



ECPA/BPC 2008

Please answer the following questions in English.

1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project? (Only one ECPA entry per country plus up to two other projects.)

The German ECPA entry

2. What is the title of the project?

"Go Willi" – Crime Prevention with violent prone young people in and around the Wilhelmsplatz in Göttingen

3. Please give a short general description of the project.

The project, "Go Willi", carries out work in crime prevention with children and juveniles in and around the Wilhelmsplatz (Willi) in the city centre of Göttingen. Their behaviour, involving a high degree of verbal and physical aggression, provocation, vandalism and excessive alcohol consumption, has been constantly increasing; vandalism and criminal assault are a daily occurrence necessitating police intervention. "Go Willi" aims at reducing violence in Göttingen's city centre, creating a more harmonious interaction among all visitors.

Experience has shown that single actions taken e.g. by the police or the youth welfare services cannot solve the problems. The situation requires the cooperation of all, particularly the institutions in charge like police, communal and youth welfare services and social forces. With active networking, alternative methods of action and behavioural strategies can be developed, measures for crime prevention initiated at an early stage and structural gaps in the system of responsibilities of different institutions closed.

The town planning office has been given the important challenge of facilitating a sustainable change through the effective design of public spaces, with a focus on ambience, safety and social controls.

"Go Willi" endeavours to overcome the limitations that bind each public institution (e.g. police, local authorities etc.) by forming an alliance between public and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This alliance is defined as "the network". The network pools various resources, thus creating high synergy effects.

Project monitoring and evaluation is done by an external consultancy. Results will be summarised and published in an evaluation report.

4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project?

The project's overall objective is to accomplish the unlimited access to and use of public buildings and spaces by all citizens in Göttingen, free of fear. This involves acceptance of and respect for rules and standards of behaviour.

Violent and aggressive behaviour amongst individuals or groups is to be prevented or at least diminished. Children and youths will be protected.

For this purpose short-term solutions to diffuse conflicts and regulate behavioural norms at the Wilhelmsplatz have to be implemented.

In the long run it will be necessary for the town planning office to redesign the area combining high-quality ambience with safety in order to achieve a permanent improvement.

Networking amongst partners with varied responsibilities and skills creates a myriad of possibilities for intervention.

“Go Willi” comprises two main consecutively-structured phases.

Phase A complied with the requirements for an enduring change of the situation on the “hot spot” Wilhelmsplatz.

A framework for a successful cooperation between public and non-governmental services had to be developed including:

- Analysis of the situation at the Wilhelmsplatz from the perspective of the network partners and various concerned parties
- Establishment of a formal network with partners – police, local authorities, the town planning office, public and non-governmental youth welfare services
- Setup of regular and direct exchange of information amongst partners in order to synchronise daily activities
- Development of requirements of high-quality ambience and social controls, from a town planning and urban development perspective
- Support of project-work from communal policy, residents and concerned parties
- Acquisition of communal and complementary funding to enable continuous work with the target-group

The ongoing phase B started in April 2008.

All partners in the network agreed on a set of preventive measures which are being implemented by the relevant players.

Three components complement each other:

- Police presence and intervention, when ever necessary
- Control through local authorities in cooperation with youth welfare services (e.g. enforcement of youth protection laws)
- Social-pedagogic interventions of the non-governmental organisation, “Jugendhilfe Göttingen e.V.“, with a focus on young offenders on and around the Wilhelmsplatz

The concerted efforts of the partners with their varied responsibilities increase the efficiency of the measures and create synergies and lead to an economical use of resources.

The objective of the town planning office is to reduce factors which promote vandalism and insecurity. Goal is to design a non-commercial public space adapted to the needs of young people. The network promotes communication between the town planning office and all parties concerned.

Besides basic preventive goals, in respect of all youths at the Wilhelmsplatz, social-pedagogic intervention is especially directed at offenders and delinquents between the age of 12 and 21 years who have made themselves conspicuous:

- Through excessive alcohol consumption and drug abuse
- Through delinquent and culpable behaviour (above all criminal assault and vandalism)
- As ringleaders and agitators
- Through truancy and having no fixed abode

Tangible Objectives:

- Decline in violent conflicts amongst young people in the inner-city
- Decline in police intervention
- Decline in complaints and offences
- Observance of youth protection laws by surrounding businesses (e.g. alcohol- and tobacco sales)
- Multiple offenders and so-called ringleaders will be identified, isolated and monitored and integrated into suitable measures
- Educational measures will be coordinated with the juvenile court und the public prosecutor's office. Measures imposed by the juvenile court will be monitored
- Individual promotive measures will assist the integration of young people into local educational and vocational training schemes
- Selective measures help boost victims' self-confidence
- Expansion of inner-city drop-in centre – "Blechtrommel" - to become a "Clearingstelle" (mediation area) for victims, offenders, residents, etc.

5. How was the project implemented?

Central components of Phase A:

- Set-up and coordination of the network based on
 - „Innenstadtjugendkonferenz“ (inner-city-youth-conference) as a platform for exchange of information, consensus and coordination with the relevant players - police, municipality (local authorities, youth welfare, town planning office), youth welfare services, streetwork, drug-abuse assistance etc. The "Innenstadtjugendkonferenz" convenes every four weeks. Representation of all network partners is mandatory
 - Establishment of regular and direct pathways for the exchange of information.
 - Coordination of concrete strategies.
- Analysis of the situation based on
 - Evaluation of police criminal statistics about the frequency of complaints from a quantitative and qualitative aspect
 - On-the-spot observations, analysis and evaluation of assessments and experiences of network partners
 - Written statements from residents and business-owners
 - Interviews, supported by network guidelines, and group discussions with youths on-site, in youth centres and in schools.

- Presentation and evaluation of results and methods to political and official committees.
- Securing financing through communal and complementary funds for the continuity of work in phase B.

Central components of Phase B:

- Combined synchronised responses to daily occurrences through coordinated measures and instruments, which are either already in existence or in the process of being developed.
- Prevention of disputes regarding power and/or leader structures through close networking and greater transparency through combined work on particular „cases“.
- Low-threshold approach to making contact with individuals and groups through street work at the Wilhelmsplatz and in surrounding areas.
- Additional contact via visitations (including schools, youth centres, home visitations – where necessary).
- Analysis of individual backgrounds, in cooperation with the juveniles concerned, taking personal environment into consideration (peer groups, family, school, etc.)
- Personal supervision before, during and after imposed ambulatory or stationary measures (work directives and/or constraints, juvenile detention, etc.)
- Placement and monitoring of juveniles in educational and supervised trainings or internships (e.g. “Projekt Kontakt”; truancy – “The 2. Chance”; “Kompetenzagentur konTur” - model-project to improve the social and vocational integration of particularly disadvantaged young people, youth projects which enable youths to complete compulsory education, etc.).
- Victims of violence get the opportunity of maintaining (anonymous) contact to social workers, advice, mediation and support.
- Organisation of a “Clearingstelle“ in the “Blechtrommel”, with mediatory and advisory functions for offenders and victims.
- Interpretation of results from working with partners and in political committees.
- Integration of successful and effective components of the project-work in existing structures.

6. Were partners involved in planning and/or development and/or implementation of the project? If so, who were they, and what were their roles?

„Jugendhilfe Göttingen e.V.“, the local authorities and the police were involved from the outset of the project. Police criminal statistics showed a rapidly rising number of criminal offences, complaints and reports at and around the Wilhelmsplatz. This corresponded with information from the “Jugendhilfe Göttingen e.V.” through their work with socially-excluded groups and disadvantaged juveniles in the city centre.

An accumulation of knowledge about the rising problems at the “hot spot” Wilhelmsplatz was being gathered by different partners, none of whom had the appropriate resources and methods to solve these problems on their own. Cooperation and new methods were required. Each partner was involved in the development of the network and its subsequent projects.

Focus of partners:

- “Jugendhilfe Göttingen e.V.”:
Coordination of network structure and its function; analysis of the situation and presentation of results to the network and political committees; streetwork; social-pedagogic intervention; case-work; contribution of experience gained through work with disadvantaged and delinquent youths
- Police:
Presence and intervention in critical situations; cooperation in the “Innenstadtjugendkonferenz”; direct exchange of information with partners about latest developments
- City of Göttingen:
Local authorities and youth services through information and control, especially in relation to youth protection laws; youth services through implementation of requirements for alternative offers in the social areas; mutual planning of educational measures of the juvenile justice service; the town planning office through active cooperation in the network and interpretation of the requirements of design and safety of public spaces
- Präventionsrat Göttingen (prevention council):
Collaboration between “Go Willi” and justice system (public prosecutor, juvenile court)
- Zoom e.V.:
Supervisory and evaluative work in “Go Willi” links theoretically and practically based discussion with network partners. In phase A Zoom e.V. had an advisory role in the situation-analysis and project results. In the ongoing phase B, Zoom e.V. concentrates on impact-monitoring and outcome evaluation.

Close liaison amongst partners has created important synergies in the initial planning phase as well as during its implementation. A faster flow of information and coordination of interventions have lead to increased effectiveness and transparency avoiding duplication and/or contradictory measures. This transparency contributes to an economical budgeting of the limited resources within the network.

7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project?

The working process of each partner is being monitored, analysed and documented during regular network meetings (Innenstadtjugendkonferenz).

- Central questions discussed are:
 - Which solutions can be considered to be successful?
 - Which factors will optimise or hinder success?
 - Which factors will optimise or hinder the cooperation in the network?
- Statistics about the frequency of offences are documented and supplied by local authorities and police. Indicators of the success of the project are the decline in complaints and reports from residents, the decline in police intervention and subsequent inquiries, the decline in offences in and around the Wilhelmsplatz. Developments on other public spaces will be observed in order to see possible tendencies of relocation or displacement of the target group and associated problems.

- Representative case-studies are examined in view of the efficiency of the social pedagogic interventions. Criteria for success are avoidance of reoffending and changes in attitude and behaviour.
- The acceptance of measures is indicated by abiding agreements, attendance, utilization and recommendation to others
- Regular reports and discussions in (political) committees guarantee transparency to procedures and results for public access.

8. Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

Zoom e.V. monitors the project process and conducts the project evaluation. In phase A special attention was focused on the intermediate results (situational analysis, set up of network). In phase B the impact of interventions in general and of specific measures in particular is monitored, analysed and presented in the regular discussions of all network partners.

Exemplary cases from groups of young people at the public space "Willi" are analysed (differentiated by age, offences, background etc).

Evaluation of interviews about acceptance of measures in the view of all parties involved (target groups, residents and network partners) generates insights about the quality of interventions that contribute to crime prevention. Knowledge about both supportive and obstructive factors helps to optimise project work.

Regarding aspects of quantity statistics about filed reports, complaints etc. are continuously analysed in order to ascertain whether or not the project has made a positive impact.

In the final evaluation report all results of the project will be pooled, analysed and with respect to the transferability of the work revised. The report will be published at the beginning of 2010.

9. What were the results? How far were the objectives of the project achieved?

Results of Phase A:

- The "Innenstadtjugendkonferenz" as a platform for regular exchange and concurrence amongst partners of the network is established.
- Short-term and faster exchange of information amongst the partners takes place. Arrangements are adhered to.
- Funding for the continuation of the project has been allocated. The community budget made a unanimous decision to allocate funds to the project. Complementary funding has been allocated by the federal government of Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony).
- An analysis of the situation based on inquiries, interviews and observations has been compiled and placed at the disposal of the network partners to be used as a basis for further work.
- The town planning office is a partner in the "Go Willi" network. Requests, formulated by the network for designing and remodelling the Wilhelmsplatz, have been incorporated in the current outline for inner-city planning.
- Objectives for phase B have been developed and agreed upon by the network.

Although there are no final results available for phase B as of yet, there are however some tendencies worth mentioning.

- Police and municipal authorities agree that there has been evidence of a recent decline in offences and delinquency.
- Social workers have observed a growing willingness for communication in young people at the Wilhelmsplatz. The first ringleaders have been identified.
- Isolated measures, through networking, have been successful in facilitating placements in training courses (e.g. anti-aggression training, drug-counselling)
- The network functions: e.g. after a heavy drunken brawl with serious bodily harm of a 16 year old offender the police had to intervene on a Saturday night. Social workers were informed at once and the next meeting took place Monday morning at the youth welfare service. He had to start a social training preparation for re-integration into the regular school the following day. The youth court decided some weeks later to set the sentence on probation as long as he was following the measures. During all this time the NGO Jugendhilfe has been in charge of the supervising and counselling. This includes working with parents and peer group. Up to now the process has shown good results in social adjustment.
- Simultaneous social-pedagogic work could be implemented without any case of reoffending.
- Complaints from residents have lessened. However, there remains a palpable scepticism with regard to the implementation and impact of town planning.
- Controls carried out by kiosk owners have made an evident impact. Nevertheless, alcohol can be brought from home or bought in inner-city businesses till 10pm in some cases. For this reason all inner-city outlets are currently being reacquainted with the relevant youth protection laws.
- The correlation between the Wilhelmsplatz and other inner-city locations, as well as the presence of certain age groups, deserves close observation.

The intermediate conclusion made by the network is, that the Wilhelmsplatz is still a “hot spot” with a myriad of problems. However, there are encouraging signs of a step-by-step improvement.

10. Are there reports or documents available on the project? In print or on the Web? Please, give references to the most relevant ones.

A presentation of the project and the situation analysis can be found on the website, www.jugendhilfe-goettingen.de including a summary of the situation analysis and links to current reports from the local press.

Presentation and discussions in political bodies (city council and „Jugendhilfeausschuß“) are documented in the appropriate records.

A final project report will be published at the beginning of 2010.

Please, write here a one page description of the project:

“Public viewing“ during the Soccer World Cup in 2006 lead to a constant run on public spaces in Göttingen. The Wilhelmsplatz has advanced to become a central gathering space for young people in the inner-city. Most of these youths behave in a peaceful manner. Nevertheless, complaints to the police and municipal authorities of disturbance of the peace, vandalism and criminal assault are mounting. Excessive alcohol consumption and rivalry amongst individual groups of youths foster an aggressive atmosphere, leading to verbal and physical conflict and offences. Criminal acts and offences in this area have increased by about 50% within the course of a year. Offenders and victims alike are almost always juveniles, often under 14 years of age.

A de-escalation of the situation and the development of solutions to the basic problems are not only dependent upon the cooperation of all the social authorities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) but also on an active management of the public spaces.

“Go Willi” endeavours to overcome the limitations that bind each public institution by forming an alliance between public institutions and NGOs. This alliance is defined as “the network”: Police, youth welfare office, local authorities, town planning office, public prosecutor’s office, juvenile court, juvenile justice services, streetwork, drug-counselling service, “Projekt Kontakt” and the inner-city drop-in centre - “Blechtrommel” -.

This network pools resources, creating high synergy effects. New methods for case orientated, participatory work in juvenile crime prevention can be developed.

The basis for the development of crime-preventive strategies within the network was provided by an analysis of the location and situation. This had been carried out by the “Jugendhilfe Göttingen e.V.”.

The “Innenstadtjugendkonferenz” became a platform for the continuity of cooperation and networking. The Präventionsrat Göttingen has been included in the network.

Network partners have agreed on three interwoven components for short-term intervention:

- Police presence (particularly on weekends) and intervention, when ever necessary
- Control through local authorities in cooperation with youth welfare services (e.g. enforcement of youth protection laws).
- Social pedagogic work , focusing on (re-) offenders

Middle- and long-term changes at the Wilhelmsplatz have been developed with the town planning office in order to implement structural alterations which will support high-quality ambience and enhance safety.

“Go Willi” moved into its second phase in April 2008 after approval of funding. Meanwhile (2012) “Go Willi” is implemented and fixed in Göttingens local crime prevention structures. “Go Willi” is still working at public spaces at the whole inner city parts of Göttingen.

Under the guidance of streetwork and youth welfare services, behavioural norms for young offenders and victims are being developed and worked on, whilst taking individual backgrounds into consideration. Multiple offenders and ringleaders are a focal point of the project-work.

Zoom e.V. carries out an external evaluation of procedures and results. The final project report was published in 2010.