



European Crime Prevention Award and EUCPN Best Practice Conference 2010 Project Entry Form

The theme for this year's European Crime Prevention Award and the European Crime Prevention Network's (EUCPN) Best Practice Conference is ***"A secure home in a safe community, through prevention, community policing and restoration"***.

According to this theme, the projects may focus on:

- the protection and the feeling of being protected against crimes (e.g. domestic burglary, computer crime, domestic violence, theft, itinerant groups, ...)
- the protection of the surroundings in the pursuit of a secure home (e.g. the prevention of nuisance, neighbourhood mediation, camera surveillance, environmental design, community workers, community guards, ...).

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 can be found at www.eucpn.org

Deadline for entries is **October 15th, 2010**.

Send your entry or entries to: eucpn@ibz.eu .

If you have any questions, please contact Anneleen Van Cauwenberge at eucpn@ibz.eu .



ECPA/BPC 2010

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.)

Yes, this is the French ECPA entry

2. What is the title of the project?

THE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS INITIATIVE AS A NEIGHBOURHOOD MEDIATION TOOL

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

The city has noted an increasing deterioration leading to the disaffection and breakdown in the relationship between groups of youths (14-25 years old) and the various institutions (City Council, Social Centres, Schools, shopping centres, Housing Associations, Police) and the residents in different neighbourhoods. This breakdown takes the form of a fresh upsurge of tension palpable in everyday life: gatherings in the common areas of apartment buildings, accompanied by disturbances (regular acts of significant damage, traffic obstruction, consumption of alcohol and drugs...), heightened tensions between these groups of youths and the staff of the housing associations, the Police and the residents (provocations, insults, nuisance behaviour), making an educational relationship between these groups and social workers (teachers, facilitators, social workers) very difficult to sustain, especially as it is sometimes non-existent or almost impossible to build.

This observation was made in the context of exchanges conducted in the various neighbourhood groups by the Local Security and Crime Prevention Council (CLSPD), established in Pessac and which include partners such as the National Police, Housing Associations, national education, specialised crime prevention, Judicial Youth Protection, Social Centres, carriers, City Council (Municipal Police, CLSPD Coordinator), MDSI (known as Socio-Medical Centres in the Gironde region). The introduction of the Educational Workshop initiative was jointly decided upon by the different partners. The term Education Workshop refers to the production of goods or services carried out by a group of young people. The main sectors concerned are the environment, building installation work, handling work, seasonal work, green spaces, interior decoration, and agriculture. The Education Workshop is part of a comprehensive prevention and mediation approach, in advance of the social integration methods. It is directed at people aged 14 to 25. It aims to meet educational and social objectives, as well as facilitating mediation, solidarity and social links in the different city neighbourhoods. It seeks to stimulate local partnerships centred around prevention and mediation, and to strengthen the link between partners and youths.

The set-up is in general as follows:

- Organisational body: City Council, Housing Associations
- an employer: AIPAC (Intermediate Association for Unemployment Aid, Pessac)
- technical guidance: City Council, Housing Associations, structures for integration, associations

- socio-educational guidance: specialised crime prevention, Social Centres, Judicial Youth Protection
- an operational coordination: City Council (CLSPD)

Workshops take place in the different neighbourhoods of Pessac, especially in the three neighbourhoods where social housing areas are termed *Politique de la Ville* or sensitive neighbourhoods (Saige, Châtaigneraie -Arago, Haut-Livrac). They are set up throughout the year, during school holidays but also outside of them.

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

The implementation of the Educational Workshops initiative aims to meet educational and social objectives, as well as facilitating mediation, solidarity and social links. It seeks to stimulate local partnerships centred around prevention and mediation, and to strengthen the link between partners and youths.

The Educational Workshop is part of a comprehensive prevention and mediation approach, in advance of the social integration methods.

This project does not specifically aim to integrate youths, but to prepare them for social inclusion.

The objectives are as follows:

- to help youths to build self-confidence;
- to respond to a need for recognition or praise;
- to gauge their motivation to work;
- to help them to adapt their behaviour in particular by integrating rules relating to group life;
- to give them a taste of work experience and introduce them to the economic reality of the working world;
- to open the youth's eyes a to good citizenship through participation in work that has a common interest, to create a link with the neighbourhood residents;
- to create a link between the institutions (Housing Associations, building caretakers, the City Council via city employees...) and youths.

The purpose of Educational Workshop is also to provide neighbourhood socio-educational actors (teachers, facilitators ...) with a prevention tool for mediation and citizenship, which changes their everyday work and creates the conditions which favour a positive relationship with education and which helps to position the youth adult upstream on the road to integration, as part of a climate of appeasement with the institutions and people.

5. How was the project implemented?

The project grew out of exchanges between partners (Social Actors, City Council, Housing Associations) in the CLSPD neighbourhood meetings and was initiated by the City Council. A proposal emerged within the framework of actions for crime prevention among youths of 12 to 25 years old, to implement a number of tools that create conditions conducive to the inclusion of youths in advance of their path to social integration. CLSPD's partners have deemed it appropriate to position the Educational Workshops as the building blocks in the construction of this route. The initiative is controlled and coordinated by the City Council: setting up of preparatory meetings, monitoring and review of the Educational Workshops.

The development, implementation and evaluation of the initiative required a clear dialogue between the different partners (City Council, General Council, Housing Associations, socio-educational actors, social integration schemes, and associations), residents and youths.

The implementation process has been broadly as follows:

- January 2006: Proposal for the establishment of Educational Workshops as part of the CLSPD initiative to socio-educational partners (specialised crime prevention, Social Centres, City Youth Services, Judicial Youth Protection) and discussions about applicability;
- February 2006: Presentation of the initiative to the controlling bodies (municipal services, Housing Associations);
- April 2006: Authorisation for the setting up of the Educational Workshops initiative with all the partners concerned (social actors, Housing Associations, City Council, social integration schemes, associations);
- June 2006: Presentation of the initiative as a part of neighbourhood meetings organised by the City Council with the residents (link to Neighbourhood Committees);
- July 2006: Testing of the initiative on a neighbourhood of the city (Arago/Châtaigneraie);
- In 2007: Extension of the initiative to other neighbourhoods of the city; evaluation of the initiative (presentation in CLSPD's Plenary Session);
- In 2008: Extension of the partnership with the *Terre d'Adèles* Association (producer and supporter of biological agriculture);
- In 2009: Development of the initiative: 25 Workshops for 96 youths;
- In 2010: Extension of the partnership in schools (*Collèges* for ages 11-14, *Lycées* for ages 15-18): Establishment of Educational Workshops aimed at "dropout" and/or expelled students.

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?

Several partners are involved in this partnership approach:

Partners known as "organisational bodies":

- The City Council and Housing Associations who are providing the main financial support to the initiative, and a number of Educational Workshops

Employer in case of compensation:

- The intermediate AIPAC structure: drafting of work contracts, salary statements for youths (cf: legal framework: DAS/DGEFP legal memo 29 June 1999)

Technical guidance:

- From the City Council, Housing Associations, social integration schemes, associations

Socio-educational guidance: framework of Educational Workshops and youth choices:

- Specialised crime prevention youth workers, Judicial Youth Protection workers, Social Centre coordinators,
- In 2006: Proposal for the initiative and test set-up;
- In 2007: Allocation of a specific budget by the City Council and Housing Associations, and the extension of the initiative to other neighbourhoods of the city. Signature of agreement City Council/AIPAC and Housing; Associations/AIPAC. Evaluation of the initiative as part of the CLSPD
- In 2009: Development of the initiative: 25 Workshops for 96 youths;
- In 2010: Extension of the partnership in schools. Signature of agreement City Council/schools/specialised crime prevention/social integration scheme.

The partnership is also evident in the financing of the initiative

The annual budget for the scheme is 72,000 € (£63,000) which breaks down as follows:

- City Council contribution: 32,000 € of which 12.000 € is funding for technical guidance, 15.000 € is funding for AIPAC's time, 5.000 € budgetary reserve intended to support projects in exchange for their participation in Educational Workshops (activities, educational visits...);
- Housing Associations contribution: 34,000 € (payment for AIPAC's time and availability of equipment such as paint, clothes etc.);

- Action Jeunesse contribution (specialised crime prevention body): 6,000 €.

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

The project was evaluated by its partners (Housing Associations, social actors, social integration schemes, City Council, associations) within the framework of the CLSPD's Educational Workshops initiative. The evaluation also focused on the more qualitative purposes of the project (impact on links with education, feelings of insecurity in relation to groups of youths, which reinforce the difficulties faced in the various neighbourhoods, impact on the path towards employability, impact on the dynamics of groups posing difficulties...). The project is evaluated regularly as a part of Educational Workshop as well as at CLSPD neighbourhood meetings.

Indicators used to monitor change brought about by the project include:

- levels of damage to communal areas in collective housing;
- the number of malicious acts carried out in shopping centres;
- the number of young people participating in the Workshops;
- the kind of young people participating in the Workshops;
- the number of malicious acts carried out against the Police (stone throwing, verbal abuse);
- levels of absenteeism in schools
- the number of malicious acts carried out within local youth outreach schemes;
- tension levels between youths and locals involved with them (guardians, social workers);
- the quality of the relationship between disaffected youths and education.

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

The Educational Workshops initiative is one of the various tools available to partners of the CLSPD, whose aim is to participate in the strategy of collective action directed at groups of youths. This strategy is able to crystallise the difficulties and tensions in the various neighbourhoods. With several years of hindsight, it has now been noted that the individuals making up these groups (which sometimes exist in large numbers depending on the neighbourhood) have moved on in life, and that a large proportion now find themselves in positive circumstances (education, training, social integration schemes, employment) and no longer struggle with such difficulties. The situation in the various neighbourhoods concerned (both within and outside the *Politique de la Ville*) has become nicely pacified over three years (a view shared at CLSPD neighbourhood meetings which take place in the different neighbourhoods in Pessac every six weeks.)

The main objective of the Educational Workshops initiative was to provide socio-educational actors with a tool for changing their everyday work and creating the conditions which favour a positive relationship with education. Working towards this aim, the development of the scheme and the various meetings set up to review and discuss it have shown that the introduction of the Educational Workshops has helped create, renew or develop the relationship between youths and education, where before these groups were disaffected, having chosen to leave educational institutions, and were divorced from their environment. The Educational Workshops have contributed greatly to the development of an "educational link" which has made it possible to discuss and work on a certain number of problems: family breakdown, young people out of school, addictive behaviour, violent incidents...

Furthermore, a definite pacifying of relations between youths and Housing Associations (guardians) has been observed, relations which tended to be very strained at times. More broadly speaking, this initiative has helped to create and strengthen a link between youths

and various institutions (Housing Associations, social actors, Social Centres, City Council, Police).

Similarly, there has also been a strengthening of social ties between these youths and residents from the different neighbourhoods. Some of the Educational Workshops (upkeep of private green spaces, cleaning of private cellars, and removal of bulk items) have created a direct exchange between these groups, leading to better mutual understanding.

The number of groups of youths creating a public nuisance, causing damage, and involved in malicious acts has decreased significantly across the neighbourhoods. The work of the different institutions, including Police services (and even Police questioning), is carried out in a calm and peaceful environment.

Finally, this initiative has reinforced the operational dynamics of the partnership initiated by the CLSPD. It contributes furthermore to an impact on the interdependent nature of Crime Prevention Policy with other Policies (education, youth, employment, health, welfare, *Politique de la Ville*).

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

Annual reviews presented at the CLSPD only available in French.

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

Keywords: Prevention - Mediation - Social links - Solidarity – Education

The aim of the Educational Workshops initiative is to provide an operational tool right at the heart of the local neighbourhoods of the city, to pacify relations between disaffected youths who have left education early/are divorced from their environment and the various institutions, as well as with local residents.

These Workshops pursue goals which are purely educational and do not aim primarily at employability. The Workshops are short-term (lasting up to one week, 4 or 5 hours max. per workday). The main areas dealt with are the environment (upkeep of green spaces, removal of bulky items...), building installation work (paintwork...), cleaning of communal areas in collective housing, handling work (cleaning cellars ...), agriculture, interior decoration.

The objectives in terms of the volume of work to be completed are flexible and are non-binding. By the end of 2009, 25 Educational Workshops had taken place over the year, bringing together a total of 96 youngsters from various neighbourhoods across the city. Most of the Educational Workshops take place across the three social housing areas which are termed *Politique de la Ville*.

These Workshops mainly take place in properties managed by Housing Associations (Domofrance, Gironde Habitat). The youths involved in these workshops mostly live in these same areas, in residences run by Housing Associations. Workshops are also put on outside of these social housing areas, for example on agricultural land managed by the *Terre d'Adèles* Association (CSA) located in another neighbourhood in Pessac. The youths are supported by both technical staff and youth workers throughout the duration of the Workshops).

In the case of direct payments, a preliminary interview is organised between the youth and the employer (intermediate structure: reminder of rights and duties, description of tasks involved in the job, presentation of the employment contract).

The target audience has also been widened: idle persons/persons in employment, marginalised groups/non-marginalised groups, groups of males/groups of females, with each group forming a separate workshop group, or with the various groups split between different Workshops.

It was jointly agreed between the partners involved not to establish a basic postulate relating to the selection of participants but rather to examine collectively, on a case by case, workshop by workshop basis, by taking into account the unique backgrounds of the youths.

The Educational Workshops initiative is part of a sustainable development approach and corresponds to the purposes and principles of action set out in Agenda 21 of the Gironde region and Agenda 21 of the town of Pessac. From a social perspective, these Workshops are designed to promote the inclusion of youths in difficulty and/or divorced from their environment in an uphill journey towards employability.

From an economic perspective, these Workshops are a tool leading to employability through economic activity. From an environmental perspective, these Workshops contribute to the efficient and responsive urban management of local neighbourhoods, which raises awareness among youths of the importance of respecting the environment. What is more, the Educational Workshops initiative was presented with an award at the Agenda 21 Trophies 2009 organised by Gironde Regional Council (prize for the favourites in the groups category).

This project allows to create a link to be made with the educational and the employability dimensions of the Crime Prevention Policy. Moreover, it is much more focused on changing behaviour and on reducing the risk of exclusion or marginalisation, than on employability.

The project creates optimal conditions for the establishment of an educational link with groups which have sometimes broken all ties with associated institutions. It impacts on both individual life paths and on the pacification of the neighbourhood concerned. The project combines the activities of professionals from the fields of education, integration, housing and public authorities. It is one of the tools used to create social ties within the neighbourhood.

We feel the Educational Workshops initiative recaptures a certain number of principles set out in the European Urban Charter of 1992. The initiative suggests that the Prevention Policy must be based on prevention, repression and solidarity. The resources assigned to it also show that crime prevention is recognised as a social priority.

Furthermore, the initiative promotes an interdisciplinary approach, and articulates policies linked to the areas of prevention, security and personal support (social, educational...).

This project is based on the recognition that the life paths of youths are each unique and different, as well as on the concepts of equal opportunities and equal citizenship, without discrimination or stigmatisation.