



European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I

Please answer the following questions in English language.

1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project. (Only one ECPA entry per country plus up two other projects)

Yes

2. What is the title of the project?

Infos à Gogo - Prevention of juvenile delinquency

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

Infos à Gogo is a socially-oriented association located in the 15th district of Marseille (the northern neighbourhoods) on the La Maurelette territory.

The association was created in November 1984. For 27 years now, it has committed to helping vulnerable teenagers and young adults, who are in the process of becoming socially, educationally and professionally marginalised. The profile of the young people taken in and assisted is very diverse, ranging from school-going children to those already in the grips of the law. In these fragile areas, violence (firearms, family violence, etc.) and temptations are rife. Our aim is therefore not only to focus on young people in school, in order to support them and to help them serve as role models, but also to give a second chance to those who have gone wrong. We assist the young people in two ways: The association enables them to obtain diplomas that will enable them to find a job, and also by creating a team of mediators who help out daily as well as during specific events. The young people that we assist in their professional and social insertion will in their turn become mediators for the association. This will thus renew and continue Infos à Gogo's mentoring action in the long term.

Infos à Gogo therefore works daily with its public to create a positive momentum with teenagers and young adults. What is particular about Infos à Gogo is the commitment of active volunteers from the neighbourhood who pass on the torch. They come to the association as members and participants in the various projects and then become active members. There is therefore a passing down from one generation to another which makes Infos à Gogo a unique point of reference in this very vulnerable area. In 27 years, several generations have provided mutual assistance to each other and maintained the social link in the neighbourhood.

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

There are many objectives, all aimed at promoting the social and professional insertion of the youth.

The primary objective is to break the deadly spiral by setting up a series of actions and by establishing rules and values such as communication, team spirit and punctuality, which will initiate the young people to the working world. The other objective is to enable these young people to obtain professional qualifications such as the diploma for youth leaders and workers (BAFA), the diploma for summer camp managers (BAFD) and the first aid certificate. We also help them obtain their driving licences which will enable to move around legally and to work during the summer all over France or abroad. These professional training courses therefore help the young people to open up to others. Lastly, the objective is based on the fact that the most experienced volunteer mediators pass on values to the younger members, which ensures the continuity of the momentum that we apply on a day-to-day basis. Some of the main objectives are therefore the short-term socialisation of young people, the acquisition of civic reflexes, the acquisition of a sense of responsibility, the acquisition social mediation skills in the medium term and professional insertion in the longer term, as well as more specific aspects such as learning to be punctual.

The target public is made up of teenage boys and girls and young adults from the 15th district of Marseille.

The main venue of our action is the Fontainieu Sports Centre, although our volunteers can work in several locations depending on local events (assistance to flood victims in Draguignan, mediation in the area on 14 July because this day is often the occasion of uncontrolled behaviour, vandalism and other offences, school fêtes, neighbourhood fêtes, etc.)

5. How was the project implemented?

Infos a Gogo has created a place where the young can meet. It also organises free

cultural and sports for young people. In 27 years, the association has observed that the problems faced by these teenagers have increased. The creation of a multisport sports complex in the neighbourhood has provided a new means for practising sports that is accessible to the general public. These facilities were so successful that each weekend there were fights and other problems on the synthetic football field. Those who arrived first did not want to share with the others. The caretaker found it very difficult to make users leave the Sports Centre when it was time to close. The association therefore volunteered to bring in socially challenged young people to welcome the public, to ensure the equitable use of the field, observance of closing hours and to ensure that the users would show respect for the sports facilities at these times when the caretaker was alone.

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 main partner is the Fontainieu Departmental Sports Centre. However, depending on the assignment, we work with associations, the police services and other towns. We have signed an agreement with the General Council of the Bouches-du-Rhône department.

The Sports Centre is where the main action of the association takes place, thanks to a partnership established with the director of the Centre. It takes in the association's mediators and enables the centre to be used safely by all the people for which it is intended.

Specific partnerships may be created depending on the assignments . The cities can call upon the association's mediators for specific events. In this case, they are responsible for orienting the public and ensure that the event they are supervising goes on safely and smoothly.

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

For each action, there is a supervisor represented by the chairman (municipal police officer) and/or the person in charge of the youth sector in addition to at least one volunteer of full age with experience in mediation and civic actions. There are briefing sessions before the events, actions are supervised by professionals and there are also individual and collective debriefings after each action. The young people are monitored daily, thus enabling us to have reliable indicators about how each one of them is developing.

The action is evaluated by the association by observing the change in each young person in terms of behaviour, academic and personal development. A second assessment is made by the Bouches du Rhône General Council which subsidises this specific system. We regularly send them precise assessments of the results achieved by the young people, in particular training courses. There are also assessments by the Prefecture, which encouraged us to take part in the French Award for the Prevention of Delinquency 2012 organised by the French Forum for Urban Security (FFSU).

Each year we prepare an activity report that gives a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the work done by Infos à Gogo. This assessment enables us to evaluate our actions.

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

The original situation has evolved because in the beginning the involvement of the youth was restricted to welcoming and directing the public in the Fontainieu Sports Centre. With the experience acquired by the association over the years, the public is beginning to know what Infos à Gogo offers, and the services for different actions linked to solidarity and civic responsibility. The number of young people driving in the region without driving licences has also dropped significantly and the fight against road delinquency is paying off.

The partnership with the Sports Centre has provided us with a real tool in the fight against juvenile delinquency, which is most often the result of negative peer associations inherent to Marseille's 15th district. The success of the project is due to this positive momentum that counterbalances street values thanks to a regular structure and a constant psychological presence with these young people who have no references or role models. Moreover, the fact that the young people are given a sense of worth by the association and recognised by their families is a success factor.

Each year, about twenty mediators take active part in the system that has been set up. The results are convincing, because even if the young people find it difficult to adapt in the beginning, no one has given up as yet.

Some figures:

46 young people have obtained their driving licence.

54 young people have completed one or two training courses (diploma for youth leaders and workers, diploma for lifeguards, certificate for civic first aid, diploma for summer camp managers, vocational training certificates (professional certificates for youth mass education and sports as well as a certificate of competence in road passenger transport).

27 of them started working part-time or under a subsidised insertion contracts as youth

activity leaders.

5 of them have obtained open-ended contracts. One of them has joined the police force, bringing the number of volunteer police officers working with Infos à Gogo to seven.

32 holiday subsidies were given to families with children working as volunteer mediators.

22 children have been removed from delinquency.

9. Give a concrete description of the implementation of the project and the references.

The project involves young people faced with serious social difficulties. It takes place every Sunday of the year and on the weekends of April, May and June. These volunteer mediators must ensure that the sports facilities are being used correctly during busy periods, in particular during sports events. This mediation in the Saint Joseph neighbourhood and the Sports Centre allows these young people faced with social exclusion to feel useful by promoting social peace in their immediate environment. It also gives them a feeling of self-worth and enables them to acquire a certain number of skills that are useful for life in society (punctuality, politeness, communication and other civic reflexes by being considerate with the public or by contacting the fire service). This system is a veritable springboard for the young people because they are immersed in a professional environment, obtain training and a driving licence that they would not have been able to afford.

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

Please, give references to the most relevant ones.

Association's activity report 2011

Mediators' activity report 2011

Report of a special event during the national day in 2010

A press article

11. How is the project funded? Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? If so, how?

What were the findings? Please provide supporting information.

The project is funded by the Bouches du Rhône General Council (the local authority that runs the department) through an agreement that grants a subsidy to the association.

The annual budget for the operation is 24,000 euros for 25 young people assisted.



The budget is spent mainly on training courses (BAFA, First-aid certificate, Lifeguard certificate, Driving licence, BAFD, BPJEPS and all other courses connected to the professional project of a young person taken in by the association).

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

As part of its prevention role, especially prevention of delinquency, the association Infos à Gogo develops social and educational support projects with young and vulnerable persons. Its action covers the La Maurelette area, and more broadly the 15th district of Marseille, which are at the heart of criminal activities: sale of weapons, homicides, drugs, mugging; destruction of the living environment and anti-social behaviour, which have become a daily occurrence.

This situation is not an irrevocable one. With our support, these young people find other reference systems, a listening ear and a safe environment. This is because the association considers that these young people, some of whom are teetering on the brink of illegality, are above all, young people in danger, as set out in the Ordinance of 1945 on juvenile offenders. Infos à Gogo establishes a close link with them through its daily actions and the relationship of trust. It places them in a position where they become players of society by initiating them to the values of the Republic and civic-mindedness.

They are also offered an opportunity to rise within the association. From their pre-teens till they come of age, they benefit from extracurricular activities and are welcomed every day in a centre. Later, they can become volunteer mediators in their neighbourhood.

Thanks to this system, the young people can become fully involved as social mediation volunteers. The system combines fundamental concepts of civicism and solidarity with professional training.

For example, as from the age of 17, young people can sit for the following diplomas: diploma for youth leaders and workers (BAFA), Civil first aid certificate 1, the diploma for summer camp managers (BAFD). They can also obtain the Lifeguard certificate. In this way, they can be active during the summer, working and discovering new people. They become a role model for new members of the association. They show their mobility and their openness, which takes them out of their daily environment.

An example of daily intervention: *"On 24 December 2010, towards 5.30 pm, on our way back to the association's premises, we saw a young man who was trying to break into a vehicle. We stopped this 16-year old. We had two options: either call the emergency police services or try and understand his action. The first question that came to our mind was "Why?" The answer was; "To eat, I'm hungry". The young boy continued: "my mother has been in a psychiatric hospital for five days now, my sister is staying with my grandmother, I have never known my father and I'm alone at home. I wanted to steal the car radio and sell it to buy some food". After hearing this story, we*

went with him home and noted that the fridge and the house were empty. Given the date and time, we went to the supermarket and bought him food to last a week and a bus card to go to school. We then alerted the social services who took over to prevent him from falling into delinquency. "

Later on, if they show a real commitment, we pay for their driving licence: today too many young people drive without licences and have no insurance. The cost of a licence is too high: a driving licence costs about 1500 euros. When a young person has a specific professional project, Infos à Gogo contributes to the funding of a course, and sometimes pays for all of it: Professional certificate for youth mass education and sports, certificate of competence in public transport, etc.

The young people and volunteers also take part in solidarity actions in the region. On these occasions, they discover values such as mutual assistance in adversity. This was the case when they provided assistance to victims of the floods in Draguignan. This type of actions enables them to develop a sense of belonging to the national community.

The association's missions and objectives, shored up by its day-to-day work, help to recreate positive references and civic values. This enables the young people to turn to each other in a spirit of respect and tolerance. They can thus be mobile and fit into society under the best conditions. These actions therefore contribute actively to the fight against delinquency.