

# 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?

3. What is the title of the project?

“Light Shoes”

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

Open youth centre of Šiauliai district. Tel. +370 67353555. srjaunimocentras@gmail.com

Director/Project Manager: Kristina Pinskienė,

Partner project promoter: Danutė Jakubkienė

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

Start date –18-06-2021

End date – 17- 10 -2023

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).

-Information about the implementation of the project was published on the websites of Šiauliai district municipality and in local media.

-Detailed information about the project and its tools can be found on the social networks such as Facebook, Instagram on the accounts of Šiauliai police community officers.

-Website: [Lightweight shoes \(lengvibatai.lt\)](http://lengvibatai.lt) Facebook pages: Project "Light Shoes"  
<https://www.facebook.com/policijospareigunai/>

- 3 publicity events will be organized for the project.

- A book about the experiences of teenagers and specialists was published.

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

We get a lot of target group of young people every day at the youth centre, with whom we have a sustainable and close relationship as they are addressing us, as people who can help and trust. While we are doing what we can best, with the resources of our employees, partners and competences, we are still clearly aware that much more intensive, and diverse assistance is needed. This requires human resources, additional tools, methodologies. Feeling a great need and no longer being able to just be near young people and feel their helplessness and despair, we embarked on this project

During the preparation of the application, experts, supervisors, the police were consulted with. The help mechanism "10 easy steps" was created with the appearance of a huge need for it, opportunities and a sincere desire and motivation to act. When developing the vision of the assistance mechanism, our proposed solutions to the problem unanimously coincided with the situation of the municipality's crime and expectations in this area. As we begin to dig even deeper, it was realized that the need we feel strongly in our organization is also the basis for the findings of research.

The target group of the project - vulnerable adolescents who are potential victims of the offense (exploitation of adolescents for theft, involvement in the distribution of drugs, etc.). Working with this target group and getting to know them more and more, it becomes very difficult just to be there, to have their believe and trust us and not be able to help in principle. The project aims are to strengthen young people and build their resilience both to the threat of becoming victims of criminal offences and to the opportunities to engage in them. During the project, intensive work is carried out not only with vulnerable teenagers, but also with their environment.

Project activities:

1. To create a safe, innovative learning space (experiential training base) for teenagers. 1.1. Simple repair of the experiential training; 1.2. Acquisition of inventory and creation of the interior with the the target group.
2. To qualitatively and fundamentally strengthen the competences of youth workers and specialists, partners working with teenagers of the goal group, in order to provide innovative services and to mobilize the available municipal resources. 2.1. Learning of youth workers, volunteer partners to provide an intensive service of individual work "10 easy steps" trainings of 2 and 7 days, (15 youth workers, 2 volunteer partners). 10 supervision consultations after training. 2.2. Strengthening the competences of specialists working, building a network (3 d. training for 4 groups of 18 people, 10 consultations to the objective group of the assistance mechanism, 36 Training for coordinators of youth affairs and inter-institutional cooperation of the municipality, youth workers, partners, police community officers).
3. Providing new, innovative services to the young people in order to help create positive changes in their lives 3.1. New services of intensive, individual work with the youth and their environment: providing "10 easy steps" to the target group - 40 teenagers. 3.2. Experiential training (5 d. training for a group of 15 young people at the experiential training base). A total of 7 groups are planned.
- 4.

Administration and publicity of the project

**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**))

The assistance mechanism helps young people not to become victims of crime or to get involved in criminal activity, and for those who are already involved - to withdraw from it, to avoid secondary victimization.

Structure of the aid mechanism:

- Preparation of employees of open youth centres and volunteer partners to provide a service of intensive work with the young man and his environment "10 easy steps".
- Creating a network of assistance mechanisms for the target group and strengthening the

competences of its participants.

- Providing a new service "10 easy steps" for the target group. The service is characterized by great attention to one young person and his environment, flexibility, creative methods and tools, individuality, the merging of existing resources (specialists) for a common goal and, most importantly, is provided only by creating a relationship with the young person based on mutual trust, using the work done in an open youth centre.

- Organizing experiential trainings is an attractive and highly effective educational tool for the young people of the target group.

This aid mechanism has 2 main objectives for this instrument:

- Strengthen young people's reflective skills.

- Help to name the strengths of a young man

Basic tools and methods:

- The use of methods, competencies and experience accumulated during open youth work to attract the goal group to the provision of new services.

- Individual counselling.

- Intense attention to the young man, support, motivation, strengthening.

- Work with the young man's environment.

- Methodology of experiential education.

- Building a network of an aid mechanism for the target group.

- Strengthening the competences of specialists by methods of experiential education.

Project participants: (target group)

– Teenagers and young people aged 12-18 with delinquent behavioural and behavioural and emotional disorders, including those who have committed any type of offence.

– Youth workers, partners and volunteers of the open youth centres who participated in the training, who will be trained to work with the new assistance mechanism and will provide the service "10 easy steps".

- Specialists who will take part in the training (social educators, social workers, police officers, staff of orphanages, case managers, probations, etc.)

**I. 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**)

Over the past 2 years, we have become more and more aware that young people with delinquent behaviour and emotional disorders choose to spend their time at our place. Nevertheless, their problems are often very complex, in order to solve them, special competencies, tools and human resources are required.

There are a number of coordinating institutions in the municipality that direct young people with difficult behaviour, but there is a great shortage of competent employees who are able to build a sustainable, mutual trust-based relationship with a young person and can be present, accompany him in constantly solving challenges, problems. There is also no common approach to working with young people between different institutions

The project, "Light Shoes", is made out of real experiences and perceptions of being around young people who are experiencing various difficulties. The idea of the project was born very quickly, it is real and alive. The certainty about the idea of the project is very strong, because we have a key that unlocks the largest locks, breaks the most complex codes and easily, unwittingly heals the most painful wounds - this is a relationship based on mutual trust, which is the basis of the whole project.

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

The aim of the project is to implement a unique assistance mechanism based on non-standard operating principles and innovative working methods for young people of the target group, concentrating the resources available in the municipality, qualitatively and fundamentally strengthening the competences of specialists, in order to easily and creatively help young people to make positive changes in their lives and filling the lack of high-quality and innovative services for this goal group.

Objectives of the project:

1. To create a safe, innovative learning space (experiential training base) for the teenagers of the target group, where new services will be provided
2. To qualitatively and fundamentally strengthen the competences of youth workers and specialists working with teenagers of the goal group in order to provide innovative services to the goal group and to mobilize the available municipal resources for joint work.
3. Providing new, innovative services to the target group of young people to help create positive changes in their lives

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?

10. (max. 300 words)

The Central Project Management Agency has established the following project monitoring indicators in accordance with the programme's implementation conditions:

1. The proportion of trained professionals who confirm the enhanced ability to recognize and treat cases of bullying and / or psychosocial problems in children and young people.

The target result is 75% of the professionals involved.

2. Number of developed and implemented initiatives targeting children and young people from vulnerable groups. The desired result is 1.

3. Number of local professionals/service providers providing services to children and/or young people: the desired result is 15 youth workers (already achieved). Every 3 months, the central project management agency is provided with detailed information about the achieved results of the project and the activities implemented.

Currently, indicator 3 has already been fully achieved. The first indicator reached 14 percent. The second indicator is 65 percent.

Every 3 months, the central project management agency is provided with detailed information about the achieved project results and implemented actions. Until now the project process is being implemented smoothly.

Evaluation of the results of the implemented activities is carried out every 3 months by submitting a payment request to the CPVA. During the evaluation, the activities already implemented are accounted for. Within ourselves, we have established the following system of assessment of the services provided: It is decided to use 3 indicators to assess the changes in

1. Subjective assessment of the young man's own relationship with the environment and

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1 **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.

himself using a balance circle before and after participation in the project. Using this method, the young man identifies areas that, according to him, are important for a person to be happy. Each of these areas is evaluated from 1 to 10. A description is filled out in which the comments of the young man are recorded, discussing each area. The same method is used after the completion of participation in the project. The identified changes and reflection of the young man are recorded. Currently, 26 of the planned 40 young people receive the "10 easy steps" service. At the beginning of work, young people rate most of the areas of their lives extremely poorly (approximately from 1 to 6). After 3 months, the results are improving.

2. An objective assessment method to be carried out by youth workers and volunteers. The ability of the project participants to reflect and their readiness to act will be assessed. It is measured by two indicators:

- the number of identified life topics in which a change is required (questionnaires before and after are used to help evaluate this indicator);

- discovery and testing of personal strategies that help to bring a change into life (the indicator is fixed by the employee at the beginning of the project during the interview and after analysing the process of working with a young man, at the end of the project). (70% of young people are discovering and trying new strategies, ways that make a difference in their lives)

3. The ability of specialists involved in the project to get to know the young man, understand the causes of delinking behaviour, be able to recognize bullying, psychosocial problems and build a relationship based on mutual trust. Strengthened abilities were confirmed by 94 percent specialists who participated in the training. We are already using this assessment system because we already provide a service of individual work with the young person and his environment. The change was 1/10.

11. 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**)

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**2 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**.

**3 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

**II. The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.**

12. How is the project innovative in its methods and/or approaches? (**Max. 150 words**)

Intensive work with young person with behaviour and emotional disorders and his environment, providing the service "10 easy steps", is a completely new service in Lithuania. Work with such young people has been fragmented: in schools, in care homes, in the appointment of minimum care measures by the child welfare commission, or in the case of social workers working with the family. In all the listed situations, work is carried out when the young person is already experiencing difficulties, most often – commits a criminal act. It is important to note that services for adolescents with delinquent behaviour and emotional disorders are almost not provided before they have committed a crime (or rather, they have not fallen into the sights of law enforcement or other institutions). This has little effect, as it does not work with the environment and is provided in a fragmented manner. Experiential 5-day training for goal group teens to strengthen their ability to reflect and help identify a young person's strengths is a brand-new service for this goal group. The tool is also special in that it will be an important part in the provision of the service "10 easy steps". To date, experiential training is organized in a fragmented and much wider purpose group.

13. **The project shall be based on cooperation between partners, where possible.** Which partners or stakeholders were involved in the project and what was their involvement? (**Max. 200 words**)

Partners: Rietavas Open Youth Center, Public Institution Telšiai Youth Center and Šiauliai City and District Police Community Officers. The partners who participated in the training will be trained to work with the new assistance mechanism and will provide the service "10 easy steps".

14. **The project shall be capable of replication in other Member States.** How and by whom is the project funded? (**Max. 150 words**)

In 2014-2021, a project funded by the Programme of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area "Health" was funded. The amount of funding is 277045.01 Eur., of which 10% is contributed by Šiauliai district municipality.

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

Publicity (website creation and events) – 2477,37 Eur. Administration (DU for project manager, administrator and accountant 28 years old) – 26124 Eur. Repair of experiential

training base – 54000 Eur. (heating, plumbing, windows, electrical wiring. We carry out interior repairs on our own). Inventory and furniture of the experiential training base – 45353,57 Eur. Training, consultations – 42750 Eur. DU and fuel for 2 youth employees providing the service 10 easy steps – 59290 Eur. Experiential training for groups of adolescents – 22904 Eur. (14910 DU, 1344 fuel, 6650 – inventory) Book release – 4104,48 Eur. Indirect costs - 14868 Eur. Indirect costs.

16. 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**)

Such an analysis will be carried out after the end of the project.

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

Such an analysis will be carried out after the end of the project.

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

The main idea of the assistance mechanism is to use the experience and work gained by open youth centres to develop new services for adolescents with behaviour and emotional disorders. The biggest strengths of the idea are the ability of open youth centres to build a relationship with young people based on mutual trust and the voluntary involvement of the young people of the goal group in their activities. This creates favourable conditions for the development of the services provided for in the aid mechanism. Open youth centres are established throughout Europe, their main goal is to provide all young people, regardless of their social status, race, nationality, health status, with opportunities to spend their free time safely, engage in activities of interest to them, and, if necessary, to help competent youth workers and partners to solve the challenges and issues of everyday life. youth workers and partners to address the challenges and issues of everyday life. The open youth centres employ youth workers and volunteer partners. These are adults who operate outside the formal education and education system, family and work activities, seek the personal and social development of young people both through individual work and in working with groups or communities, who have the professional competencies necessary for this work. It is clear that the open youth centres, their potential in attracting the young people and the competences already

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**4 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.

available to the youth workers to build a relationship already created and untapped opportunity when working with adolescents. Adapting the aid mechanism in Europe to exploit the potential of open youth centres is a real, feasible and promising idea. This help mechanism can perfectly complement the already existing system. Using the mechanism to exploit and strengthen the already established open youth work system would be a very economically advantageous option, as both the infrastructure of the open youth centres and their management solutions, the human resources base and the important initial competences and experiences of youth workers are already in place. This would save a lot of costs in preparing the assistance mechanism.

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

The project, "Light Shoes", is glued together from real experiences and perceptions of being around young people who are experiencing various difficulties. The idea of the project was born very quickly, it is real and alive. The main idea of the assistance mechanism is to use the experience and work gained by open youth centres to develop new services for adolescents with delinquent behaviour and emotional disorders.

Objectives of the project: 1. To create a safe, innovative learning space (experiential training base) for teenagers of the goal group, where new services will be provided 2. Qualitatively and fundamentally strengthen the competences of youth workers and specialists working with teenagers of the target group in order to provide innovative services to the goal group and to mobilize the available municipal resources for joint work. 3. Providing new, innovative services to the target group of young people to help create positive changes in their lives.

The assistance mechanism helps young people not to become victims of crime or to get involved in criminal activity, and for those who are already involved - to withdraw from it, to avoid secondary victimization. At the same time, the assistance mechanism based on non-standard operating principles and innovative working methods fundamentally strengthens the competences of specialists in order to easily and creatively help young people to make positive changes in their lives and fill the lack of high-quality and innovative services for this goal group.