduction of innovative practices in the work at the local level, one of which is the conduct of online conferences and trainings through multimedia communication.

IV. The project is based on cooperation between partners where possible.

14. Which partners and stakeholders are involved in the project and what is their contribution? (max. 200 words)

RDI - Veliko Tarnovo – project contractor; organizes the activity of the participants; develops information materials; participates and organizes joint trainings and workshops;
Amalipe Centre for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance – focused work on prevention of early marriages and crime with prevention campaigns, community talks and case work. The centre has an established practice of sustainable partnership with local, regional and state institutions, including the Ministry of Interior.
RDI - Veliko Tarnovo – participates in and organizes joint trainings and workshops;
- Labour Office Directorate - employment provision; Regional administration – V. Tarnovo- regional body of the central government, supervising the state institutions;
The municipalities of Veliko Tarnovo, G. Oryahovitsa, Lyaskovets, Strazhitsa, Pavlikeni, Elena, Svishtov, P. Trambesh – through the Local commissions for combating anti-social behavior of minors, participate in conversations with adolescents;
Social Assistance Directorate and its territorial subdivisions in Veliko Tarnovo District - prevention of families at risk, support for socially disadvantaged families and psychological counseling of children and parents;
Borba newspaper – articles;
Sira Printing House - printing of information materials;

- **Ability of the project to multiply in other EU Member States.**

15. How and by whom was the project financed? (max. 150 words)

The implementation of a project is possible through human resources, labour and financial resources. This happens by transforming these resources into results leading to a specific goal. The main emphasis is placed on the competence and trust built between the partners involved in the project, the organizational structure, the available material base, the information systems and experience.

The real work on the activities, for the most part, is done through human resources by specialists in the institution that participates in the project.

In financial terms, the main participation in the project has "Amalipe" by developing preventive materials, organizing and conducting trainings and seminars, building a network of clubs, "Sira" printing house - printing information brochures and posters, municipalities by maintaining the already built clubs for working with children and youth.

16. What are the costs of the project in financial terms, materials and human resources? (max. 150 words)

The following partners are financially involved in the project:
The municipalities, partners in the project with funds from the departmental budgets.
Sira Printing House - printing of 6,000 brochures and 400 posters with a total value of BGN 2,000;
Amalipe Centre for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance – development of preventive materials, organization and conduct of trainings, building a network of clubs - BGN 10,000.
Institutions in which the relationship between workers and employers is based on labour

relations. RDI - Veliko Tarnovo, together with its partners: Regional Directorate of Education - Veliko Tarnovo, Directorate "Labour Office", Regional Administration - Veliko Tarnovo, Directorate "Social Assistance" and its territorial divisions in Veliko Tarnovo, participate in the project mainly with human resources.

The daily newspaper Borba, through articles, promotes the activities carried out under the project. This contributes to raising the awareness of citizens in order to attract new partners. In this way, the project remains open to new ideas.

Given the fact that the costs are incurred by each of the partners separately, it is not possible to make a full report.

17. Has a financial benefit analysis been carried out for the project? If yes, describe the analysis that was performed (how and by whom it was made and a list of the main conclusions of the analysis). (max. 150 words)

The conditions in which some ethnic groups live are a serious precondition for social disorganization. The Roma neighborhoods, in the larger Bulgarian cities, are an example of the combination in one place of a whole group of serious criminogenic factors. These are social isolation and marginalization in all their incarnations - unemployment, low incomes, poor education, lack of opportunities for young people to spend their free time. In such an environment, trust in all institutions is usually at a critically low level, including trust in the police.

The financial benefits of the project and the impact of its implementation are achieved by interrupting the activities of organized Roma clans related to pickpocketing and telephone fraud. Preventing this type of crime leads to a reduction in financial losses, increases trust in institutions and a sense of security in society. The benefit for public authorities is the saving of funds (financial and human resources) needed to investigate crimes prevented before they occur.

18. Are there any changes that need to be made in order for this project to be successfully replicated in other EU countries?

Owing to the globalization and increasing travel opportunities, the mobility of the Roma population is also increasing. The European dimensions of the project can be sought in solving problems similar to other member states. The attention of the partners should be focused on the development of a system of measures aimed at effective communication and close contact with these marginalized groups/ clans, in order to increase trust in the institutions and achieve a correction in their behavior. The development of the measures needs to be taken into account with the age peculiarities and needs of the individuals, as well as with the predominant type of the committed crimes. In order to replicate the project in other EU countries, it is necessary for each individual country to take into account its own needs and requirements for the development and adoption of similar measures and measures to these crimes, taking into account the capabilities of local legislation and organization of state institutions. . In addition, it is necessary to make a detailed socio-cultural analysis of local marginalized communities, in order to identify specific and adequate measures for inclusion and integration into society, taking into account their specific features.

19. How is the project relevant for other EU countries? Explain the European dimensions of the project.

The project is a result of the joint work of state institutions and NGOs on the territory of Veliko Tarnovo district on the problems of crime and its prevention. While maintaining their professional identity, the partners strive to prevent the divergence of powers and interests, each of which bears its responsibility.

The focus of the project should be prevention and/ or reduction of organized crime in marginalized groups/ clans in society, as well as achieving a lasting negative attitude of this society to the crimes committed. The main strategy of the team developing the project is through methods of persuasion and providing information to the target group, through community mediators, to realize one of the main functions of the rule of law, namely education. This determines prevention as a basic, purposeful system of activities to prevent

negative results in a given area. Given that the main types of crimes under the project (phone fraud) affect as perpetrators mainly representatives of the Roma community, it can be concluded that the preventive measures under the project would be relevant and relevant to other EU countries..

Please provide a brief main description of the project (abstract to be included in the conference brochure). (maximum 150 words)

Society as a social phenomenon is the result of the joint activity and coexistence of groups of people in the name of the common good. In order for this coexistence to be complete and constructive, it is necessary for the separate groups to be united around the achievement of a common goal, observing uniform rules of conduct and norms. Assessing the socio-cultural and ethnic characteristics of different groups in society and in particular the marginalized, RDI - Veliko Tarnovo together with its partners, realized the need to develop and implement a more systematic and organized model for working with them. As a result, in 2016 RDI - Veliko Tarnovo, together with "Amalipe" Centre and other partners, started working on the project "Thinking about the future", which aims at achieving better interaction with closed groups of the Roma community. The role of interaction is to increase the trust of Roma groups/ clans in the institutions, to achieve a change in its value system and integration into society.