

ECPA 2010 FORM

“For a safe home in a safer community through prevention, police work and restorative programs”

Please answer briefly and concisely the following questions (the range of approximately 2 to 3 pages).

1. Please provide the name of the project.

Crime Prevention in Prague 11 and Prague 12

2. Please provide a brief description of the project.

The Crime Prevention project in Prague 11 and Prague 12 has been sponsored by the Proxima Sociale Civic Association since 2006. It is a comprehensive project that links together the primary and secondary prevention of crime and socially undesirable phenomena in cooperation with the local self-administration authorities and the city police.

Both metropolitan areas are characterized by the dense housing development which dominates the family houses. The places with the original development and the area where the construction of prefabricated buildings started in the 70s and 80s of the last century are clearly visible. This section is clearly dominant and concentrates within itself the bulk of the population. The area of Prague 11 currently stands at 979 hectares located in two cadastral areas (Chodov and Háje) with 79 818 inhabitants and a population density of 8,151 inhabitants per km². The area of Prague 12 currently stands at 2,333 hectares located in five cadastral areas (Cholupice, Komořany, Modřany, Kamýk and Točná) with 53,511 inhabitants and a population density of 2,293 inhabitants per km².

The project is based on active control of illegal activities leading to a conflict with the law.

Children become aware of the socially undesirable phenomena, such as addictive drugs, crime and bullying through the primary prevention in primary schools and learn to deal with these phenomena, to avoid contact with them and effectively inform the adults about them.

Another form of prevention is the provision of social prevention – outreach programs conducted directly in the natural environment of young people (streets in the housing projects, parks, natural youth gathering places, clubs and restaurants) and low-threshold clubs for children and youth (a space with simple rules - no drugs, no aggression, no alcohol). The project's staff provides the target groups with important information about the topics which occur in their life and which lead to a conflict with the social standards and breaking the law.

The project is a follow-up action directed at the individuals in the target group who are already leading a hazardous way of life and which require the use of corrective exercises leading to the change in their behavior. Secondary prevention is represented in the project by the probation programs for the juvenile offenders who committed illegal acts and which work with the acceptance of guilt, understanding the reasons behind illegal activities and prevention of further illegal activities among juvenile offenders.

The project's target group is composed of children and youth aged 13 to 19 years from the locations in Prague 11 and Prague 12. **It involves young people who in this age have been experimenting with the undesirable social phenomena to the greatest extent, in particular by committing petty crimes, having problems with aggression and vandalism or who have already committed a crime before they reached their mature age.**

The project consists of the **following components**:

- 1) **Primary prevention in primary schools** - a prevention of socially undesirable phenomena in the first and second grades of primary schools. The objective is to teach the children to avoid contact with hazardous situations by avoiding any experiments with them until the period after the fifteenth year of their life and to effectively inform the adults about their occurrence in the child's life.
- 2) **Activities of the outreach programs for children and youth** - outreach programs which are focusing on children and youth who spend their leisure time in the streets of housing developments and who are unwilling or unable to attend hobby activities in schools or in the low-threshold clubs. **Outreach workers go straight to the streets in the housing developments, actively looking for unorganized youth, offering help, distributing information leaflets with the preventive contents** related to prevention programs in the low-threshold club.
- 3) **Activities of the Step and South Pole low-threshold clubs for children and youth** in which the preventive thematic blocks are implemented. Each month focuses on a different activity: **driving without license, driving under the influence of addictive substances, criminal responsibility - especially in the area of sexuality, petty crime, how to prevent bullying, graffiti as a crime, etc.** These clubs also offer space and activities that fill the children's and youth's leisure time so they do not have to spend it in the streets. Visitors to the clubs are thus "under the supervision" of professional social workers who are correcting their behavior and inform them of its consequences.
- 4) **Accommodation-based rehabilitation trip** – this is a five-day trip with young people who are already leading a hazardous way of life, but who did not get into a direct conflict with the law yet. It involves the low-threshold club clients, outreach programs and the clients of children and youth curators. During the stay the young people learn to recognize and to solve problem situations, not only at the level of thinking, decision making and the choice of a particular procedure, but also at the level of practical action and dealing with these situations. Part of the trip also involves practicing of model situations which the clients learn to deal with effectively - so that they do not get into a confrontation with the law.
- 5) **Probation programs for juvenile offenders** - these programs are intended for young persons who committed a crime before their legal age and are now involved in criminal proceedings. They may enter the program voluntarily (as an expression of regret over their offense) or may be ordered by the court to complete the course. The program works with the acceptance of guilt and taking responsibility for their actions and works primarily on the changes in attitudes and behavior among young people through the social group therapy, occupational therapy and training of model behavior in the situations that led to committing of unlawful acts.
- 6) **Cooperation with the local self-administration authorities** - the project involves the employees of metropolitan Social Department, especially the curators for children and youth. The project workers discuss with them the ways of dealing with individual client cases and are sharing information on the results of interventions and outcomes of the project. At the same time they also plan a common approach in complex cases in which it is necessary to maintain a uniform approach used by all the workers who are handling the client's situation.
- 7) **Cooperation with the city police** - the organization workers regularly inform the city police of the risk areas in which they noticed an incidence of adverse social phenomena. They share information about unsecured buildings which serve as a meeting place for homeless or the users of addictive substances, the places in which there is a higher number of thefts from cars and finally, the outreach workers are able to convey new information about addictive substances which newly surface in the area or about the new hazardous phenomena, which began spreading among teenagers.

3. Explain the project's objective(s)

The main objective of the project is to avoid that the members of target groups come across the hazardous phenomena which lead to illegal activities. They must be clearly **informed about the consequences** of their actions, punitive charges, **they must learn other behavioral patterns**

which would avoid their conflict with the law and finally, **to prevent that they commit other illegal activities.**

Other objectives:

- development of non-criminal behavioral patterns and strengthening the accountability for themselves and their behavior
- creating a positive value orientation among clients
- offering a place where they can safely spend their leisure time
- strengthening the capacity to accept the social rules and standards
- informing the target groups about the consequences of their lifestyle
- training of model situations leading to a cutback of conflicts with the law
- cooperation with the authorities of the social and legal protection of children
- cooperation with the police on the elimination of socially undesirable phenomena
- to be the first in noticing the new trends among teenagers and to prevent their transformation into illegal activities in a timely manner.

4. How was the project implemented?

The project was realized by means of two-to three-hour blocks of primary prevention, which are regularly conducted several times during the year **in the primary schools**, followed by the **social liaison work in the low-threshold clubs**, which regularly featured thematic lectures on the topics of: *Extremist movements and religious sects, Addictive substances and their effects on the human psyche, Juvenile sexuality from the perspective of criminal law, Children, youth and penal law, Graffiti as a criminal offense, Driving without driver's license and driving under the influence of drugs, Bullying among peers*. The project was also carried out **by means of the outreach social work** in the streets of Prague 11 and Prague 12, **by means of a social therapy and experiential education**, which were used during the accommodation-based rehabilitation trips. Another format that was used in the project was **probation programs** - regular two-hour socio-therapeutic meetings of perpetrators of illegal acts. Finally, the project was implemented **through collaboration with the local self-administrative authorities and the municipal police departments.**

The selected methods correspond to the modern practices of social work and prevention of criminality and are considered to be the most effective. They are taught in the social work institutes and are laid down in the Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services as the services of social prevention (Section 62 and Section 69).

5. Were there any partners who were involved in the planning and/or development and/or implementation of the project? If so, who were they and what was their role in the project?

Preparation and focusing of the project was discussed during the Prevention working groups, which are held every month in Prague 11 and Prague 12 with the curators of children and young people of Prague 11 and 12 who regularly attended the one-day rehabilitation trips and with the crime prevention managers in Prague 11 and 12. These partners have contributed to the content orientation of the project, the identification of priority project areas and monthly themes featured in the clubs. Secondly, the project involved the Municipal Police from Prague 11 and 12, especially by attending and monitoring the hazard areas singled out by the social workers in the field. Another institution that contributed to the project was the Probation and Mediation Service, which helped by providing clients to the probation program

6. Did you incorporate into your plans any measuring (evaluating) methods on how the project approaches its objectives?

The project statistically monitored the services provided in the low-threshold clubs and outreach programs, participation in thematic months and meetings, the content of the accommodation-based trips and feedback from the young people who were involved in the project. The feedback which evaluated how the program was nearing its objectives also included the final report on the clients' activities in the probation program, along with monitoring questionnaires which assessed the effectiveness of primary prevention programs in primary schools.

7. Was the project evaluated or continuously monitored? How and by whom?

The project has been regularly evaluated and monitored through regular semi-annual and annual reports prepared in writing, which were submitted to various metropolitan sections and to the Municipality of the Capital City of Prague. The reports described in detail the course of the project during the individual year, statistics on the number of clients who were involved in the project, the methods of co-operation with the self-administration authorities and the municipal police. The project was also continuously evaluated by the management staff at meetings, it was evaluated during the supervision of the work team and its implementation was regularly reported to the Working Groups on Prevention in Prague 11 and 12, which include the anti-drug coordinator, crime prevention manager, curator for children and youth, representatives of the municipal police and other providers of social services in the specific localities.

8. What were the results of the evaluation? To what extent the objectives of the project have been achieved?

During the years 2006 to 2009 the project involved a total of **1,725** clients of the outreach programs and the low-threshold clubs. During this period there were **21,162 interventions**, which consisted of counseling (school, drugs, sex, partnership and family relationships, employment, temporary jobs, etc.) and sharing of information on the hazardous lifestyles of target groups, its consequences and the preventive effects on the youth.

There were **21 thematic months** implemented, six **rehabilitation trips** which were attended by **72 clients**. There were over **1,350 informational leaflets** distributed among the target group, **three probation programs** which were **attended by 21 offenders** and there were **108 preventive blocks** at primary schools which were **attended by approximately 2,100 students**. **An example of good practice in the cooperation with the municipal (and state) police is the sharing of information about the dealers of addictive substances among the young people, who were subsequently apprehended and convicted, then the deal with the municipal police in Prague 12 on the division of time and locations** in which the local police officers will be operating and when these locations will be left to the social workers from the organization to work with the youth at risk. The project also **revealed the case of a minor girl who was sexually abused** by her stepfather. The case began when **the girl confided to the social worker** at the South Pole Club. He immediately began to **deal with the situation in conjunction with the Social Department of the City of Prague 11 and the Czech Republic Police**. The girl underwent a medical examination, which confirmed the abuse. **Stepfather was taken into custody** and confessed. The girl is in the care of professional psychologist and her situation continues to be addressed. From this perspective, the project objectives have been met.

Throughout its entire existence the project was managed with the amount of 13,904,934.00 CZK. These funds paid for the costs associated with the operations of low-threshold clubs and outreach programs (electricity, rent, water, heat, telephone, office equipment and staff wages), which amounted to 10,576,342.00 CZK, followed by the professional and assurance services (supervision, accounting and printing of prevention leaflets) which amounted to 298,321.00 CZK and other personnel costs and insurance to cover employment activities (prevention and probation program lecturers and rehabilitation trip teachers) amounting to 3,030,271.00 CZK.