



European Crime Prevention Award and EUCPN Best Practices Annual Conference 2009 Project Entry Form

The theme for this year's European Crime Prevention Award and EUCPN's Best Practices Annual Conference is **"Preventing crime and victimisation among children and young people. Current and future challenges – school, cyberspace and recruitment to criminal groups"**.

The following are some areas that the projects may focus on:

- Crimes committed by and against young people in cyberspace. Online crime and how to prevent it.
- School as an arena for immediate and long-term prevention.
- Recruitment to criminal groups. How to turn young people away from a life of crime.

The list is not exhaustive. The projects may address any question relevant to this year's theme.

Please complete the attached form (the boxes are expandable). Note that the last point is for a one-page description of your project.

As we intend to compile a visual presentation of the entries, we kindly ask you to provide material for this (videos, photos, leaflets, etc)

Entries should be in English, but may be accompanied by a version of the entry in the national language if wished. Each country may enter one project as its ECPA entry and up to two other projects to be presented at the conference. Projects should be submitted only through the National Representatives. The full ECPA rules may be found at www.eucpn.org

Deadline for entries is **October 1st 2009**.

Send your entry or entries to: bpc.ecpa2009@bra.se

If you have any questions, please contact Lina Nilsson at lina.nilsson@bra.se



ECPA/BPC 2009

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.)

This project is the Belgian ECPA entry.

2. What is the title of the project?

"Harassment and violence 2008, prevention service of the city of Leuven" ("Pesten en geweld 2008, preventiedienst Leuven")

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

The project violence in a school environment consists different parts, in which is opted for the diverse local target groups and prevention levels.

With these, we use different methodologies:

1. Sensitization of the public: the website and the campaign "Slatoe.be" ("Strike.be")
The aim of this site and accompanying gadget and poster campaign is to offer the 11.500 youngsters of the secondary schools in Leuven useful online information and tools about what they can do in case of harassment and violence. The trendy website pays attention to: what is harassment, what can youngsters do about it, who can help them, what is the difference between teasing and harassment, how to use the public transportation safely, the underlying message is that violence and harassment cannot be tolerated. There is also the possibility for youngsters to ask questions by means of an e-form or to point out problems through the website. Besides this, there is a 'news section' that is frequently updated, this way youngsters constantly get new information on the subject of harassment and violence. Also the possibility to download msn buddies, wallpapers, is available.

2. Organization of workshops "Without striking a blow ("Zonder slag of stoot") for teachers

With the two workshops "Without striking a blow" the prevention service wants to help the schools in Leuven with the way to deal with and to prevent inconvenience, harassment and violence. The workshops offer education, training and information on the subject of a good approach of difficulties in a school context. Teachers and schools are important intermediaries when dealing with violence and harassment. They ask thus for support to develop a positive and safe class and school climate. There is a workshop for teachers, principals and employees of the Centres for Student Coaching of the primary education and a workshop for professionals of the secondary education.

On March 4th and 11th, the workshops started with an explanation by Gie Deboutte (Catholic University of Leuven and Centre for Experimental Education). He presented the theory of solidarity. This model shows that good communication, the reinforcement of social skills and the development of a good school climate are important when growing towards a preventive harassment policy.

3. Participation in the "Integrated Approach of Inconvenience by Youngsters" ("Geïntegreerde Aanpak van Jongerenoverlast") consultation: local consultation, created and co-ordinated by the Youth and Social Service of the local police of Leuven, with representatives of the schools in Leuven, public transport, security services.

The aim of the consultation is to have a sounding board for the goings-on in the schools, on the public transport, the place of (possible) problem situations, the needs on the subject of prevention; The partners also look for integral solutions. It is an added value that each party concerned, speaks from its own point of view. The partners meet on a quarterly basis.

4. Sensitization of the pupils of the primary schools

For this fourth component of the project "Harassment and violence 2008", the prevention service co-ordinates and organizes theatrical performances for children of the primary education. We stimulate the teachers and schools to discuss these performances afterwards with the children. The theatrical performances are "Straff!" and "Goed Gevoel Machine" (by "School Zonder Pesten" and "Mr. Steven Goegebuer").

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

The general goal is: preventing, revealing and reducing violence and harassment in school environments in Leuven and on the public transport to and from school.

Sub goal 1: the website "Slatoe.be" ("Strike.be") informs minors on violence and harassment, on reporting centres and on assistance. The site also provides behaviour alternatives, e.g. on "safely on the public transport".

Sub goal 2: offering education, information and training to teachers, employees of the Centre for Student Coaching and school principals.

Sub goal 3: by networking with relevant partners one can respond fast and adequately to possible problems. They can also give their point of view concerning prevention work with regard to youngsters.

Sub goal 4: We organize an educational offer for young pupils (primary education).

5. How was the project implemented?

The development of the project is largely linked with the start of the current strategic safety and prevention plan. This plan is an agreement between the city of Leuven (executor) and the Federal Public Service of Interior Affairs, in which the city engages to work on a number of crime phenomena, amongst which "Violence in a school environment". The FPS Interior Affairs offers financial support for the execution of this plan. In 2007 a number of elements of the project were started and in 2008 there was the highlight of the project, amongst other things such as launching the website "Slatoe.be" ("Strike.be"). For 2009 and 2010, too, new actions within the project are scheduled. There will be, amongst other things, empowerment training for youngsters and a thorough update of the website, accompanied by a new promotion campaign.

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?

Youth and Social Service of the locale police of Leuven, service of community guardians Leuven, public transport (De Lijn Vlaams-Brabant), security service (Securail), Youth Advise Centre of Leuven, railway police, the different schools and school systems in Leuven, the Centre for Student Coaching of Leuven, the Flemish government department education, Youth Service of the city of Leuven and centre for education (Syntra-AB Vlaams-Brabant). These partners provided support in the field of both content and logistics, for instance suggestions for the content of the website or participation in the announcement campaign. Some partners (an organisation of public transport (De Lijn) and the Youth Service of the city of Leuven) also contributed financially.

7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project? Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

The effectiveness and the reach of the project are being measured by means of a number of indicators:

- number of unique website visitors
- number of website visits
- number of participants in workshops
- satisfaction of the participants in the workshops
- number of children present at the theatrical performances

Within the prevention service, the internal evaluator is in charge of the evaluation of the projects, amongst which the project "Harassment and violence".

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

The website "slatoe.be" ("Strike.be") got 2270 unique visitors in the three months following the launch, which equals 3537 visits. 9823 pages have been viewed and the website counted 157 523 hits. These figures are to be added up to the unique visitors from January through May 2009: 2025 unique visitors, 2971 visits, 6721 pages viewed and 87.840 hits. Until August 2009 we reached then for the time being 5334 unique visitors with the website, equalling 8234 visits. This is a good result for a local website. The number of visitors is being measured on a monthly basis, by means of an independent visitor counter. A target that was not made explicit was to get 5000 visitors during one school year, which we managed.

Concerning the workshops: in total 136 teachers, principals and employees of the Centre for Student Coaching attended the workshops (73 on 11th March, 63 on 4th March). The main results of our satisfaction survey:

On 4/03 the organized workshops got the following assessments:

- Solidarity: 21x very good, 19x good, 3x moderate, 0x not good
- Drawing lines: 14x very good, 4x good, 3x moderate, 2x not good
- Child abuse: 9x very good (other categories 0x)
- Dealing with aggression: 16 x very good, 3x good, 0x moderate, 0x not good

Global score: 8, 5/10

- 20 respondents can use some elements in their professional lives
- 25 respondents can use many elements of the workshop in their professional lives

On 11/03 the organized workshops got the following assessments:

- Solidarity: 30 of the 45 respondents thought the workshop was good or very good
- Computer harassment: 12 people (out of 15) thought the workshop was good or very good
- Youth culture: was considered to be rather moderate (1x not good, 7x moderate, 5x good, 3x very good)
- Dealing with (verbal aggression): 2x moderate, 6x good, 11x very good

Global score of the participants: 7, 6/10

- 44 out of the 49 respondents said they can use some or many elements in their professional activities.

Besides this, we counted the number of attendants (73 and 63).

Not everybody filled in the evaluation form.

The "Integrates Approach of Inconvenience of Youngsters" consultation produced several concrete results. So arose a good and workable consultation, spurred by the contact point for the schools, on the subject of integral safety concerning youngsters. New initiatives pop up regularly from the working group: for instance that a new action on the subject of computer harassment is needed.

The theatrical performances of "Straff!" have been attended by 673 pupils of 15 different schools and the performances of "Goed Gevoel Machine" by 1192 children.

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

On the websites:

www.slatoe.be

www.leuven.be/preventie

http://195.95.2.80/5388/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=580:140909-wwwwslatoebe-tegen-pestereien-en-geweld&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=18

www.besafe.be/newsletter/prevue/2009/09/special.html

Written sources:

Annual report prevention service 2008

Assessment report 2008-2009

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

The project "Harassment and violence (2008)" of the prevention service of Leuven aims at an integral, preventive approach of harassment and violence in the school community of Leuven, both for the primary and secondary schools.

The project consists of four components, with different methodologies and different target groups.

The first component is the website "Slatoe.be" ("Strike.be"), created for youngsters of the secondary schools in Leuven. The website provides information on harassment and violence. One can find for instance data on computer harassment, and the difference with teasing and discrimination.

Besides this, the website offers a news page and there are plenty of links to good information sources and assistance bodies. The website was designed by a student webdesign as part of a website. The winning design refers strongly to the local context of Leuven. The website was launched with an extensive poster and gadget campaign. So, all 15000 pupils of Leuven received an original pen and over 400 posters were distributed.

Secondly, there are workshops "Without striking a blow" for teachers of the primary and secondary education. These workshops provide information on a safe school and class climate. Themes in 2008 were: child abuse, dealing with aggression, drawing lines, computer harassment and youth culture. There were 73 and 63 participants.

The third component is the consultation group "Integrated Approach of Inconvenience by Youngsters", with relevant partners in Leuven (police, prevention, assistance, public transport). General and concrete problem situations that have to do with the school community are discussed. Besides this, the working group is a sounding board for preventive actions.

Finally, the prevention service organized sensitizing theatrical performances ("Straff! and Goed Gevoel Machine") for children from the primary education. These theatrical performances aim to make harassment a subject of discussion and to provide behaviour alternatives to the children, so they have less chances to become a victim in the future. These performance also contribute to a positive school climate.