European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I – new version 2014

Please complete the template in English in compliance with the ECPA criteria contained in the RoP (Par.2 §3).

General information

1. Please specify your country.

Germany; Baden-Württemberg

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

Since 2006 the presented project is running locally at the Police Headquarters in Reutlingen. It is intended to run it in a modified form in every police station throughout Baden-Württemberg in 2017.

3. What is the title of the project?

Security Advisor for senior citizens

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

Police commissioner Mr. Paul Mejzlik; phone 07121/942-1214; Police Headquarters Reutlingen, prevention department, Kaiserstr.99, 72764 Reutlingen; Email: Reutlingen.PP.Praevention@bwl.de

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.

Since 03/2006. The project is still running and continually expanded.

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).

(ab 1.11.2016): www.sicherheitsberater-fuer-senioren.de

An English version is unfortunately not available at the time.

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

Security Senior Advisor is an approved program, launched by the District Senior's Council Esslingen and Tübingen, as well as the Police Headquarters Reutlingen to prevent and decrease crimes committed towards elderly citizens.

Since 2006 mainly retired police personnel is providing usefully information to senior citizens about different forms of criminal activities while providing them with useful tips on how to counter them.

Volunteer Security Advisors are trained by the police force and they serve as counsellors to senior citizens in their counties. Their activities are planned centrally by the Police Headquarters in Reutlingen. As a cooperation partner, the District Senior's Council supports the Police through advertisement and expense allowances.

In 2010 this project was awarded by the Foundation Kreissparkasse and a local newspaper Teckboten. Throughout their work, security advisors relieve the Police force and in the form of peer-approach they serve as a link between the Police and the senior citizens. From their personal experience, security advisors are well aware of the fears and problems of the elderly and are able to provide helpful answers to risen questions. Their tasks are to provide valuable inputs related to new tricks of the scammers and thieves and to give advices how senior citizens can help themselves in those situations. Furthermore in specific situations, security advisors can provide speedy contact between the District Senior's Council and the Police force and provide necessary information and safety feeling to the elderly.

Following themes are a specific focus of this project:

Offenses in houses and apartments, neighborhood watch, crimes on the streets and in public transport, violent crimes such as robbery and purse snatching, information about self-defense and proper witness behavior, crimes related to financial transactions and non-cash transactions (debit card / PIN / GAA), fraud during shopping tours.

The new cooperation agreement with the District Senior's Council of Tübingen includes the county administration, as well as the German towns and municipalities as new cooperation partners. This reflects the intention of local crime prevention.

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 to the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? (**Max. 150 words**)

The provided information helps the senior citizens to develop a security awareness, detect culpable intentions and Modus Operandi of the offenders,

which complicates the execution of a crime.

Furthermore they are informed about the actual crime situation and committed crimes, which are often exaggerated by the media. As a side-effect, this increases fear among population. The knowledge of recognizing and facing dangers was improved and therefore their sense of security was reinforced.

Evidently lots of crimes were prevented, especially frauds via telephone such as "the grandchild-trick". Fortunately, these frauds could not be accomplished because the seniors had the necessary knowledge and behaved correctly. The scammers failed and the seniors suffered no financial damages.

9. How is the project contributing to raising citizens' awareness of crime prevention? (**Max. 150 words**)

The lectures and the public reporting about how to protect yourself from crimes, which often happen to elder citizens, have led to overall awareness-raising and therefore helped seniors in not being a victim of fraud, thievery or burglary.

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

10. What was the reason for setting up the project? What problem(s) did it aim to tackle?

Surveys show us that senior citizens live in fear of crime. In the general opinion, cause for this fear is the exaggeration of the media in form of the sensational journalism. The rising fear of crime has negative effects on the people's social behavior. For instance, in emergency cases a decreasing number of people is willing to help. Some people do not even dare going out on the streets, they pull themselves back from social life and furthermore isolate themselves from others.

Due to poor information and blind confidence they are often victims to targeted methods (Modus Operandi) from offenders. The extent of this problematic is obvious, 25% of the population is older than 60 years and this is a rising trend.

11. Was the context analysed **before** the project was initiated? How, and by whom? Which data were used? (**Max. 150 words**)

The number of crimes towards senior citizens increases constantly. The criminal statistics created by the Police from the years 2006, 2012 and 2016 were analyzed and considered in the project work, as well as the demographical data collected by the state agency.

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[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

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

A) Main goals:

1. Prevention and decrease of crimes towards senior citizens

2. Increase the sense of security of senior citizens in order to enhance their quality of life

B) Program goals:

1. Lectures and information for seniors in order to make them more sensitive and fortified against offenders

2. Mediation of support and support facilities as well as decreasing the fear of contacting the police

3. Transfer of security skills towards seniors

4. To develop a criminal prevention network through partners

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13. Did you build in internal goals to measure the performance of the project? If so, please describe at what stage of the project and how you measured whether the project was moving in the planned direction. (**Max. 150 words**)

Internal goals:

- Nationwide information for seniors; target is at least 50 lectures and 1500 seniors reached annually within the jurisdiction of the Police Headquarters
- Acquisition of at least 6 Security Advisors for each district
- Target achievement through advertising activities and press publications

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14. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what where the main results? (**max. 300 words**) - *for more information on process evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.9-10 & part 2 - section 2A*

An internal process evaluation is performed annually. Therefore the methods and possibilities of the instructors are optimized. Relevant lecturing channels are presented such as instructional videos and power point presentations.

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15. Has there been an outcome or impact evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method where used and what were the main results? (**Max. 300 words**) - *for more*

In 2012 the project was examined by Sarah Molner (matriculation number: 320539) as a part of her bachelor thesis "Evaluation of project security advisors for seniors in the PD in Esslingen". The bachelor's thesis was submitted to "Hochschule für Polizei Villingen-Schwenningen". The results were considered in the trainings of the security advisors and improved the lectures in sense of duration, methods and presentation.

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

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

The innovative centerpiece of the project is the Peer-approach "from seniors to seniors". Security Advisors posess a great knowledge about everyday problems of their age group and they can transfer their knowledge and support to seniors more efficiently. The fear of the police is therefore being decreased and on the long-run there are increasing chances to change and enhance the behavior of senior citizens towards police department.

IV. The project shall be based on cooperation between partners, where possible.

18. Which partners or stakeholders were involved in the project and what was their involvement? (**Max. 200 words**)

▪ District Senior's Council Esslingen, Hölderlinstr.9, 70771 Leinfelden-Echterdinge
▪ District Senior's Council Tübingen Schmiedtorstr.2, 72070 Tübingen
▪ County Tübingen, Wilhelm-Keil Str.50, 72072 Tübingen
▪ City and Municipal day, Panoramastr.31, 70174 Stuttgart
▪ Police Headquarters Reutlingen, Kaiserstr.99, 72764 Reutlingen

Through strong cooperation between partner City and Municipal day, District Senior's Council and the district administration, a network was built. This network is based on two pillars: Security Advisors and the prevention network. Amongst others, goals are: the prevention of crime; information about crime forms; to

show possibilities for prevention and recommended behavior; mediation of support for crime victims and furthermore the security of senior citizens. Through cooperation partners County Senior's Council, adult education center and the Police Headquarters including volunteer police service, the project is planned to be introduced in a modified form nationwide in Baden-Württemberg in 2017.

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

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

> The organizers pay a fee of 30 Euros per event. The District Senior's Council calculate and pay the expense allowances.

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

> Per event 30 Euros, equipment including media and materials approximately 100 Euro. Per Security Advisor and internet service annually 100 Euro.
>
> Every Security Advisor is holding about 7-8 lectures per year.

21. 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**)

> No.

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

> No.

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

> 1. The demographic change in sense of increased number of seniors affects every country
> 2. An increasing number of offenders concentrate on seniors as victims (Examples: "grandchild-trick" and "shock-calls", also in Russian or Turkish language)

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

> *Security Senior Advisor* is an approved program, launched by the District Senior's Council Esslingen and Tübingen, as well as the Police Headquarters Reutlingen in Germany to prevent and decrease crimes committed towards senior citizens.
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> Criminal acts where most of the victims are older people, are typically those containing fraud, thievery or burglary. Victims not only suffer financial damages, but also experience psychological consequences.

The Senior's Security Advisors are capable of understanding the problems of their age-mates and can sympathize with them. Advisors are able to transfer their knowledge to seniors and offer support. The senior's fear of contacting the police was actively reduced and at the same time their own sense of security was rebuilt.

Based on the information provided by security advisors, seniors were able to recognize the attempted frauds and call the police, which led to open investigations and reduced crime rate.