POLÍCIA DE SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA

COMANDO METROPOLITANO DE LISBOA

Project: "Safe Playtime"

December 2007

"SAFE PLAYTIME"

> *"Mankind owes to the child the best that it has to give...." – 1924 Declaration of the Rights of the Child*

The Police of Public Security has a pivotal role to play in policing schools in Portugal in response of its responsibility of regulation, enforcement and monitoring the child rights.

Lisbon is the capital of Portugal and Police of Public Security is the primary actor and responsible in providing policing in this area.

This role is much more important if we remember that in Lisbon there are 2.174 schools, 1.005.428 students and 103.102 teachers and school staff.

Accordingly to the Plan of Great Options for the Portuguese Government 2005-2006, we will "continue the implementation and reinforcement of community policing projects, specially the programme *Safe School* and *Safe Playtime.*"

Safe school is a community-policing project in result of a protocol signed in 1992 by Minister of Internal Administration and Minister of Education in order to assure safety to school population and to promote safety school behaviours through policing schools and surroundings, policing the approaches of the schools and also through seminars and contacts with school population.

Safe Playtime is a project that adds school policing an integral intervention with the various units of police activity: "safe school" police officers and cars, Rapid Response Units, Patrol Cars and Criminal Investigation Beat Units in plain clothes and cars, through a systematic and scientific analysis of criminality defining *hot spots* and *hot times* and restrain criminals or minors who misbehave, with timely assess reports, to decrease the number of crimes, to increase citizen's trust in the police and to assure children's safety.

1. **WHAT IS THE TITLE OF THE PROJECT?**

Title of the Project: "Safe Playtime"

2. **PLEASE GIVE A SHORT GENERAL DECRIPTION OF THE PROJECT.**

"Safe Playtime" is a project to develop the police activity in the around areas of problematic schools in Lisbon.

3. **PLEASE DESCRIBE THE OBJECTIVE (S) OF THE PROJECT.**

The objective of the project is to decrease the number of crimes regarding drug trafficking or abuse, robbery and thefts, whenever the students are themselves the victims or the criminals.

4. **HOW WAS THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTED?**

The project was implemented among those schools that had more criminal situations, involving plain-clothes police officers and cars on a daily basis that were expected to perform "stop and search" operations on suspects. Along with this activity there was also a strong police visibility performed by police officers on uniform, especially when classes started or finished but making sure not to be at the same spot as the police officers on plain-clothes.

5. WERE PARTNERS INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND/OR DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT? IF SO, WHO WERE THEY, AND WHAT WERE THEIR ROLES?

The project was planed and developed with other partners.

Partners involved in planning:

Criminal Investigation Division – general coordination of the project and intelligence;
Operations Unit in Lisbon Police Command – Coordination of police units involved;
All Police Station Commanders and Division Commanders in Lisbon – establishment of priorities in policing;
Police Officers from the project "Safe School" – liaison to schools, teachers and school directors;
School directors and teachers - establishing priorities and intelligence.

Partners involved in the development of the Project:

Criminal Investigation Division - police activity with police officers in plain clothes, intelligence and supervision of the Project.
Operations Unit in Lisbon Police Command – coordination of Police Units
Rapid Response Unit – police visibility;
Police Officers from the project "Safe School" – police visibility and liaison to schools;
School directors and teachers - intelligence and update of statistics;
Parents associations.

6. HOW DID YOU BUILD IN PLANS TO MEASURE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROJECT?

The Project has the ability of being continuously assessed in order to measure its performance.
In one hand we had the reports made by all the police officers that worked in the project specifying number of suspects stopped and searched, number of detainees, amount of drug founded, seized objects or weapons, who were the victims and other operational results.
On other hand we had the Project being evaluated as it is discriminated below.

7. <u>HAS THE PROJECT BEEN EVALUATED? HOW AND BY WHOM?</u>

The assessment of the Project was made on a ongoing basis.

Criminal Investigation Division gathered all information regarding situations that could be connected to the project and its objectives.

A report was made weekly to Lisbon Police Commander with the operational results of the Project and specific updated information regarding schools.

Monthly, other report was made to inform Lisbon Police Commander and it was transmitted to other partners to make an assessment and to adjust the objectives.

At the end of the academic year all the information gathered was sent to Police HQ and a general report was made regarding «School Safety».

8. <u>WHAT WERE THE RESULTS? HOW FAR WERE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT ACHIEVED?</u>

The increase of crime rates in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 in school areas was due to a better relationship between police, schools and local community. Students, teachers and parents are more and more confident to report crimes to police. Nevertheless, this trend is being followed up by Lisbon Metropolitan Police in order to tackle crimes, such as drug trafficking and possession of weapons amongst youngsters in school areas.

Police officers in plain clothes (from crime investigation units) along with a strong police visibility (from proximity policing team / safe school police teams) in schools were brought up among the students in a mouth-to-mouth way.

The message was also given to teachers and school staff who have transmitted to parents and this way that was able to increase citizen's trust in the Police of Public Security to assure children's safety.

New partnerships between Police, Municipalities, NGO's are planned to be implemented in order to involve different stakeholders for a better crime prevention.

The project is under revision and is being assessed in order to incorporate other technical and tactical components.

LISBOA	Number of crimes per school year						
Types of crimes	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	Total
Bomb threat	25	16	19	16	14	9	99
Theft	375	348	350	298	303	357	2031
Robbery	301	300	258	216	308	244	1627
Possession/Use of weapon	16	14	23	15	31	24	123
Vandalism / Damage	65	46	69	43	57	72	352
Calumny/Threats	45	71	89	73	99	102	479
Corporal Offences	209	211	229	195	226	294	1364
Possession/Drugs Abuse	13	14	5	3	15	10	60
Sexual Offences	28	17	24	15	18	20	122
Other Offences	20	19	66	30	53	67	255
Total	1097	1056	1132	904	1124	1199	6512

LISBOA	Variation considering previous school year				
Types of crimes	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Bomb threat	-36,00%	18,75%	-15,79%	-12,50%	-35,71%
Theft	-7,20%	0,57%	-14,86%	1,68%	17,82%
Robbery	-0,33%	-14,00%	-16,28%	42,59%	-20,78%
Possession/Use of weapon	-12,50%	64,29%	-34,78%	106,67%	-22,58%
Vandalism / Damage	-29,23%	50,00%	-37,68%	32,56%	26,32%
Calumny/Threats	57,78%	25,35%	-17,98%	35,62%	3,03%
Corporal Offences	0,96%	8,53%	-14,85%	15,90%	30,09%
Possession/Drugs Abuse	7,69%	-64,29%	-40,00%	400,00%	-33,33%
Sexual Offences	-39,29%	41,18%	-37,50%	20,00%	11,11%
Other Offences	-5,00%	247,37%	-54,55%	76,67%	26,42%
Total	-3,74%	7,20%	-20,14%	24,34%	6,67%

Lisbon, 22nd of December 2007