

## 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 Bulgaria

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

It is the Bulgarian ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

Child Police Station

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

National Police General Directorate

1, Alexander Malinov Blvd.

1715 Sofia, Bulgaria; e-mail: [gdnp@mvr.bg](mailto:gdnp@mvr.bg), Tel.+359 2 982 86 25

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 official start date of the project was 16.05.2016. The project is still running.

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.mvr.bg>

<https://www.mvr.bg/gdnp>

<https://www.mvr.bg/silistra>

<https://www.google.com>

<http://detskasiurnost.bg/>

<https://pazardjik.marica.bg/article/read/53044>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/113748342564526/>

<https://pazardjik.marica.bg>

<http://news.bnt.bg/bg/a/detsko-politseysko-upravlenie>

[www.bta.bg/bg/c/BO/id/1812792](http://www.bta.bg/bg/c/BO/id/1812792)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/142178869520963/>

[old.segabg.com/article.php?id=803904](http://old.segabg.com/article.php?id=803904)

<https://dariknews.bg>

<https://news.bg/education/otkrivat-parvoto-detsko-politseysko-upravlenie.html>

[medianews.bg/bg/a/zavrshi-proektt-detsko-politseysko-upravlenie-mezdra-km-mvr](http://medianews.bg/bg/a/zavrshi-proektt-detsko-politseysko-upravlenie-mezdra-km-mvr)

<https://csw.bg/tvz/>

[www.focus-news.net/](http://www.focus-news.net/)

[www.plovdiv.bg](http://www.plovdiv.bg)

[telemidia.bg](http://telemidia.bg)

[modernavratza.com](http://modernavratza.com)

<https://www.blagoevgrad.eu/uspeshno-priklyuchi-dvugodishnoto-obuchenie-po-progr>

[sevlievci.com](http://sevlievci.com)

<https://strelabg.com>

<https://www.dunavmost.com>

[sou-saedinenie.com](http://sou-saedinenie.com)

<http://www.haskovo.net>

<http://news.bnt.bg>

<https://trafficnews.bg>

**YouTube Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9ZFfVnKZg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRs7nMvgIVM>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTVeUH-arG8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5m8DJQC9Jc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2qg8wRgnvs>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lg5lojN\\_H0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lg5lojN_H0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biZ2Du9V1EQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6OEzAyjoz8>

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

**and many more**

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

This project is a continuation of the Child Police Academy pilot project, which was successfully implemented within 2001-2002 on the territory of two District Directorates of Interior - Haskovo and Stara Zagora. The project was carried out by the Chance and Protection Association with EU-funding under the "European Initiative and Human Rights" Programme.

Subsequently the idea of the project spread also to other District Directorates of Interior in the country, but most of the activities did not take place due to unified methodology was needed and lack of funding.

An inter-agency working group was established in 2014 in order to elaborate a methodological handbook for police officers, engaged in the Child Police Station Programme. The official start of the programme was on 16.05.2016, at a ceremony in Sofia, in the presence of the Minister of Interior, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior, the Deputy-Minister of Education and Science, the Bulgarian Red Cross Chairperson and the Mayor of Sofia. On this date, at the same time, 4651 children were formally accepted volunteers in the Child Police Station (<https://www.mvr.bg>; <https://www.mvr.bg/gdnp>).

202 Child Police Stations are functioning at this moment within the District Police Directorates in Bulgaria.

The goal of the project is to protect the life, health, rights and property of children, to form skills and habits for correct behavior in different situations, to form intolerance against criminal assaults, reduction of juvenile delinquency and public order encroachment committed by children and against children, creation of civil positions and enhancing trust in institutions.

The programme foresees training under the following modules: First Aid; Child Police Private Protection; Road Safety; Health, Ethics and Law; Social Skills; Training Camps.

The programme is implemented as an extra-curricular training from 01 October till 31 May, one hour weekly with preliminary approved schedule by the Head of the Police Station and the Director of the school. There are mostly open-air activities with practical focus. In the end of each school year there are local and regional competitions in order to demonstrate the acquired knowledge and skills.

At the end of the second year, there was a nation-wide competition. When the training is accomplished, every child awarded the diploma for finished course of the Child Police Station in the presence of representatives of local authorities and programme partners.

**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**)

One of the main objectives of the project is to form skills and habits of legitimate behavior and to reduce crime and public order encroachment committed against children and by children. By personal example and simulation, the children which have been trained, help the other children of their age by explaining them different ways to overcome aggression, violence, bullying, theft and fraud in school and on the street.

The prevention concerns also the parents of the children, which see how the trainings educates and motivates their children to observe law, to honor and respect institutions and also change their views and trust in institutions. In the regions and schools, where the project is implemented, a raising awareness to different aspects of life is noticed. Involving a large group of children, parents and citizens in the project, the Bulgarian Police performs one of its main tasks – Community Policing. The local media raise additional awareness by informing society on the activities of Child Police Station.

**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**)

The main reason for setting up the project was to educate on national level a large group of teenagers by a unified methodology with the participation of several state and public institutions, which have the mission to serve and help – e.g. Ministry of Education and Science, Bulgarian Red Cross, Bulgarian Orthodox Church etc.

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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>

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

Early prevention for teenagers:

- Respect for values and law;
- Safety behaviour and ability to take adequate decisions in specific situations;
- Ability to have opinion and civil competence;
- Stimulating diligence and initiative;
- Raising confidence in Police and other state institutions.

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*

The information of the completed project activities was summarized at national level. The National Police General Directorate was informed on a six month basis about the number of trainings, the number of trainees and trainers, the schedule of forthcoming lectures and events. There have been no gaps and violations till now. All planned events were held in due time.

In the first training year a drawing competition under the title "Me and the Child Police Station" was held on regional, local and national level. The winners of the national contest were awarded on 07.11.2017 in the National Palace of Children in Sofia. Awards were provided by the "Strengthening child protection and juvenile crime prevention" project within the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation programme.

A national competition took place during the second training year, on 26.04.2018, at the National Sport Academy in Sofia. 94 children from 23 District Directorates of the Ministry of Interior and 69 attendants (teachers and police officers) participated in the competition. The competition was supported by the Swiss Embassy and was funded with a total amount of 15.757 BGN under the "Strengthening child protection and juvenile crime prevention" project within the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation programme.

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*

At the end of the first training year, the Institute for Psychology of the Ministry of

Interior elaborated questionnaires for the volunteers from the Child Police Station, their parents and teachers. Through this survey, the children, parents, teachers and trainers had to assess the programme.

The filled-in and processed by the Ministry of Interior questionnaires were from:

- 3866 children;
- 3642 parents;
- 377 teachers;
- 85 external trainers

The reported results are as follows:

- The training by the programme should continue – 94% Yes
- Do you report a change in the behavior of your child as a result of the training in the Child Police Station? - 82% Yes
- In your opinion, is the programme Child Police Station effective in your school? – 90% Yes
- Do you report a change in the behavior of your students as a result of the training in the Child Police Station? - 86% Yes
- Does the programme provoke interest among other students? – 78% Yes
- Was cooperation with the other partners in the programme good? – 88% Yes

The summarized data from the questionnaires, as well as the positive public response to the programme give us reason to continue the training of children, for a better future.

### **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**)

The project Child Police Station is an extracurricular form of training. The innovative thing about it is that children, while having fun and working as professionals do (role plays, case studies, performing police duties and tasks in real situations) get more practical knowledge and skills about:

- protecting their life and that of their friends.
- coping in difficult situations at different places.
- their rights and responsibilities to society.
- teamwork, respect and tolerance.

- dressed in reflective vests and with distinguished signs of small policemen (hats, badges, etc.), the children learn practical knowledge of how to give first aid to a victim, how to defend themselves in an attack, or to help another person in trouble. Together with traffic police officers, they monitor for violations and analyze different situations, stop vehicles and hand out brochures to drivers asking them to protect children on the road, or help old people, disabled and mothers with strollers to safely cross the pedestrian path. 90% of the topics in the Child Police Station are with a practical focus.
- within 60 hours, children acquire knowledge and skills in different areas of life. They enrich their general knowledge and culture, and attract adherents in the face of their friends, classmates, parents and citizens for observing established rules and preserving moral values.

#### **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**)

Partners under the project of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) "Child Police Station" are: Ministry of Education and Science (MES); Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS); Ministry of Justice (MJ); Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC); Bulgarian Tourist Union (BTU); Bulgarian Orthodox Church (BOC) and National Association of the Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB).

MES – provides teachers to manage the Child Police Station on part of the school. Provides insignia (reflective vests, hats, badges, etc.);

MYS – gets involved in the organization and conducting of sports competitions with the children, and provides part of the prizes;

MJ – ensures access of children to courtroom, and also provides a judges or prosecutors to present the topic of their competence, included in the Methodological handbook;

BRC – provides volunteers from the Bulgarian Red Cross to train the children from the Child Police Station in module „Providing First Aid“;

BTU – provides suitable premises and mountain rescuers to train the children in module "Camp in the open nature“;

BOC – provides clergymen to acquaint volunteers with Christian holidays and universal human values, for acquisition of spiritual civic culture;

NAMRB - encourages the mayors of settlements to cooperate with the MoI in the implementation of the programme, to support the initiative, as well as to provide sports halls, sound equipment, buses.

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

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

Main activities was financed by the MoI budget and respective District Directorates of the MoI, and national competitions was financed under the "Strengthening child protection and juvenile crime prevention" project within the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation programme.

The members of the inter-agency working group have prepared the preparatory activities and the Methodological guidelines. Financial resources amounting to BGN 3000, were used to print 400 Methodological handbooks.

Locally at District MoI directorates, the necessary funds are provided from the budgets of the structures themselves, or through external funding from the project partners or the local municipal authorities.

For example: purchasing reflective vests, providing transportation by bus, providing sports halls, etc.

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

Estimated costs of implementing one Child Police Station over a two-year period

- Salaries – done within the working day of the 104 police officers involved;
- Work days - 30 days (organizing, conducting trainings, events);
- Camps - 14 days;
- Human resources – 104 police officers involved; from the programme partners - 57 trainees;
- Materials - 5000 BGN (insignia, cups, medals, awards, plaques, diplomas, etc.)
- the drawing competition under the title "Me and the Child Police Station" - 2000 BGN for awards and diplomas for children and salaries and travel costs for police officers involved
- the national competition - 15.757 BGN for accommodation of participants, insignia, cups, medals, awards, plaques, diplomas, etc. and about 3000 BGN for travel costs for police officers involved

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**)

Assessment of the implementation of the programme has been carried out, based on the Institute for Psychology of the MoI survey.

According to the 94% of the respondents of the survey the training by the programme should continue. As a result 82% of the parents reported a change in the behavior of their children and 86% of the teachers reported a change in the behavior of their students as a result of the training in the Child Police Station programme.

Analysis of the project and the statistical data for crimes committed against and from children shows reduction of those crimes after the period of implementation of the this two-year project.

According to statistical data for the crimes committed against children there is a reduction with 10.6% for the juveniles and 10.9% for the minors as a victims in comparison with 2015 (the year before starting the project) and 2017 (the year in which two-years programme is completed).

That prove the received knowledge and skills by the children helped them to be more precautious in daily activities.

Looking on statistical data about children as perpetrators focus must be the second year after implementing the project because the results could be visible after finishing the training programme as a reflection in police statistical data. There is reduction with 8.7% of the minor perpetrators in 2017. Take into account that this is the main age group which was trained, that prove the effectiveness of the training programmeme too.

This gives a reason to conclude that the project it is a really cost-effective.

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

Yes, the methodology should be adapted to the specifics and peculiarities of the education and structure of the state institutions, which participate as partners of the respective country wishing to replicate the project.

Bulgaria is open and willing to share its experience and can provide experts with the necessary qualifications and experience to train Child Police Station trainers.

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

In 2011-2012, a project for set up a Balkan Children's Police Academy (BCPA) started. The project was implemented by the Chance and Protection Association of the town of Haskovo in partnership with the General Directorate Police, under the auspices of the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) and with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Besides the Bulgarian side, as partners in BCPA participated also non-governmental organizations and the police services of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia

and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The main objectives of the project are to make analysis how to improve the public safety of children in the SEPCA member countries, as well as improvement and development of the national policies and practices for interaction between the police, children and civil organizations concerned with the safety and well-being of children.

It will be beneficial to create a European Child Police Station Programme which could help to improve the image of the institutions themselves at European level. It will be possible to hold European children's championships and competitions, similar to the "Young Firefighter", which is organized by the firefighting services of European countries.

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

The project Child Police Station is a long-term preventive programme of the MoI for early prevention among adolescents. It also fulfills one of the main tasks of the police, namely to be close to the public and sensitive to the problems of the people. The project is implemented as an extracurricular training. The idea is that children, while having fun, get knowledge about protecting their lives and the lives of their friends, coping with difficult situations and various challenges at home, at school, in the mountain; their rights and responsibilities to society; teamwork, respect and tolerance for the opinion of others and those different from them.

The project Child Police Station it is realized by MoI officers and various partners (MES, MYS, MJ, BRC, BTU, BOC, and NAMRB).

For the implementation of the programme there has been developed a Methodological Handbook for police officers working with the programme Child Police Station. The Handbook includes various topics distributed in several modules (First Aid; Child Police Personal Protection; Road Safety; Social Skills; Health, Ethics and Law; Nature Camps). At the end of the training, a review or competition it is held, to demonstrate the acquired knowledge and skills, and the volunteers are awarded diplomas for completion of a two-year course in the Child Police Station Programme.