

European Crime Prevention Award
and
EUCPN Best Practices Annual Conference 2009
Project Entry Form
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 is the Lithuania EUCPN entry.

2. What is the title of the project?

COLOURS OF LIFE

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

Analysing the situation of children leisure and law violations in Kėdainiai district, we carried out the statistical analysis of the cases of youth law violation and their leisure, and reviewed the forms of children employment. We were seeking to gather information about unoccupied children and children, facing the problems of criminal behaviour, and analyse the conditions and reasons of negative phenomenon. We find out that the number of children, having problems of criminal behaviour, is high (comparing with the average number in Lithuania) and this number is increasing.

Preparing the project „Colours of life“, we accentuated the increasing number of law violations, which were made by children and youth; and we treated that problem as more important than other problems. Thus we were looking for new measures, which could provide support and encourage voluntary activity, working in the field of children's and youths' crime and victimization prevention.

When we carried out the detail analysis of the situation, we found out that there have been 94 families of social risk in Kėdainiai, and 208 children (to 18 years old) grew up in those families. These children faced with various problems: 89 do not participate in any activities, 73 were linked to violate school discipline, 18 were not willing to attend school, 139 children made different crimes. Analysing the gathered information, we distinguished the problem that early involvement of children into criminal activity. The teenagers, growing in the families of social risk, often did not have alternative possibilities of choice; they have only opportunities, which are suggested by their micro-environment. The close people – parents, peers, school – devalue those teenagers, and they devalue themselves later. They don't often know neither their needs nor their possibilities. They usually experience tension: when existing values confront with disability of a young person to accept them. The children and teenagers, who are rejected, began to look for another environment, in which they could feel accepted, where they could get attention and approval. The children, who are rejected, comparing with other peers, have poorer possibilities of social choice. Constant ostracism limit the possibility of contacts with prosocial peers, what's why those children join the group of rejected children. In such conditions problematic behaviour of teenagers reaches the dangerous margin: society creates presumptions to make a crime for the children, who have lost

learning motivation. So, evaluating the situation, we, implementing that project, have been seeking to suggest the positive activity for the children from the risk group. We have been trying to engage teenagers in proper activity; involve students-volunteers as the **elder friends** of those children.

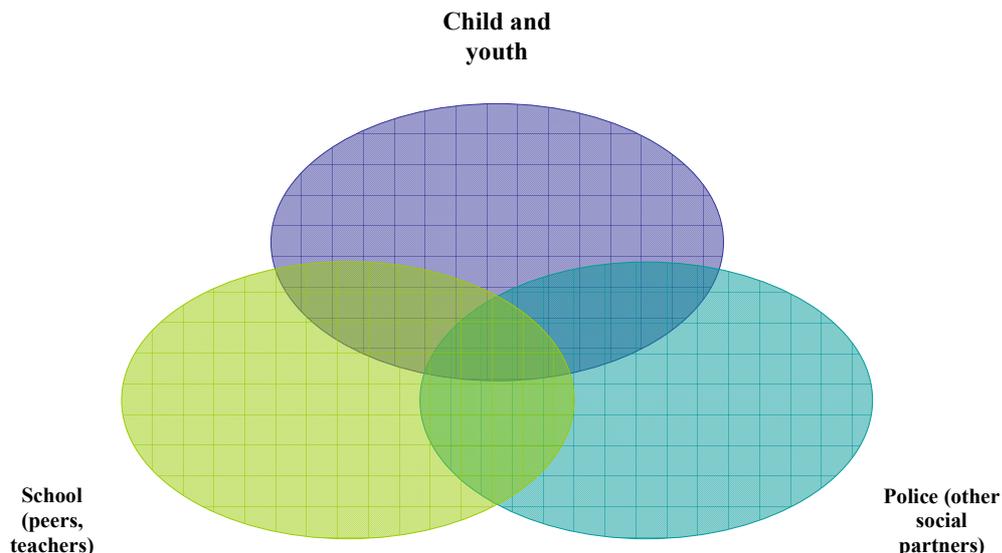
It is not easy to know the exact number of children, who have experienced violence, in Lithuania and Kėdainiai. But the majority of them experiences pain and do not expect any help. Violence against children is one of the urgent problems in modern society. This problem is very important in Kėdainiai, as in other regions of Lithuania and abroad. It is possible to expect positive changes decreasing the number of the case of violence, involving various institutions, such as schools, Child's rights' protection services, police, social workers, and cooperating with parents and children. Prevention of violence is a complex activity, thus one institution is not able to solve it.

Considering the described situation, we have been trying to connect activity of different institutions, solving the problems of delinquency and victims.

After the evaluation of our human resources, we have chosen the group of 9-17 years old teenagers (38 youths) as the target group of the project. Knowing what we can do and what positive changes we can expect, we have chosen the youths of risk group, living in social accommodation.

The project is oriented to the early prevention of delinquency of children and youths, who are socially excluded.

We have applied the model of motivated behaviour in the project. That model has been applied organizing the concrete activities; analysing behaviour, analysing the reasons, why socially excluded children are not accepted by peers; teaching those children to change and correct their behaviour. We have been seeking to involve into the implemented measures not only youths, but the other institutions, responsible for the solving of the above mentioned problem. We have also applied the SSP model (Schools - Social services – Police) in the project. The aim of that model is to help to implement prevention of children's and youth delinquency and victimization successfully and effectively. Schools and the institutions, which provide social services, have been involved, creating the conditions, favourable for development of a youth personality. The police have been implementing the prevention of delinquency and victims directly.



The complexity of children and youth problems requires new forms of activity. Working in police, we have understood that it is necessary to look for innovations. Cooperating with the several partners we have found the NGO, which would be able to help children and youth. We have also been interested in the experience of other countries of the EU, organizing the prevention of delinquency. The experience of the North countries have shown that their preventive activity is very effective and proper for our organization. First of all, it was very surprising that the people, having different values and attitudes, can work together. But we have not noticed how the situation in our Centre has begun to change and have become interesting for the politicians and the participants of the project.

- This project provides possibility for children and youth, solving the problem of their occupation and delinquency.
- The children and youth skills to organize their leisure purposefully and properly are developed in the Centre.
- Preventive work has original and attractive forms. The participants can suggest interesting activities.

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

To organize purposefully the prevention of risk group children and youth, who have made various violations of law, helping them to change positively and encourage their social integration, seeking to prevent factors of social risk and addictions.

The goal of project activities is to develop skills of children's and youths' prosocial communication and their responsible behaviour, connecting voluntary activity of various institutions and NGOs in the field of delinquency prevention.

The goals:

1. Encourage the occupation of the target group, develop children's skills of

interpersonal communication and responsibility for their actions and behaviour; create socially proper opportunities of their leisure and self-expression.

2. Help children, who are the victims of crimes.
3. Gather the group of students-volunteers, which could help to organize activities, motivate teenagers to learn, how to spend their leisure properly.
4. Encourage the social partners and local community to solve the problems of children's and teenagers occupation more effectively and look for new forms of cooperation.

This project encourages communication and cooperation between various institutions and organizations, which are responsible for the problems of children and youth. Implementing the project, we have been seeking to share our good practice, to find new and interesting forms of activity in that field, and to apply original methods and measures.

5. How was the project implemented?

The Youth Centre of Police was found on the 1st May in 2004 in Kėdainiai district police commissariat. The Centre develops its activity until now. The project was financed by the Cooperating Funds of Netherlands for the Central and Eastern Europe. The activity of the Centre is oriented to children, who have problems of occupation and are from the social risk families, which face such problems as parents' unemployment, alcoholism, poverty, emotional and physical risk, lack of social skills and knowledge, and children neglect.

That was totally new initiative and not traditional way of problems solving in Lithuania, when police work with delinquent children not applying penalty or administrative responsibility, but providing them social, psychological and material support. The prevention of delinquency not only protects a community from criminal actions, but also protect community members, who are weak and delinquent.

The decision to found the NGO was made by those policemen, who were working as volunteers. In 13-2-2008 they registered the NGO – Kėdainiai Police Centre, which involves 13 members and 18 volunteers, who **without any salary work on voluntary bases**. They share their time, knowledge and experience, working in that organization as volunteers. That was the new initiative which had encouraged **voluntary** activity. Now, having the experience and good knowledge about the situation in our district we are looking for possibilities to develop our activity, involving voluntary organizations of active youth.

That activity is connected with voluntary work solving the problems of occupation of the concrete target group – children and youth. We work preventative work not only with children, but with their families too. Thus we seek to help families to integrate into a community, live active life and develop their parental skills. Project activity has been longer than one year. We have developed such perception of needs not applying a programme, but from our experience, working preventative work.



The students-volunteers of Kaunas College Kėdainiai Jonušas Radvila Faculty organized the activities for risk group youths according the principle “Peers-to-Peers”. They took part in violence prevention and preventative activity, working with children, who lack support. The students-volunteers organized various activities and took part in sport activity.

The volunteers oriented not to professional support, but to permanent and friendly relations with a child. So, the volunteers tried to connect social relationships between a child and an adult, helped to renew relations with a community and made stronger cooperation with institutions.

They had constant relations with educational institutions of the children.

Participated in the measures of the project (selection of participants), guaranteed the participation of specialists in planned measures (the specialists implemented various activities on voluntary bases).

Activities of the Centre:

1. Individual and group consultations of the specialists (social pedagogue, psychologist, policeman).
2. Individual and group educational activities (discussions, doing of homework, bases of IT teaching).
3. Lessons of social skills development (“Let’s do our world more beautiful”, “Everyone to school”, discussions about personal hygiene and so on).
4. Socio-cultural activities (“Week of films”, “Day with a book”, “Post of opinions”, creation of European youth “My rights”, „Heja, Norden“, “Two hours with Mamontovas”).
5. Sport activities (Quiz, games, matches).
6. Activity of photography (“Positive lives”).
7. Activity of students volunteers in the Youth Centre of Police (3-4 times per

week).

8. Free services for family members (individual and group consultations of a social worker, a psychologist; the programme of parental skills; mediation and consultations of a lawyer).
9. Material services for children (food, charity).

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?

1. Kaunas College Kėdainiai Jonušas Radvila Faculty

Nine students volunteers participated actively in the planned measures:

- applied their knowledge into practice;
- introduced with local institutions of care of social services;
- applied their abilities (to draw, play, create) and developed them;
- involved into voluntary activity other students.

2. Kaunas County High Police Commissariat Kėdainiai district Police Commissariat

10 policemen participated in the project on voluntary bases.

Provided the possibility to use the premises of the commissariat, sport complex, computers, and other technique.

3. Kėdainiai youth school

Six pupils took part in the project.

4. Kėdainiai comprehensive schools.

Nineteen children from risk group were involved into the activities of the project.

5. Children home "Saulutė"

Nine children took part in the project.

6. Centre of Social Rehabilitation "Gyvybės versmė"

- provided material support – food products;
- organized the meeting with Jonava youth organization "Iššūkis jaunimui";
- participated in the discussions "Help others", "You are important".

7. Charity support fund "Tekantis vanduo"

Provided material support to buy two bicycles.

8. Charity support fund "Maisto bankas"

Provided sweets, which were used during various meetings and activities.

9. Public agency "Savanorių centras"

Provided information about voluntary activity, and published the information about the activity of Kėdainiai police centre in the edition "Savanorystė Lietuvoje"

10. Parish of St. Juozapas

Took part in discussions.

11. Kėdainiai district municipality

Provided material support, took part in activities.

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

Part of activities were oriented to general preventative measures, which were **tried and proved** in the smaller preventative projects in 2004-2008.

- We paid the main attention to those problems, which are directly connected with addictions, but not to lateral problems, which did not influence directly problems of delinquency.
- Evaluation of risk level (we applied more intensive measures for the people, who are in the group of greater risk and can make crimes, in the Police centre; cooperation between institutions; mediation because of the provision of necessary help).
- Variety of measures, i.e. the complex of measures, which involve not one, but complex of problems and were oriented to development of social skills (consultations, group activities, individual meetings, modulation of situations, thematical discussions, sport activity).
- Choice of proper effect (we chose systematic measures concerning the needs of concrete groups of children and youths, and chose the measures for larger audience separately).
- Integration: delinquent children and youth were encouraged to take part in activities, based on the principle "Peers-to-Peers".

Preventative work is a creative activity. It is based on constant search for innovations, which often is connected with new problems, which face children and youth. It is very important that the project has succession; we have been looking for new, interesting and attractive forms of children and youth occupation. The help of volunteers has been very important.

The criteria of the project effectiveness is the factor that we have not confined ourselves only providing the information or organizing leisure activities for the project target group – we have used complex preventative activity, applying effective and new methods.

We looked for the possibility to develop our activity. We were interested in the situation in other countries of the EU, were looking for the partners to share our good practice and experience. In 2007 we visited the Netherlands, and met the partners, working in the same field, presented the report about our activity. The partners assessed positively our activity and suggested some recommendations for the encouragement of voluntary initiatives. So, we used that advice and applied the bases of voluntary activity in the project.

Cooperation with other institutions helped to distinguish some negative tendencies during the development of personality and to react to them properly.

We applied the variety of purposefully measures, i.e. the complex of measures, which are oriented to formation and development of social skills and children's occupation (consultations, group activities, individual meetings, modulation of situations, thematical discussions and so on).

We have the strong and competent team the Police centre, so we would be able to continue our activity. Thus volunteers have more possibilities to develop their competence, and there we can point out the criteria of social effectiveness.

Good resources provide opportunity to go to another level, looking for new partners, implementing long-term projects in the field of social welfare. Strong resources of the Centre have the influence involving specialists and other organizations into projects. That's why it is important to accentuate that the Centre, solving problems of groups, who are social exclusion, makes stronger social relations, involves local community into the process of solving above mentioned problems. So, there we can point out another place of the Police centre in Kėdainiai community – it becomes strong mediator between local authority, business organizations and people, solving the problems of social exclusion.

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

1. Implementing the project, we organized the meetings of the main participants of the projects every month. We analysed the situation and assessed the results of the project during those meetings.
2. The participants of the project carried out the assessment of the project effectiveness and found out that the project made the planned influence on the prevention of youth delinquency and we achieved positive changes, using rational expense.
3. At the end of the calendar year we organized discussion about project evaluation. During that discussion we analysed, assessed and summarized achieved results, evaluated weak and strong sides of the project implementation and difficulties motivating the members of the target group, foresaw possibilities to continue the project (number of evaluated participants – 12).
4. We carried out the assessment of children's and teenagers' adjustment, social competence, situation in families, relationships with adults and peers, relations with school, and relation with micro environment (structured interview at the beginning and the end of meetings) and interview with parents.
5. The measures of the prevention were intense and oriented to the prevention of the whole complex of risk factors and strengthening of preventative factors. The effectiveness of the project could be proved by the intentions of participants of the project to improve preventative activity and achieve long-term results of that activity.
6. The project won National Best Preventative Project Award in 2009, it was recognized as the best by Interdepartmental Commission established by Minister of Interior.

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

We applied qualitative and quantitative criteria of the project assessment.

The quantitative:

1. 38 children and youths from the group of social risk participated constantly in the activity of the Police centre all the year (1-2 times per week).
2. 18,2 percent of children, who are socially excluded, in Kėdainiai got social, legal, material and another support.
3. 34 children from the 38 children of the target group did not make any violation of law.
4. 12 volunteers took part in various activities all the year:
 - 4.1. Provided 53 individual consultations; 95 cases of providing the necessary information and 82 services of nutrition.
 - 4.2 Took part in 43 social activities.

4.3. Visited 26 families of social risk 2-3 times.

Qualitative results:

1. The changes, which appeared implementing activities in the main target group of 38 children were compared with the changes, which appeared in another group of social risk children, who did not participated in the project, but lived in the same environment. We found out that 39 children from the group of 76 children (living in social premises of the municipality) made various violations of law.

2. Development of skills of voluntary activity – 95 percent of the interviewed respondents stated that they participating in voluntary activity gathered new experience of social work.

3. The project could be a good example for other subjects of delinquency prevention. It is very important during the period of economical crisis to encourage more voluntary initiatives in other countries of the EU. **Voluntary activity** is a good opportunity for everyone to use one's knowledge and experience, realize their needs, be useful for others, involve into social activity, and change the situation in society.

4. Cooperation between institutions, which are different, but their activity has the common goal – welfare of children and youths of social risk group – was strong and based on voluntary activity.

5. Obvious positive effect of the results of the project.

The assessment of the activity in the aspect of effectiveness is especially important for the further preventative activity and preparation of new projects of prevention, because assessment encourages activeness of partners, helps to understand the importance of the project in the same way.

Implementing this project, we obtained new knowledge and experience. The project made stronger communication and cooperation between various institutions and organizations, which solve the problems of teenagers and youths occupation and delinquency prevention.

The competent team of the project implementation, cooperation with social partners guarantees successful work in that field and in future. The project has helped to solve the urgent problems of children from risk group, and the activity of the Police Centre in that field is the main. The project has continuity: it is being implemented for five years and we plan to continue it in the future.

10. Are there reports or documents available on the project? In print or on the Web?

Please, give references to the most relevant ones.

<http://www.policija.lt/kedainiurpk/>

<http://www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=1045>

http://www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=131&backPID=4&tt_news=2120&

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

We all are responsible for welfare of young people, especially those, who have connections with children every day. The complexity of the problems of children and youth addictions and the need of purposeful activity raise requirements to look for new methods and forms of activity. The officers of Prevention Department prepare projects and work with children from risk group for ten years. Analysing our experience we have understood that the effectiveness of our projects depends on the proper measures of preventative impact. We developed our knowledge and understanding from our

practice and experience of Western countries.

The decision of foundation of the NGO has been made by those officers, who are working on voluntary bases until now. They spare their time, knowledge and experience working in the organization and do not get any payment. That is the new initiative and we seek to encourage development of voluntary activity. Sharing our experience, we are looking for opportunities to expand our activity and involve youth organizations into it.

This activity is connected with active voluntary work, solving the problems of children's and youths' occupation. Voluntary work is very good possibility for everyone to use one's knowledge and experience, meet one's need, involve oneself into social life.

The prevention of crimes, which is implemented in our department include the measures, which are intended to decrease delinquency of children and youth, help victims of crimes and prevent the reasons and conditions of delinquency. All state-members of the EU face the problems of children and youths delinquency. The tendencies of youth delinquency show resemblance: spread of violence between youths, crimes in virtual environment, dependency on drugs and so on. And the solution of those problems requires similar measures of work. Preventative work is based on the search of innovations. The Resolution of the European Parliament (21-06-2007) because delinquency of juveniles has accentuated the principle that the state members should use the progressive experience, based on cooperation of police institutions with other state institutions and NGOs.

It is easier to work with delinquent children using traditional methods, considering the idea that it is impossible to protect all children from mistakes. Nevertheless we have chosen the way of new ideas and changes. The officers of Prevention Department prepare projects and work with risk group children for ten years. We have implemented various preventative projects, and we haven't always achieved significant results. Analysing our practice we have realised that the effectiveness of the projects depends on the proper measures of preventative effect. Those knowledge we gathered analysing our practice and experience of other state-members of the European Union.

We are happy that we can organize positive leisure activities for children and youth. The children form the target group take part in our activity actively. Our activity as snowball becomes wider. That is an example of good practice, which has been positively evaluated in Lithuania and we expect that we can share our ideas, activities with the foreign organizations.