



## ECPA/BPC 2008

### Please answer the following questions in English.

/ Prosím odpovedzte v angličtine na nasledujúce otázky. /

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.) / Ide o projekt navrhnutý na ocenenie, alebo o dodatočný projekt?/

This is the ECPA entry.

2. What is the title of the project?

TOGETHER FOR SAFER LIVING

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

The project "TOGETHER FOR SAFER LIVING" is fusion of situation and social prevention and it is built upon the results and experiences obtained during long term project "SAFE LIVING RYS". The interesting and innovative approaches to crime prevention implemented in the initial project created preconditions for its further development on technical and organizational level. The main objective of the project remains the same - to protect safety and well-being of the housing estates' residents and to implement prevention measures for assuring sustainable safe living environment for all citizens. The supplement to the initial project is the implementation of new technologies, especially surveillance systems; improvement of already existing organizational measures and wider public involvement into crime prevention in residential areas; creating new partnerships and new activities contributing to the improvement of living in large anonymous residential areas.

The essential activities of the project that go back to 2001 included mostly elements of situation prevention. With the combination of technical and organizational measures, we tried to eliminate criminal acts spread in multi-apartment buildings, mostly property crimes such as theft and vandalism, breaking and entering, presence of homeless on the premises and other crimes, e.g. domestic violence, physical and verbal assaults and drug trafficking. The pilot implementations were carried in city district Bratislava – Petržalka, the largest compact residential area in Europe with high density of inhabitants and country's highest rate of resident fluctuation and considerable anonymity. These facts eventually caused high rate of criminal acts and misdemeanours committed in multi-apartment buildings and its close neighbourhood.

The project is based on the three main pillars – preventive technical solutions (the technical factor), the management support (the organisation factor) and general public understanding (the human factor). With respect to the history and urban solutions of housing estates built in 70s and 80s of the past century that generally provided insufficient security of residents and insufficient support to maintain decent living conditions, the first improvements had to be done on a technical level. The variable system of property protection has been profiled and built providing suitable solutions

for gate – to – apartment communication, barrier systems preventing unauthorised entries based on the zone security, residents' access identification and surveillance systems.

“TOGETHER FOR SAFER LIVING” is focused on improving the first pillar by implementation of new surveillance technologies and extending the project activities in the second and third pillars. At the beginning of the project, the use of camera monitoring systems in the apartment buildings was not standard due to the high costs of the system components, its complicated operation, data collection, storage and processing and also due to many unanswered questions about the relevant legislation. The situation has change with arrival of new digital monitoring and data storage equipment and these systems became affordable also by the apartment buildings. The legitimate place of surveillance systems in apartment building was first proved in larger measures within the “DROGSOUT” project focused on crime prevention in one particular apartment building with long criminal and drug history, situated in municipality Bratislava-Vrakuna. In 2008 with participation of Municipal government of Bratislava city, another complex project was implemented in apartment building with similar problems on Kopcianska street, in Bratislava-Petrzalka. The number of apartment buildings already involved in the project added the surveillance systems into the technical solution of building protection. The surveillance systems are mostly used to protect commonly shared areas accessible also to public – entrance halls, stairways, areas in front of the building and other external parts of the building such as car parks, garages or even waste collection points. It is compatible with other selected equipment and complies with requirements for connection to the remote management system. Based on the experience, the camera monitoring systems have positive preventive impact, but they often fail in practise due to very simple fact, which is the perpetrator hiding the face from the camera. This makes more difficult and in some cases totally disables to identify the person. That's why we try to promote the camera monitoring in the apartment buildings as supportive and not base system for building protection and its installation is recommended only together with other technical and organisational measures.

The implementation of “SAFE LIVING RYS” and “DROGSOUT” confirmed that the security inside the apartment building has the direct impact on the whole building neighbourhood safety and without the public involvement it is not possible to move the basic objectives of the project further. Our experiences have shown that the safety in public spaces within the housing estates and residential areas is directly proportional to the wiliness of residents to actively contribute to solutions of the problems, which emerge every day inside the community. Most difficult task was the motivation and activation of residents, overcoming their uncertainty and fear, as well as overcoming the bad name of selected apartment buildings or locations in public eyes. The success of our technical solutions of apartment building security helped us to establish a fruitful co-operation with the residents of apartment buildings. They expressed their interest in communication with local authorities, local police departments and other specialist able to provide necessary assistance and support in order to accomplish the project objectives and its further progress. We became an initiator of several unique private public partnerships and co-operation with citizens. The co-operation of police and citizens is considered to be very successful activity and it includes: free access of the police officers into the secured buildings; signposting of these buildings with a special registered sticker; regular meetings for building managements and local police force; the presence of the police officers at the tenants meetings in order to discuss the security situation; creating a web site Lost and Founds of Identifiers, which is used as an assistance service to residents as well as the

assistance to criminal investigation. Another important part of the scheme is the co-operation with Fire department, at the moment formed at the consulting level. The co-operation has been established with Slovak Post in regards to mail deliveries into secured apartment building. Very significant is the direct work with people responsible for building management. The project includes free building management trainings so they are able to use the technical tools to secure the premises and to support the legitimate way to suppress the negative influence of rent dodgers, black tenants and inadaptible individuals on the life in apartment building and community. In this context we prepare and distribute various information materials and we put the accent on popularizing the project activities in media with the nationwide coverage. One of the project objectives is to inform the architects and urbanists about the necessity to built community rooms inside the multi-apartment buildings. These rooms have a significant purpose for residents, it is a place where they can meet and discuss the issues relevant to housing, security and building management. Together with experts, we compiled the methodical instructions for technical equipment operation in the apartment buildings and also an amendments of national laws related to apartment building ownership has been prepared. The most recent activity was carried out with a support of Secretariat of the State Council on Crime Prevention of SR and the result is a formation of "Expert team for prevention and safe living". The main goal of the Expert team is to prepare new preventive measures and putt them into practice. Another project objective is to use all experience obtained in 'DROGSOUT' scheme and help the apartment buildings with drugs distribution problems throughout Slovakia. This is carried out in co-operation with sections of Ministry of Interior and Government of Slovak republic which coordinate the anti-drug activities. Last but not least activity focuses on less standard parts of community such as waste collection points and its protection against vandalizing. The results of all mentioned activities is not only statistically proved decrease of crime rate in locations where the project was implemented but also increasing number of apartment buildings taking part in the project, improvement of social and culture character of the apartment building and its neighbourhood, improvement of residents' legal awareness and trust in Police Force and increasing the general interest of resident in project activities. The success is sustained by spreading the project into other city districts of Bratislava, other Slovak towns as well as interest shown by other countries.

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

The project is focused on crime prevention and security problem-solving in multi-apartment buildings and its neighbourhood by means of technical and organisational measures and creating public private partnership. The project has these main objectives:

1. Suppress the anonymity and increase the sense of security and safety among the residents of housing estates;
2. Eliminate the crime acts and vandalism using the surveillance systems in connection with other technical elements of the project;
3. Create community rooms within the apartment buildings;
4. Improvement of social and cultural character of apartment buildings and their neighbourhood, what is significantly affecting the behaviour of children and young people;
5. Improvement of the dissemination of information relevant to crime prevention among the residents of housing estates through various means of promoting activities;

6. Exchange of information relevant to crime prevention among owners committees and building managements from different apartment buildings or even different cities during special meeting and workshops;
7. Creating of a fruitful co-operation between citizens and Police Force, including
  - the registered access of Police Force into the secured apartment building with a possibility to control the time and date of their entries by owners committees or building managers,
  - signposting the apartment building with a special registered sticker,
  - annual meetings of police representatives with citizens,
  - presence of local police officers at the tenants meetings,
  - assistance to crime investigation.
8. Improvement of the dissemination of information relevant to fire prevention in apartment buildings;
9. Providing professional and legal help to citizens, implementation of new preventive measures into practice and upholding legislative changes through the Expert team;
10. Aim the attention to apartment buildings with drug related problems.

#### 5. How was the project implemented?

The main initiator and author of the project is

1. RYS, the author of the project, RYS is a private trading company , within the project RYS supervises technical implementation, organises free trainings, meetings, provides free consultations, runs an informative web site on project activities, prepares promotion campaigns, publishes articles on project activities and co-ordinates the co-operation of all involved participants (e.g. residents, police force...)

The project is implemented in co-operation with these partners:

2. Residents of the apartment buildings and owners committees
3. Presidium of the Police Force
4. Local Police Directorates
5. Fire departments
6. Personal data protection Office
7. Secretariat of the State Council on Crime Prevention
8. General Secretariat of the Board of Ministers for Drug Addiction and Drug Control
9. Slovak Post
10. Representatives of local municipalities and private companies involved in apartment building management.

#### **Implementation of technical solutions**

The basic part of the project lies on the installation of technical equipment according to the specifications based on the primary evaluations of each participating building. The technical components were used to protect main entrances, gates, hallways, stairways, elevators and other commonly shared areas. The positive improvement of the situation was noticeable only few months after installation of technical components and introduction of new management methods and security measures. In less problematic apartment buildings, the inadaptable tenants and drug dealers have willingly moved out, the number of committed crimes like burglaries, physical attacks or arson significantly dropped and further revitalization of the whole apartment building could proceed.

Fulfilling the objectives of the first pillar – successful implementation of the situation prevention into practice, we tried to involve and motivate the residents and general public into further project activities. Each building which managed to fulfil the conditions of technical part on a sufficient level was invited to participate in second and third pillar activities. The preparation of the most effective technical solution for securing the main entrances and commonly shared areas of the particular building is carried out under supervision of our company RYS. The installations are done by the installers contracted by the apartments' owners. The contracted installers as well as the members of the owners committees are appropriately trained.

### **New management support and effective use of technical components**

One of the important part of the project is to teach building managers and members of the owners committees how to efficiently use the installed technical equipment and guarantee sustainability of newly created conditions. By means of trainings and workshops they are informed how to evaluate and analyze information collected from communication, access control, barrier and surveillance systems. This process helps to prevent varies criminal acts and vandalism committed in commonly shared areas of building accessible to public and the close neighbourhood – access paths or pavements, car parks, waste collection points etc. to them to be able to use the technical tools to secure the premises and to support the legitimate way to suppress the negative influence of rent dodgers, black tenants and inadaptable individuals.

Good building management, regular communication with residents via information boards, tenants meetings or information leaflets have direct very significant impact on decrease of crime rate and anonymity in residential areas.

The problem that still remains in many buildings is no suitable place for tenants meetings and appropriate dissemination of information. One of the priorities is to create community rooms within the apartment building. The former laundry rooms or storage rooms are used as community room. Unfortunately, in many buildings there's no such a room which could be used for this purpose. And for that reason we started to communicate with architects, urbanists and municipality representatives so they include this idea into future housing developments.

### **Insolvent of the residents into improving the cultural character of their neighbourhood**

The cultural character of our home and neighbourhood influences our behaviour and so we motivate people to get involved in activities helping to improve the cultural character of their apartment building. We have initiated and participated on several clean-ups during which the close area outside the apartment building as well as the interior of commonly shared areas was cleaned from the litter, disinfected where it was necessary, walls newly painted, vandalised parts and broken widows and door replaced. Clean and pleasant environment together with situation crime prevention activities has positive affect on small children and young people.

We have strengthened this idea in June 2008, when we organised Children's Day in on of the most critical apartment buildings in Slovakia with large number of families in social need. This building has a reputation of junkies' and drug dealers' nest nevertheless also children live here and they deserve our attention and love. They have to be shown the nicer and more positive side of life and the children's smile was the nicest award for our work....

### **Promotion of the project and dissemination of the information**

The direct contact and work with people is also another way how to change public opinion about “disreputable” buildings and to help the whole community and municipality to change its character and successfully fight the crimes. Dissemination of positive examples arouses the interest of the residents in life outside their apartments and supports their solidarity and will to actively participate in problem-solving. We put a lot of effort into promoting the project activities by means of local and national print and electronic media. In 2008, we have started to issue and information bulletin with newest information on technical and management tools and through enclosed questionnaires we try to communication with larger group of owners committees. Naturally we provide daily hot line support and all information is available on web site devoted to the project.

### **Co-operation with Police Force**

The new conditions in the apartment buildings enabled to establish better co-operation between residents and local police department. This co-operation is in action since 2004 and it incorporates various methods of crime preventing actions with direct involvement of all project participants in fighting the crime and increasing citizen’s legal awareness of their rights and responsibilities concerning the crime prevention.

#### **1. Apartment building under closer police watch**

This activity lies upon authorised and monitored access of the local police officer to the secured commonly shared areas of the apartment buildings to perform the preventive property check and other duties if necessary, e.g. in cases of domestic violence or even in cases of delivering subpoenas. The residents agree with this form of co-operation voluntarily, approving its rules by majority vote. It is also their declaration of willingness to help the police in their work. Each apartment building that decides to allow the access for the police officers is labelled with a special registered sticker “This building is under closer police watch”. The label also has deterrent effect on vandals and criminals.

#### **2. Regular meetings "Citizens and Police"**

The meetings are held at a district police department. Members of apartment owner committees are invited to discuss “hot” issues with the police officials. The District Police Chief and his deputies are present on each of the meetings and that gives the meetings a greater meaning and helps to solve many of raised problems.

#### **3. Police presence at the tenants meetings**

Few times a year the apartment owners committee organises the meeting of owners and tenants. Another form of co-operation with Police Force is the presence of a local policeman (patrolman or the officer from the crime prevention dept.) at these meetings. People find it necessary to know the police officer who is responsible for their area. His presence at the tenants meeting gives them the opportunity to discuss the individual problems.

#### **4. Assistance to criminal investigations**

The characteristics of access control system with the unique identifiers that are used in the project’s technical solutions can have supportive character in criminal investigations e.g. in victim or offender identification. Thanks to the central evidence of identifier, which was created and is run by us, properly managed user registers and the good co-operation of systems management companies, building managements, owner committees and local police departments we helped and assisted in several cases for criminal investigation by providing prompt information.

### **Co-operation with fire department**

Crime prevention is closely associated with fire prevention. In 2007, we focused on the implementation of the basic principles of fire prevention in most of the participating multi-apartment buildings. We have adjusted the technical solution and organisational measures in accordance to the Fire department recommendations. Still, one problem remains unsolved - the harmonisation between legislations concerning crime and fire prevention.

### **Expert team for prevention and safe living**

The most recent activity within the project is co-operation with Secretariat of the State Council on Crime Prevention, which helped us to establish the Expert team for prevention and safe living. The main goal of the Expert team is to focus on recognizing the causes and propose the appropriate crime prevention measures for apartment building and its closest neighbourhood, uphold the reasonable changes in legislation and its harmonisation, eg. national law - Act.no.182/1993 of the Status book on the multiple ownership of apartments and commonly shared areas in the building, legislation concerning personal data protection, fire protection, misdemeanors etc. The Expert team consists of professionals in legal and social help, crime prevention, representatives of local municipalities and others who have an affect on implementation of project objectives and can help in putting new crime prevention measure into practice.

### **Problem with distribution of drugs in apartment buildings**

Higher attention is paid to the apartment buildings that have long term problems and negative consequences of drug trafficking. The full extent of the project DrugsOut, was realized in another apartment building in city district Bratislava – Petržalka, on Kopcianska street. Based on the experiences from both implementations we are trying the open wider discussion about drug problems in residential areas and inside the apartment buildings. Up until now, we were invited into several radio programmes focused on this problem, we have established professional communication with General Secretariat of the Board of Ministers for Drug Addiction and Drug Control and the National Anti-drug Squad and at this time we are preparing a workshop for members of the owners committees from the concerned apartment buildings under the patronage of the Office of Bratislava Self-Governing Region.

### **Project funding**

The whole project is funded from private sources,  
- the installation of technical components is funded by the residents  
- all other project activities are funded by RYS company

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?

**The RYS company** as the author of the project and specialist for technical solutions and development in multi-apartment building security co-operates on the project with a number of partners:

- **The Presidium of the Police Force of the Slovak republic and the Local Police Directorates of the Police Force.** Their role in the project is to participate in organizing the meetings of citizens and Police Force

representatives, provide crime statistics in targeted locations, provide police officers to be present at the tenants meetings;

- **The Office for Personal Data Protection of Slovak Republic.** The features and characters of the technical components, software and data processing have been consulted with The Office for Personal Data Protection. Relevant recommendations for residents of the apartment buildings and other persons involved in data processing were compiled in co-operation with the office;
- **City Department of Fire Prevention** provides consultations in regards to the fire safety regulations in multi-apartment building;
- **Secretariat of the State Council on Crime Prevention** – set up the Expert team for prevention and safe living;
- **General Secretariat of the Board of Ministers for Drug Addiction and Drug Control** and **National Untidrug Squad** provide professional consultations in process of preparation and coordination of anti-drug activities inside the apartment buildings and residential areas;
- **Slovak Post.** One of the conditions for project dissemination was acceptance by Slovak Post. The mail delivery is regulated by the law and we had to prepare the organisation measures to enable easy access of postmen to the premises where the post boxes are installed. The representatives of Slovak Post also help to improve the project outcomes by professional inputs and suggestions.

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

The methods and approaches within the project's framework are planned and structured to enable the measurable outcomes and outputs:

### 1. Primary indicator

- number of apartment buildings participating on the project
- number of apartment buildings co-operating with police force
- number of institutions and organizations interested in participation on the project
- number of contracted installer companies

All mentioned indicators have progressive development.

### 2. Secondary indicators:

- a) Reporting and analyzing an actual situation (before, during and after project implementation) through questionnaires addressed to the residents of the apartment buildings. The questions are pointed at the following issues:
  - evaluation of repair costs for damages on the apartment building caused by vandalism and other crimes,
  - evaluation of market value of a single apartment in selected building,
  - evaluation of the cultural character and safety conditions in the apartment buildings;
- b) Monitoring and analyzing of safety endangering situations in the apartment buildings via technical equipment (e.g. number of forced entries, unclosed door – what equals to direct safety threat etc.);
- c) Analysis of authorised persons registers such as residents, police forces, services providing institutions etc.) using installed technical equipment and identification of individuals causing financial losses for apartment buildings

- such as vandals, back tenants, inadaptable individuals, etc.;
- d) Mapping of crime within the selected areas (official police statistics)
  - e) Analyzing the actual entries to the apartment buildings by police force through technical equipment
  - f) Survey on the reputation of the selected apartment building among the residents of the neighbouring apartment buildings
  - g) Survey on a reputation, security and equipment damages in the selected apartment buildings among the service provided organisations such as the Slovak Post, building management, energies supplying companies etc.

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

The project has not been evaluated scientifically. The project activities have a significant effect on the social and cultural character of the location where it is implemented what considerably decreases the further appearance of crimes. The supportive opinion on the project was expressed by all participating parties publicly on several occasions (e.g. radio or TV programs). The positive evaluation of the particular project activities has been received from the Police Directorate of Bratislava – Petržalka and also from the Office of Bratislava Self-Governing Region.

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

**1. Increasing the safety of residents in the apartment buildings along, decreasing the anonymity in the apartment building, creating community rooms and improving the social and cultural character of commonly shared areas.**

Securing the entrances and commonly shared areas of the apartment building was the first and most important precondition for implementation of other parts of the project. Trainings and workshops organised for building managers and owners committees enabled new management methods to be put in practice. Daily supervision and evaluation of situation in the apartment building reduces the movement of unauthorised persons what has an immediate impact on the reduction of property vandalism and criminal acts like physical attacks, mugging or raping committed e.g. in elevators or stairways and also crimes like burglaries and breaking and entering. We have prepared methodical instructions for correct operation and data processing in co-operation with the Office for personal data protection. The technical equipment helps to detect black tenants and the analyses based on the technical equipment outputs are used to legally fight the rent dodgers in order to reduce the financial losses of the apartment building. Residents are becoming more interested in life outside their apartment and they are willing to invest more into revitalisation of commonly shared areas including repair works, cleaning, decorating etc. The attendance on tenants meetings also improved what results in easier decision making in regards to building management. The general social atmosphere in the apartment building changes for the better.

The actual situation differs from building to building based on the number of project elements implemented in the particular apartment building, the technical level of implementation and the sustainability of residents' involvement in the process of project implementation. There are also many other factors that affect the final result (e.g. number of apartments in the building, number of tenants, finances available from the owners fund, etc).

## **2. Reducing the level of crime in the neighbourhood.**

Generally, the safety situation in the housing estates with implemented project has significantly improved, the level of crime rate has dropped, there are numerous reports of “cleaning” the apartment buildings from drug dealers, homeless and inadapted individuals who could not or did not want to cope with newly established order in the apartment buildings.

## **3. Creating effective co-operation between citizens and law enforcement agencies and self-governing authorities.**

The real co-operation and mutual understanding between the residents and the local police department has been established and it is focused on practical use of all parts of the project. The communication between the police officers and citizens has become more effective, the residents are not so much afraid to come forward if any problem appears and they have a higher sense of trust towards the police force. A good example of improved image of police force in the eyes of general public is the number of apartment buildings that willingly agreed to the various forms of co-operation with the local police department which the project brings. A good co-operation links has been created connecting RYS as a technical supervisor with owner committees, building managers, installers and local police department. This connection and a good systems management allows to use the technical components installed in the apartment buildings for assistance and provision of evidence in criminal investigations.

## **4. Improving residents’ knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in the process of crime prevention.**

During the project implementation the residents of the housing estates realised that the fighting the crime is not only a duty of Police Force but they themselves can do a lot to prevent the crimes to be committed, especially when the crimes are committed on the private owned premises. Also their awareness regarding fire protection has improved. Through the various information campaigns the residents also become more aware of legal status concerning the multiple ownership of apartments and commonly shared areas in the building. Together with law experts, an amendment of national law - Act.no.182/1993 of the Status book on the multiple ownership of apartments and commonly shared areas in the building has been prepared, this is being evaluated and annotated by experts’ community and general public at the moment and then it’ll be passed further to the Parliament discussions.

## **5. Expert team for prevention and safer living**

The Secretariat of the State Council on Crime Prevention of SR has established the “Expert team for prevention and safe living”. The main goal of the Expert team is provide professional help in upholding new preventing measures, security and law enforcing solutions. The members of Expert team are people with expert skills, experiences, general knowledge and ambitions to contribute to the project objectives.

## **6. Prevent distribution of drugs in the apartment buildings**

Successful project implementation in another apartment building with mostly drug related problems and criminal activities in city district Bratislava – Petržalka. Co-operation with Municipality government of Bratislava City on the technical and organisational solution in this particular building. Through out the media, we have opened public discussion on problems with drug distribution in apartment buildings and residential areas with support from National Antidrug Squad, Secretariat of the State Council on Crime Prevention and General Secretariat of the Board of Ministers

for Drug Addiction and Drug Control.

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

There is a special web site about all project activities, its objectives and outcomes available: [www.bezpecnebyvanie.sk](http://www.bezpecnebyvanie.sk)

- official reports from the citizens & police meetings
  - official reports from meeting with project partners
  - articles published in newspapers and magazines,
  - tv reports of national and commercial TV stations
- (all above mentioned are also published on the web site)

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

**Problem**

RYS, the private trading company initiated a project “TOGETHER FOR SAFER LIVING” based on the public private partnership with main focus on fighting the urban crime in large housing estate and prefab apartment buildings (burglaries, physical attacks and robberies, drug related crimes, vandalism, rent dodging, etc.). The project uses forms of situation and social prevention with accent put on the implementation of new technologies including surveillance systems as a part of the technical security of apartment buildings. The project is originally located in Municipality Petržalka, one of the large compact residential area in Europe and a largest district of Slovak capital Bratislava.

**Implementation**

The project is built upon the use of communication, access, barrier and surveillance systems in order to eliminate the vandalism and crimes. The technical solutions are supported by new organisational measures with direct involvements of residents of apartment building and housing estates and the persons responsible for building management. Within the project, the trainings, workshops and meetings with public are held, methodical instructions were prepared as well as a number of informative brochures and the project is promoted in electronic and print media. The project includes: ▪ new technical and organisational crime preventing measures, new methods of building management and safety policies for multi-apartment buildings in order to eliminate unauthorised entries, to keep the potential offender as far from the residents’ apartments as possible and to reduce the anonymity and to increase the safety of residents; ▪ activities directed towards creating more cultural and socially acceptable environment inside the apartment building and its close neighbourhood; ▪ effective co-operation of citizens with Police Force, signposting the buildings with registered sticker that has informative and preventive character; ▪ establishing the advisory body – “Expert team for prevention and safe living“; ▪ improvement of fire protection facilities in apartment buildings; ▪ increase of public knowledge regarding the drug related crimes committed in inside the apartment building and residential areas. The

whole project was entirely funding from private sources - the apartment owners and tenants and RYS company.

### **Results**

At the present time 749 apartment buildings have taken part in the project in two Bratislava districts and the project spread to other Slovak cities as well. The crime rate level has been minimized inside the apartment buildings and reduced by 40% in their close neighbourhood. We were able to join the state and the citizen objectives naturally and in a mutually acceptable way, this involves the professional co-operation with entities affecting the life in the housing estate: Police Force, Fire Departments, Secretariat of the State Council on Crime Prevention, The Office for Personal Data Protection of Slovak Republic, state authorities coordinating the anti-drug activities, The Slovak Post and e.g. also company providing disposal of domestic waste. 441 secured apartment buildings has agreed on a co-operation with local police department, regular meetings with citizens and above mentioned authorities are organized to exchange the information and experiences. The citizens are involved directly and actively into preventive actions, they assist in criminal investigations and are motivated to change the cultural character of the apartment buildings and behaviour of people in the neighbourhood. Special web site informing residents about the recent activities has been establish, the owners committees of participating apartment buildings are contacted as necessary, and few times a year we publish articles in periodicals specialized in housing and crime prevention.