



**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)

It is LITHUANIA ECPA entry

2. What is the title of the project?

„Step by step to safe community“

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

It has been proved by scientists and criminologists that efforts made by community to prevent crime are efficient from 5 to 10 times more than reaction of law enforcement to irregularities and crimes. Crime prevention not only protect society from illegal actions, but also prevents irresistible members of society from further moral degradation and doesn't let cross the line for youth. Society that understands its threats and knows its possibilities must take action to protect its members, cooperate with governmental institutions and other social partners.

Ezerelis is secluded little town, surrounded by peat fields and forests. The centre of the district and also police office and medical service are 27 kilometers far away from Ezerelis. In case of accident first aid can come after 30 minutes and it is unacceptably long time. In 2008 community center has made its first steps to self protection and carried out a survey to determine if people feel safe in Ezerelis. 69 % of 283 respondents replied in negative. They pointed various reasons that diminished their safety feelings: poor lights of the streets, dangerous behavior of drunk drivers on the road, bullying cases, bad behavior of young people in public places. The results show that in most cases community is responsible for inappropriate behavior of its members.

In 2009 – 2010 community was supported by local businessmen, institutions and private persons and began to create safe community: installed a surveillance camera system, created and trained self defense group, organized first aid, self defense and protection from fire courses for its members.

In 2011 community continued with self defense group activities: the biggest attention was paid for developing video camera surveillance system, improving lights of the streets and unsafe places. Neighborhood watch took place in the town.

In 2012 activities supported by Open Society Institute were implemented. There goal is to encourage youth actively participate in creation of welfare of the town. When that activities will be finished there is a hope that streets will be lighted enough, relationship between different cohorts will be better, children and youth will have enough activities.

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

Community set itself a goal - to increase safety in their town. There were chosen several ways to reach the goal: to educate society, create disadvantageous conditions for crime, increase consciousness and initiatives of community while solving their security, children and youth occupation problems, motivate volunteering in communities favor.

These tasks were established to reach the goal:

Concentrate community and to rise its awareness.

Implement preventing measures (surveillance cameras, lights, self defense group patrol).

Increase children and youth occupation.

Cooperation with police.

Sharing good experience.

5. How was the project implemented?

Goals of the project are continuously implemented: every year there are better results and look for new measures to reach the goal.

1. Concentrating the community

Solving security problems is priority in the town. We continuously discuss this issue with our citizens in the meetings, analyze different suggestions, and try to find out unsecure places.

When we discussed problems with residents we encouraged them to join us to reach the common goal – provide electricity to surveillance cameras and lights. After discussions we evaluated consumption of electricity and possibilities to provide it and made a surveillance cameras location plan.

We tried to involve as more interest groups as it was possible: youth, people with disabilities, unemployed people, and delinquent people. Many people that have drinking problems find their place in different activities of community, they often are volunteers which cut the grass, help to brush up after parties and thus feel themselves valuable members of the community.

2. Implementing prevention measures

During 2009 – 2010 we created material and intellectual base to improve security in our town: installed video camera surveillance system, organized courses for residents and self defense group members.

People feel safer when they can not only get help from others but also are these ones who help others.

In order to increase safety feeling of our residents we organized several courses. 60 residents were instructed to provide first aid by specialists from “Crisis center”. People get theoretical and practical knowledge during 12 hour course, after which they were tested.

Also, 60 residents of Ezerelis where taught how to behave in case of fire. People performed in simulated fire conditions.

Self defense specialist trained residents of Ezerelis how to defend themselves in special theoretical and practical courses.

There are built 11 pillars for video surveillance cameras in unsafe places. But in lack of money there are only 5 cameras installed. Location of the cameras is always changing. There is a special sign telling that there are surveillance cameras in town at the entrance to Ezerelis.

Self defense group was created and trained. Group members have special uniform, sign and magnetic emblem that is attached to a car during patrolling. Group was trained by Kaunas district police office workers. Group members travelled to Vilnius city and Trakai district police stations to get the training.

In 2011 - 2012 city lights and surveillance cameras recording quality were developed. After strengthening the Internet connection new possibilities occurred to attach more cameras to the system. Now we are considering opportunities to connect several private cameras of residents, businessmen and institutions into general network.

Cameras recordings are regularly watched, we react to residents comments and requests, help police officers to find records they need.

Ezerelis foresters were asked for help in summer and autumn when people get lost in woods. In July of 2011 Ezerelis self defense group with cynologists and aviators looked for old men who were missing. After one day self defense group members found him in the woods. Responding to residents request we locate and identify and talk to irresponsible drivers. Self defense group often patrol during various events in town: in "Bicycles parade" during Children defense day, in midnight basketball "3x3" tournament, in Ezerelis town in the daytime. Patrolling becomes more active during Christmas and Europe basketball tournament time. During patrolling we talk with youth and residents who are delinquent or drinking alcohol in public places. We do not only discipline offenders but also invite them to participate in community's occupations: watch movies, sports events, dancing, to attend sports in community center.

3. Increased children and youth occupation

Community's initiatives activate and involve youth. Young people with pleasure visited self defense courses, attended sport in gym room, participated in hikes and bicycle trips. There is possibility to watch sport tournaments, movies in community center, there also various parties, courses, dances are often organized.

In 2011 and 2012 summer a group of young volunteers organized a camp for Ezerelis children. Young people that came back home from studies for Christmas organized an exhibition of their art, design, clothing collections and a concert "Children coming back for Christmas". Such initiatives engage other youngsters to participate and direct their energy into creativity and sense of community. We have a nice example when 12 year delinquent child, who has a record file in police was involved into community's center volunteers organized karting sport and now being sixteen not only achieved great results in sports, but also is good example for his peers. In 2009 the Rock club was founded. In 2012 the Youth club was founded.

4. Cooperation with police

Kaunas district Noreikiskes police station officers who supervise our territory take part in community's events. During "Bicycle parade" they organize bicycles marking action. Together with police officers we participate in various public actions and raids. 6 of self defense group members are also police supporters, 6 youngsters are younger police supporters (taking part in police preventive actions).

Thanks to self defense group several violations of public order, thefts were discovered and criminals caught. In 2010 three self defense group members were rewarded with diplomas for their efforts.

5. Sharing good experience

Community's activities became widely well known to other communities that are interested in safety activities. 2008 – 2012 Ezerelis was visited by various delegations from Siauliai, Birzai, Panevezys district communities, also from Latvia, Czech Republic and Poland.

We also try to call back to all invitations from our colleagues to meet and share our experiences. We visited many Kaunas districts (Uzledziai, Ringaudai, Ilgakiemis, Taurakiemis, Zapyskis) and other communities in Lithuania, took part in many seminars, discussions and conferences.

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?

Carrying out our activities we involved Ezerelis community. The awareness of Ezerelis inhabitants, while creating safe and strong community, is tested during a lot of other projects. Local inhabitants and organizations readily pay for video cameras and illuminators maintenance, providing their safety, which are hanged in private areas, and the illuminators' gleams are directed towards the street. The volunteers connected the illuminators by themselves, after what they got a professional advice by community center members. Private inhabitants, organizations – (as Ezerelis culture center, S. Graužinis individual company, Ezerelis Secondary School, JSC „Klasman Delmann Ezerelis“, JSC „Key Elements“, G. Pačiulis individual company) also contribute to the project. JSC „Key Elements“ donated a summerhouse for children's playground.

Main partner of the project - Kaunas district Police Headquarters (prepared and trained a Self-defense group, together they take part in raids and watches).

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

In 2010, December 3 in Kaunas „The Country Community and local activity groups achievement and project ideas“ final event „Full carriages of experience“ Ezerelis CC project, „Safe neighbourhood – strong community“ was nominated for community education of the villagers. In 2011 Ezerelis community center took part in the contest “It is good to live in Lithuanian village“. We presented our Self-defense group activities and work with the young people and we were given a nomination, „It is good to live here 2011“. In 2011 we also participated in the contest called “Traffic safety in different communities” and were nominated the eight place. In 2012, April 18 we got Kaunas district municipality nomination certificate of partnership and cooperation. In 2012 June 5 in a contest “Crimes and other offenses prevention projects”, which was organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, we won 1000, 00 Lt Award.

We constantly communicate with Kaunas district police headquarters and we are interested in prevention measures in our town. In 2010 thanks to the joint effort Ezerelis town became one of the safest in Kaunas district.

In 2008, at the beginning of the project, a survey was made to measure safety level. After each additional project action a survey is also made and the results affect further activities. The results of 2012 anonymous survey are presented in the table No.1:

Sex		Women			Men		
Age		7-30	30-50	50-80	7-30	30-50	50-80
Education	High	7	22	4	5	27	3
	Higher	5	8	9		8	10
	Secondary	8	18	16	7	12	12
	Primary	17		16	20	8	14
	Initial	5			8		2
Do you feel safe living in Ezerelis?	Safe	18	14	4	24	10	6
	Enough	18	16	20	12	38	25
	Not safe	6	18	21	4	7	10
What do you think which kind of crimes or offenses have maximum risk to suffer in Ezerelis?	Theft	2	24	22	4	14	28
	Robbery	3	1	4			1
	Bullying	14	16	13	10	12	5
	Vandalism	4			8		2
	Other(traffic safety,...)	11	5		8	4	
	I do not know	8	2	6	10	25	5
Do you know about Ezerelis community center community safety activities (video	Yes	30	35	23	34	47	28

surveillance camera system, Tamper Force etc.)?							
	No, but I would like to know	7	9	15	4	5	8
	Don't want to know		3	5	2	2	4
	I do not know	5	1	2		1	1
Do you participate in Ezerelis Community Centre organized activities?	Yes	10	9	2	10	21	5
	No, but i would like to	22	6	7	23	12	14
	not and do not want to		4	12	2		4
	I do not know	10	29	24	5	22	18
Do you think that these activities contribute improving campus public safety?	It helps	22	10	9	10	15	8
	Some	8	22	18	16	22	12
	Does not help		8	6	2	6	6
	I do not know	12	8	12	12	12	15
Do you personally feel safer due to the Ezerelis activities?	Yes)	22	30	22	18	32	19
	No	4	6	6	8	6	4
	I do not know	16	12	17	14	17	18
Participate		42	48	45	40	55	41

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

The aim of the project of Ezerelis community – to establish safe environment for its inhabitants: to have our town safe and friendly. 1834 residents live in Ezerelis (data of 2012, September 1). After actualizing our project we increased safety of Ezerelis community and improved the quality of the video camera records. The visible benefit is for local people and also for visitors and a great support for police officers while investigating criminal offences.

The effectiveness of the project can be seen from the comments of residents, an increasing number of young people who want to participate in community activities, new forms of employment and leisure appearance. New carting, rock, youth clubs are established by volunteers. Children’s playgrounds are lighted and watched by video cameras. In 2011-2012 summer children’s creative day camps were organized. We purchased body-builders and other sports equipment, the occupation of gym (5 sporting youth groups),_Nordic walking, and increased the number (40 people of different age groups) of cycling enthusiasts.

The great outcomes of the project – we decreased badly lit or unsafe places; a self defense group is developed and trained, it has 36 volunteers; every year 20-25 neighborhood watches are carried out in different events at day and night; 180 Ezerelis inhabitants know how to provide first aid, have experience in fire safety and self-defense.

Summarizing the results of 2012 anonymous survey we can state (comparing the results with year 2008) that the sense of security was increased:

	2008 m. Residents 2050	%	2012 m. Residents 1834	%
Surveyed the number of	283	13,8	175	14,5
Feel unsafe (respondents)		69		24,4

27% of respondents think that this decrease is related to the Ezerelis activities and is a result of the prevention work done.

We raised the awareness of the inhabitants and thus the reports of the crimes increased:

	2008-2009 m.(till September)	2009-2012m. (till September)
Theft (including cars)	4 (1)	12(1)
Property devastation	2	11
Found dead at home	10	2
Resisted police officers	1	
Bodily injury	14	20
Robbery	1	1
Noise in public places	1	21

Faud	1	6
Treat	2	4
Other cases	3	8

Registered crime increase is directly related to the increased number of cases recorded by the police, rather than the actual crime. Actual crime reliable indicator - victimological studies. Increased reporting of crimes and other violations of law indicates that the population has increased activity in response to situations of violations of law and public confidence in the police.

Total number of reports received by the police in 2008 – 2009 years is 41, and 257 cases in 2009 - 2012 years period. The period 2009-2012 has an increase in reports of a possible drunk drivers, sightings of suspicious vehicles, technical car accidents, as well as the violence conflicts arising in the homes and in public places, cases of petty theft. This brings to assume that the project achieves its objectives - the increasing activity of the inhabitants and trust the police. Situational prevention instruments has brought benefits to reduce crime, increasing the safety of the public space. Residents feel safer when they themselves are involved in activities. Young people also participate and show more confidence in the activity. The most difficult is to decide on participation in Ezerelis community center organized activities for older people and women.

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

“Bicycle parade” is one of the traditional Ezerelis community events, which is dedicated to Children’s Protection Day. It has been held for four years. The participation of self-defense group is necessary while organizing and ensuring the safety of participants. Bicycle rides are organized from 2008 for a lot of people from different age groups (from 5 to 60 years old).

In 2009 only a few bicycles decorated with colorful ribbons drove through the town streets, inviting all to the Children's Protection Day celebration. Annually the number of participants was increasing: in 2010 - 100, in 2011 - 200, in 2012-150 participants. Organizing the event we co-operate with Kaunas district Noreikiskes police station officers.

A parade route and safety measures are prepared together with Ezerelis community center self defense group. It contains two tracks: one 4-5 km track for more experienced cyclists and the other 1 km track – for people who want to take part in the parade but because of bad health or age they can’t overcome all tracks. The crews of police and self defense group accompany the column and provide traffic safety. In 2012 the crew of police didn’t take part in “Bicycle parade” traffic safety and it was fully provided by self-defense group.

During the event 25 bicycles were marked. This action takes place every year. The parson of Ezerelis always comes to “Bicycle parade” and blesses everyone. If people need some medical help they can seek for self-preservation group member. Special attention is paid to children and youth traffic safety skills. We remind road safety rules before this event, give out reflectors and reflective vests for participants. It is always a pleasure to see an inhabitant at night wearing a reflective vest – by doing this he/she protects him/her-self and helps the drivers.

The parade is a good method for strengthening the skills of cycling and doing it

safely. Participants learn to ride in column, overcome obstacles, intersections (in CD 1 we add city video surveillance cameras records of the parade moments). These skills are very useful for longer bicycle ride.

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

Information about the project hosted on websites:

www.ezerelyje.lt

www.lesto.lt

www.krs.lt

www.noreikiskiupn.lt

www.vrm.lt

www.lakd.lt

TW show „ Apie ūkį ir bites“ <http://tv.delfi.lt/video/5staUMKP/>

Movie „ Lietuvos kaime gera gyventi“ ,created and distributed throughout Lithuania.

Catalogue developed and distributed all over the country -

<http://www.kazluruda.eu/kazlurudieciai/taip-gyvename-24/lt/saugi-bendruomene--ar-tai-realu-kazlu-rudoje--161.html>

Articles in the newspapers -

„ Naujos tėviškės žinios“ Nr. 134, 2011 07 21

„Pakaunės kraštas“ Nr.20, 2010 05 28

„Pakaunės kraštas“ Nr. 21 2010 07 01

The rest of the documentation is added to the project.

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 was funded by the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms for the implementation of schemes, Kaunas district municipality funded CCTV camera's system installation and training of the Tamper-trained group of people of first aid, fire safety, self-defense. AB Lesto "gifted 9000.00 Lt for the energy efficient lighting with motion sensors for acquisition. Lithuanian Ministry of Interior awarded 1000.00 prize.

Voluntary community work: voluntary Ežerėlis residents, businesses and institutions contributions of lighting and camera support needed electricity payment. Internet connectivity support - G. Pečiulis individual company. Lake community center funds, communications, stationery, electricity costs for a permanent video record PC Support Payment.

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

The project carried out by Ezerelis community center deals with a small town safety problems and also pays attention to modern society actualities. Living globalization, the ongoing competition, situated on the values of the scale transformation, society experience alienation, indifference and open aggression consequences. All this rebounds in our children's behavior, uncontrolled behavior of people that are tend to commit a crime, disregard for society and environment adopted rules.

Paying attention to these circumstances we see our own mistakes. Children and young people in the face of crisis increasingly become the objects of saving: regardless their needs we reduce the after-school education and employment opportunities. Unemployed and poor people solve personal problems hurting others – the number of thefts is increasing and dissatisfaction and aggression spill in open hooliganism and vandalism. The law, the authorities are unable to deal with some of these hardships. One of the most effective ways to increase safety is to be active by ourselves.

The project „Step by step to safe community“ opened these opportunities. During this project we focused on a common solution to the problem and implemented a lot of measures for reaching our objectives and goals. We associate sense of security not only with crime but also with our own possibilities to help ourselves and others. Self defense, First Aid, Fire Safety Courses strengthened the confidence of the population. In particular, everyone enjoyed practical sessions.

Residents eagerly went to Self defense group and take part in the activities. In 2012 only group volunteers were on duty during all town and community events. No incidents and accidents were recorded. There is a growing confidence of population in Self defense group activity - the police and group volunteers are parallel informed about the incidents in town. The last ones often come to the event place first and record the sequence of events, try to solve the problem peacefully.

Children's summer camps were organized in 2011 and in 2012 – this is youth initiative, which activates, stimulates and gathers the community together. Each day there is a different program: theatre's day – children make a play; music day – prepare a concert; sports day, game day. In 2012 the adults joined us: in the evenings they accompanied their children to the lake, which was four kilometers away, for a swim. In 2012 during a creative day camp children's playground was equipped.

The project „Step by step to safe community“ does not end, like never ends natural human desire to be safe. Delinquency influenced by environmental effects every time changes, that is why society can't stop near the results already achieved. This project can and should be repeated by all communities whose activities are based on a voluntary, cooperation and mutual assistance principles.