



FORMAT FOR PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION

MEMBERSTATE: Finland

NAME OF THE PROJECT: "Vantaan turvallisuustalkoot" - The Vantaa City Crime Prevention Programme.

IN USE SINCE: 1999

INFO ON THE WEB: www.tietovantaa.fi > turvallisuustalkoot

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Please answer the questions on the following pages in English and in no more than the given six pages. This way the information will be as comparable as possible.

Projects can be submitted until November 1st. Entries that will be received later than this will not be eligible to compete for the European Crime Prevention Award.

You can send your projects and the one page summary by e-mail to:

Mrs Janny Pols
Ministry of Justice
The Netherlands

E-mail janny.pols@ccv.nu

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to receiving your submission for the ECPA!



PROBLEM (intelligence)

Give a short description of the problem?

The City of Vantaa is a young town, founded in 1974. There has occurred a strong migration, rootlessness and high level criminality (crimes against property, disorderly behaviour, vandalism). At town centres there have been disturbances (specially at night time), disturbant behaviour of children and young people and a risk of them drifting into a criminal career. Neighbourhoods are often perceived as unpleasant and unsafe areas. Cooperation in crime prevention between authorities and other parties has been incoherent and inadequate.

Since when is it a problem?

Specially since the 1990's (due to a deep economic depression in the early 1990's, there has been increased unemployment, segregation, lack of parenthood, rootlessness due to large migration into the city).

Is it possible to give any data regarding the problem?

Yes. Criminal statistics, analyses and accounts made in the context of the crime prevention programme (e.g. neighbourgood analysis, national safety analysis in 2003).

Describe the type of offenders?

Children and young people who at a risk of marginalisation, drug dependent people, persons who have drifted into a criminal career.

What is their modus operandi?

Criminal symptoms (e.g. pilferage or petty theft), everyday offences (disturbant behaviour on public places, vandalism, crimes against property etc).

Who are the victims?

Everyman, inhabitants, enterprises.

What are the causes?

The City of Vantaa is at the top of the crime statistics. Feeling of unsafety is high. According to the national safety analysis, Vantaa is perceived as the unsafest city in Finland. Unclean and unpleasant environment in the neighbourhoods increases the feeling of unsafety and hinders inhabitants to be rootet and feel at home in their areas.

Do's

The City of Vantaa has carried out different strategies and programmes; the crime prevention programme started in 1999 complements these earlier programmes and gives an additional value to the strategic work in town.

Before the crime prevention programme started, a network analysis was carried out among different authorities and agencies. The analysis helpt definition of the partners, goals, focuses of the forthcoming crime prevention programme.

Dont's

It would have been advisable to carry out a survey among the inhabitants on their feelings of safety at the very moment and on their expectations and ideas on what the upcoming crime prevention programme should pay attention to.



WHAT (intervention)

Give a short description of the project.

In the Vantaa City Crime Prevention Programme, the mass criminality is tackled with active cooperation of different partners (recognition of "strong signals") and specially focusing on early prevention (recognition of "weak signals"). The main themes are safety in the population centres of the city, safety in the neighbourhoods, enhancing self-control in the lives of children and young people, supporting good parenthood and giving information on crime prevention. On these bases different kinds of projects and partnerships have been set up. Some of these projects have become permanent activities.

What is the short, medium and long term objective of the project?

Analysis of the local safety problems and the implementation of local safety plans: intervening with acute problems, improving of the feeling of safety among inhabitants, prevention of marginalisation, promoting cooperation in crime prevention by developing the partnership network.

What are the activities in the project?

Fast / direct intervention in acute problems (e.g. safety in population centres), early intervention (e.g. the criminal behaviour of children and young people), pre-emptive actions (communication, research work, networking, other preventive actions, such as environmental care, promotion of the feeling of pleasant neighbourhood etc.)

Is the project to address

- situational
- offender or
- victim

orientated causes? Namely,

the activities are comprehensive. The aim is to improve the feeling of safety in the city and to promote the sense of community.

Do's

It is good that the crime prevention programme is delimited and the aims are defined so that the programme doesn't escalate too much. The aims and the focuses are defined in the local safety plans and they have been updated every year.

Dont's

It is not worthwhile to appoint that kind of people to the local action groups that are not themselves interested in this kind of work. Before setting up this kind cooperation, it would be good to survey potential partners so as to find out who are really willing and able to take part on this kind of voluntary work and what could be their impact. It is worthwhile to plan the whole organisation very carefully before the programme is started. It is recommendable to allocate resources (money, personnel) in advance to the programme so the interest of partners would not cease because of the lack of resources.



HOW (implementation)

Give a short description of the history of the project?

The Vantaa City Crime Prevention Programme started in the year 1999 by joining to the national crime prevention programme. After organising a central and local management teams, local safety plans were drafted for the city subdivisions. The implementation of the local safety plans started in 2002. During the programme many different kinds of projects have been carried out (9 subprojects that are based on the main themes of the Vantaa City Crime Prevention Programme). Is there a project plan?

Yes. There is a city-level crime prevention strategy and a report of activities and the local safety plans (each one of the five major areas of the City of Vantaa has made its own local plan) and follow-up reports.

How is the project customised for the local situation and context?

The project is a part of the safety strategy of the city of Vantaa and is articulated with the other strategies of the city (prevention of marginalisation, partnership, drug strategy, multi-cultural strategy etc.) and with the local safety plans.

Do's

Local safety plans (plans of the five major areas) are very important because the neighbourhoods in a big city are very disparate. This allows taking into account local special characteristics. It is also important to arrange monitoring (to have local safety plan follow-up reports every year.)

Dont's

The Vantaa City Crime Prevention Programme has not yet been discussed by the Vantaa City Council. This kind of comprehensive programme should be adopted very early by the council so that it could get the acceptance of the political stakeholders. From the very beginning, it should be linked to the other official strategies of the city. This would make it easier to allocate resources (money, personnel) to the programme.



WHO (involvement)

Which –both public and private- partners are involved in each fase of the project?

The authorities of the City of Vantaa (local committees, social services, youth services, technical services, education services, mediation and arbitration services), Vantaa City Police Department , Vantaa City Federation of Parishes, enterprises, insurance companies, the local newspapers, voluntary associations (e.g. local Lions Clubs, community associations, immigrant associations etc.), house management and janitorial services, the other similar projects in the Capital Region. What role and task does each partner have?

They are partners in cooperation, they implement and finance the actions / projects according to agreements, give information on good practices.

Who gave the input on the know-how?

The Project Manager of the Crime Prevention Programme, partners.

How is the project financed?

The City of Vantaa, Vantaa City Police Department and Vantaa City Federation of Parishes pay the salary of the project manager. The Ministry of Justice, local committees of the City of Vantaa , Lions Clubs and other partners (e.g. janitorial services) have financed the sub projects.

Did the project effect them who it was ment to, or also others?

Yes, and it has also had effect on many other actions (e.g. improved the communication between the authorities and also communication between authorities and target groups).

Do's

It is worthwhile to encourage very different partners to take part in the programme; every partner can bring their own expertise. This can create very extensive action in crime prevention and also innovative projects.

Dont's

The inhabitants have not yet been interested enough in taking part in the crime prevention actions. They should have been asked to take part in the local action groups already at the beginning of the programme. The duration of the subprojects is often too short because of the lack of financing. The state should give more support to the local crime prevention programmes by financing them via national crime prevention programme so that the local programmes could be more continuous and on a more permanent basis (nowadays the financing is inadequate).



EFFECT (impact)

Has the project been evaluated?

Yes, in 2004.

What was evaluated?

The organisation, goals, implementations, impact of Vantaa City Crime Prevention Programme.

At what stage did the evaluation take place?

As the programme has been carried out for four years.

Who did the evaluation?

Risto Kangas, Doctor of Political Sciences, lecturer at the University of Helsinki, Department of Sociology of Law.

What are the results?

The organisation of the programme has proved to be active. The management group of the programme acts as mediator in information, local action groups pay attention to local special characteristics. The goals of the programme have been located on a level concrete enough, the activities are versatile and planned in cooperation.

Are the goals of the project achieved?

The programme has achieved its goals in creating an active organisation that has enabled a versatile and well-planned implementation in which the special characteristics and the needs of the neighbourhoods have been considered. The crime prevention network is wide and mainly active and the implementation of the programme is processual.

Do's

The organisation is active and effective, the cooperation works well, the network is wide at the level of the city and the local neighbourhoods. The implementation has been active and many-sided. The subprojects have covered all the focuses of the programme; projects have diversified from activities requiring fast intervention to the activities with more long-term preventive activities. The concrete programme has been well built up and implemented by versatile cooperation. Monitoring has been built in the programme. The monitoring of the implementation and the impact has been well arranged at the level of the project and by the local follow-up reports

Dont's

The programme evaluation found three aspects in which the activities could be more effective: 1. As a whole the programme has, in spite of its good functionality, stayed too authority-led and the motivation of the partners in the civic society has not succeeded as expected. This is also seen as fading of activity among some partners. 2. Among the authorities the community police has not yet been adequately connected to the programme while their local expertise would be useful. 3. The role of the management group of the Vantaa City Crime Prevention Programme as a collector and a mediator of information in relation to local action groups should be strengthened.