



ECPA/BPC 2012

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.

A country project - Police Headquarters in Łódź

2. What is the title of the project?

“Common Housing Estates” - the project aiming to stimulate local communities into action and to encourage the cooperation of local institutions responsible for public security.

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

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION:

In the province of Łódź there are: 1 Provincial Police Headquarters, 3 Municipal Police Headquarters and 19 District Police Headquarters.

The voivodeship of Łódź is situated in the central part of Poland. Its shape reminds a semicircle in the middle of which there is the capital city of the province, Łódź. The region is located on the intersection of two axes: north-south and east-west crossing at the geometrical centre of Poland in Piątek, due to which the Łódź province is an important transit and communications route. The area of the region is 18,219 km² and 2.53 million people live here, two thirds of whom are city dwellers.

About 320.3 thousand people work in the private sector, while 41 thousand in the public sector. In the local job centres there are 142 thousand registered unemployed people, and the unemployment rate stands at 13%.

The voivodeship of Łódź is a highly urbanised region. Its capital city, Łódź is not only an administration and metropolitan centre, but also a driving force for the development of the whole province.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The inauguration of the project took place on December 8, 2008 in Łódź at the conference "Together let's take care of what is most important – public security in our province". The citizens of Łódź were informed about this initiative and invited to cooperate with the local authorities to achieve set goals.



The project „Common Housing Estates” covers twenty two districts of the region. It promotes the partnership between the citizens, the Police and other local authorities by involving people and institutions in solving problems of public security. The project is under the patronage of the Governor of Łódź, the Province Marshall and the President of Łódź.

System transformations have resulted in weakening social relations and the increase of alienation. According to the survey “Living in the Łódź Province” the above rate for the citizens of the Łódź Voivodeship is 2.44. It is measured on the scale from 1 to 4, where 1 stands for the maximum sense of community and 4 signifies complete withdrawal. It is concluded that for a majority of Łódź citizens and Poles in general primeval groups like family and friends are a priority.

According to the survey, about 13% of the citizens belong to some social, governmental or political organizations, but only 9% of them participated in them actively devoting their free time. On a national scale the above ratio was a little smaller (7%). The number of people holding certain positions in organizations by choice or nomination is 34% and is very close to the national result which is 33% in Poland.

The above diagnosis justifies the decision of taking special measures to promote and publicise social support for the Police and other institutions responsible for public security.

Sources of the project:

- 1- „Community policing” - The philosophy of social police based on the assumption that efficient crime prevention and antisocial actions prevention requires close cooperation of the Police with members of the local community.
- 2- A governmental programme of fighting crime and antisocial behaviour “Together Safer” which emphasises the necessity of providing the mechanisms of continuous cooperation between the Police, the state and local administration as well as social organizations and active people and which aims at boosting the feeling of public security.

Twenty two coordinators were appointed in the city and local police headquarters whose task was to implement the project. They received email addresses at wspolneosiedla.pl. In an electronic way we are informed about the situations which cause the lack of the feeling of security in the neighbourhoods. For the sake of the project an interactive website has been designed where the regional coordinator informs the society about any preventive initiatives conducted in our region and emails them to us. Another very interesting initiative conducted within our programme is the project called „Civil Patrol”. In 2009-2010 some local authorities together with job centers employed jobless people who were interested in working for the Police in the future. They were trained by police officers, court and prosecutor’ clerks and social welfare centers’ workers. They were supplied with mobile phones and high visibility vests. In the local environment they talked with citizens and managed to get useful information about pathologies and they solved different problems connected with public security. The participants of this project were selected from the local community and worked in the same place which made it easier for them to integrate with this community. At the end of the working day they made a report which was further sent to the Police or the local council depending on the problems identified.

Coordinators in the local units of the Police owing to the information campaigns stimulate the representatives of the local authorities into action and are in close contact with the citizens, thus they carry out prevention actions more effectively. Moreover, in order to improve public security and the quality of life in the region we promote creating so called “safe spaces” through our actions. In September 2010, 140 police officers from our province together with the local authorities’ workers were trained by the lecturers from the Higher School of Police in Szczytno. Creating “safe spaces” involves proper lighting of the dangerous zones, taking care of green spaces, providing citizens with safe places to relax and children with safe playgrounds. In this way the crime rate could be significantly lowered or even eliminated. To achieve this goal it is our coordinators’ task to initiate actions with local governments and institutions responsible for order in a given area.

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

The main objective:

- ✧ to improve public security in a given area by identifying problems connected with pathologies, crime rate and restoring public order and to improve the quality of life.
- ✧ to propagate appropriate pro-social attitudes among adults and adolescents.

Indirect objectives:

- ✧ to identify and solve problems of local communities,
- ✧ to raise social awareness in order to counteract pathologies,
- ✧ to involve local communities in cooperation with the police to undertake mutual initiatives in order to improve public security,
- ✧ to engage prevention police officers, local government representatives non-government organizations to work towards improving public security in a given area,
- ✧ to boost social trust in the Police and other institutions working for the sake of public order.

The target group:

The residents of the voivodeship of Łódź:

- ✧ children and adolescents- the target groups of prevention projects
- ✧ middle-aged people – encouraged to undertake prevention measures in the place of living,
- ✧ senior citizens – participants of workshops on how not to become a victim of a crime or how to behave in a dangerous situation.

5. How was the project implemented?

The project implementation :

The assumptions and objectives of the project were consulted with the Institute of Psychology, Łódź University and the Higher School of Police in Szczytno, whose evaluation helped us go in the right direction. On the basis of good prevention measures realised in Poland and abroad, we selected tools and methods necessary to implement the project. International Police Association in Łódź is a co-organiser of the campaign. The committee consisting of the representatives of organisers and patrons chose a professional advertising agency, which designed a logo and graphics of the project.

An example of the billboard campaign:



Watches, stays alert, reacts. Halinka- Stationary police officer



Watch, stay alert, react- the Kowalski Family with a dog.



Watches, stays alert, reacts. Mietek- the guardian of the park and benches.



Watches. stays alert, reacts. Lukas- a mobile patrolling officer.

„The Library of Safety” was also created in connection with the project. It comprises prevention leaflets targeted at different social groups. The materials were published by the supporting the project institutions. The leaflets, which are also available online, look very attractive and are composed in such a way that makes it a friendly prevention material:



SAFE SPACES

Crime prevention through the right organisation and shape of the public space - CPTED strategy.



VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION

How to protect your car from thieves? How to travel safely?



SAFETY OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior citizens are becoming crime victims more often. The booklet gives useful tips how to prevent it.



PROPERTY PROTECTION

Why have we been burgled? How to be safe at home? What should we do when we go on holiday and leave a flat unattended? What increases the risk of burglary? The answers to these questions are in the booklet ” Property Protection”.



VICTIMOLOGY- how not to become a crime victim?

The booklet gives a set of examples of dangerous situations that young people may find themselves in, such as prostitution, mugging etc. Written in an accessible, slang-like way.



Violence in family

What are the most frequent forms of violence in a family? How to be helped? The booklet answers these questions and lists institutions violence victims should turn to.



INFORMATION FOR SMALL BUSINESS

A set of useful tips how to run a firm safely and how to avoid different dangers connected with it.



LEADERS OF THE PROJECT „COMMON HOUSING ESTATES”

Information for leaders of the programme, how to become ones and what tasks should be undertaken.

The implementation of the project was preceded by a set of trainings for police officers: community officers, police units' chiefs, prevention officers and police stations' chiefs. In all 22 districts of our province coordinators have been appointed (prevention police officers).

In the Prevention Department of the Police Headquarters there is a team coordinating the project with the Province Coordinator in charge.

STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION:

I Preliminary stage:

- selecting a partner, a co-organiser of the project from among non-government organisations and ensuring the support of the local authorities,
- selecting partners which support the project from among leading companies in the region in order to have their financial support,
- sending a letter of intent by the Governor to the above mentioned companies to provide the programme with financial support,
- organising a set of trainings for prevention officers and police stations' chiefs preceding the inauguration of the project,
- appointing the province coordinator of the project,
- appointing regional coordinators in police stations in the region,

- providing coordinators with mobile phones and email addresses for better communication,
- selecting a professional advertising agency to create a graphic concept of the programme,
- designing a professional website www.wspolneosiedla.pl, a map of dangers reflecting police statistics, actions' reports, leaflets and information materials,
- publishing leaflets with prevention messages targeted at children and adolescents, senior citizens, middle-aged people, representatives of small business which will create so called "The Library of Security",
- organising a billboard campaign,
- starting cooperation with public means of transport to advertise the programme on trams and buses.

II Stage of implementation:

- holding meetings in particular districts with local authorities, residents, media, public benefit organisations to publicise the project,
- taking prevention measures by coordinators based on the diagnosis of the public security, conducting actions, creating prevention programmes and social campaigns,
- implementation of so called „Civil Patrols”– social support of the Police.

This initiative should be promoted with the help of local authorities, job centers, court, prosecutor's office and other institutions. Local residents dressed in high visibility vests form patrols and the results of their work are reported to the Police or relevant institutions,.

- The project "The Police Academy of Security" is addressed to primary school children from our region. Children take part in fitness contests and "knowledge about security" competitions. There are many other actions addressed to children, the main hero of which is Inspector Flash- a logo and a mascot of the project,

- holding trainings for senior citizens on how to act in dangerous situations and how to minimise the consequences of such events.

III Continuation stage:

- promotion of the most interesting prevention program region in Poland and abroad,
- supervision and evaluation of prevention programmes conducted in Łódź region,
- searching for places, areas in our region where residents do not feel safe and taking proper prevention measures.

Planned actions – creating "safe spaces":

- identifying places particularly dangerous because of neglected urban greenery or defective infrastructure,
- forming a coalition of companies which would support financially or would revitalise a given space or a coalition of local institutions responsible for area development,
- commissioning the supervision of the revitalised area to appropriate institutions,
- thorough monitoring of the areas within the programme „Safe spaces”.

In connection with the initiative in September 2010 over 140 police officers participated in the training run by the Higher School of Police in Szczytno

within the programme „Norway Grants’ entitled “The improvement of public security of local communities through the proper organisation and shape of public space.”

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?

Police Headquarters in Łódź. The Prevention Department has devised and implemented a social campaign “Common Housing Estates”. It coordinates the cooperation of all police stations in the region, it runs prevention trainings for coordinators and for community officers.

International Police Association in Łódź.

In the project „Common Housing Estates” IPA is a beneficiary of financial support from institutions and business entities which want to join the programme and IPA uses this money for an advertising campaign. In 2009-2010 IPA provided means of communications for coordinators of the project. The association is a holder of copyright and patent for the logo “Common Housing Estates”.

Marshall’s Office in Łódź. The Department of Information Protection and Security together with the Departments of Promotion and International Cooperation support financially actions undertaken within the programme. They sign contracts with IPA or they finance prevention initiatives within the project. “Common Housing Estates” is under the patronage of Witold Stępień, the Marshall of the Łódź Province

The Governor’s Office in Łódź. The Department of Security and Crisis Management encourages business entities and institutions to support prevention actions. It also finances and organises prevention initiatives within the campaign, e.g. a photography competition. “Common Housing Estates” is under the patronage of Jolanta Chełmińska, the Governor of our region.

The City Council of Łódź. The President supports the campaign “Common Housing Estates”. The project received free advertising space on public means of transport. The President recommended our project to be awarded by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration as the most innovative initiative. „Common Housing Estates” is under the patronage of Hanna Zdanowska, the President of Łódź.

The list of business entities supporting the project on the basis of the letter of intent from the Governor:

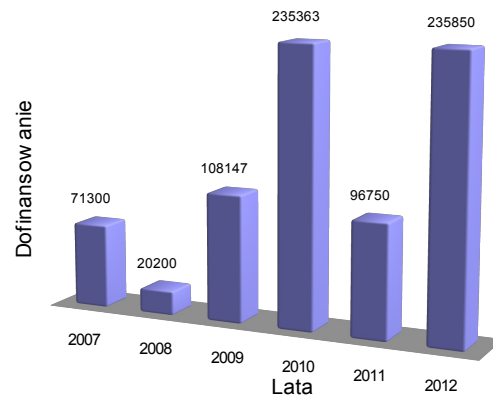
Powszechny Zakład Ubezpieczeń S.A, Ceramika Paradyż S.A, Rossmann Supermarkety Drogerijne Polska Sp. z o.o.

Others:

Housing estates’ cooperatives, schools, universities, kindergartens, cultural centres, sports clubs, local media, job centres.

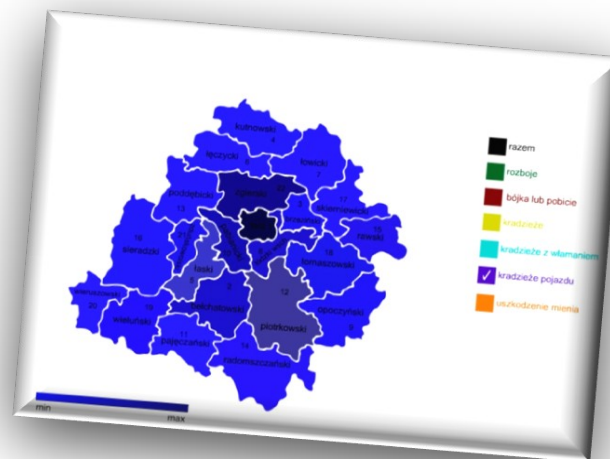
7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project? Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

The effectiveness of initiatives undertaken within the campaign „Common Housing Estates” is measured according to the level of using financial resources from the state budget which come from the government programme to reduce crime rate and anti-social behaviours “Together Safer”.



„Common Housing Estates” has led to creating sub-projects the realisation and effects of which have been appreciated by the state administration and they received financial help from the state budget. The above graph shows what influence “Common Housing Estates “ had on the growth of public funds for prevention initiatives.

Our programme has raised awareness among citizens that it is important to identify dangerous zones. It also resulted in the better quality of the initiatives as well as the number of institutions involved in prevention initiatives.



Our website, i.e. „The map of threats”, shows police statistics in six categories of crimes. Everybody who wishes to visit our website can see the level of crime rate in a given area. This information tells the Police and society where the prevention initiatives should be intensified.

Analysis of crime rate in Łódź Voivodeship

In the selected categories in 2010-2011 the crime rate looked as follows:

| Crimes and offences | 2010 voivodeship | 2011 voivodeship |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| murders | 64 | 58 decrease |
| thefts | 14745 | 15565 increase |
| assaults, mugging, extortion | 1992 | 1835 decrease |
| burglaries | 8827 | 8156 decrease |
| Car burglaries | 1778 | 1684 decrease |
| Assault and battery | 747 | 733 decrease |

www.lodzka.policja.gov.pl

From 2008, when the campaign began, to 2011 there was a significant decline in the number of criminal offences (by 857) in our region.



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

- ⤴ A professional advertising agency has been selected to design a logo of the campaign and an interactive website www.wspolneosiedla.pl with 'The map of threats' and 'The library of security' where numerous prevention materials can be found addressed to different age groups.



- ✧ Information leaflets, which form so called 'the library of security', have been published and they are addressed to different social groups. The leaflets are distributed at meetings and events organized within the programme. They are also available online.
- ✧ In 2009-2010 Civil Patrol was launched in Radomsko and Poddębice. A local job centre and town authorities employed 12 people for so called intervention works. They were supplied with mobile phones and high visibility vests. They work in particular areas and their task is to help crime victims and implement prevention measures in the neighbourhoods. The patrol members have managed to form a strong bond between residents, the Police and local administration. Lowering the unemployment rate was unintended, but positive result of this initiative



- ✧ Police officers in our region are involved in the following prevention programmes: "Together we make safer Łódź", "Together safer in Poddębice", "I see, I react", and other local initiatives "Safe district" or "Safe town".
- ✧ Projects such as 'The Police Academy of Security' or 'Cheer your teamsafely' cover the whole province and they were created by the Prevention Department of the Police in Łódź. The first project is addressed to children and teenagers from our region. Within the project a lot of didactic materials are sent to schools to help children learn to act in dangerous situations. A fitness competition and 'knowledge about security contest' are its integral part. As a consequence, different institutions, organizations and business entities are stimulated into action to improve public security and to raise awareness in the target groups how to deal with danger. More information can be found at www.komisarz-blysk.pl.



- ✧ „Cheer your team safely” is a social campaign which was launched in reaction to increasing interest of young people in so called pseudo- fans culture. This project is a platform to exchange information between teachers, police officers and everybody interested in the idea of ‘fair play’ and safe sport support. More information can be found at www.kibicujbezpiecznie.pl



- ✧ One of the most interesting prevention programmes is “I see, I react” created by police officers from Piotrków Trybunalski together with the city council and social partners. Residents can inform the Police (mostly anonymously) about various threats at schools through the website designed especially for this project. The information is thoroughly analysed and action is taken.



So far 30 requests for action have been received which involved bullying, drug dealing or simply questions where to look for help.

- ✧ Within so called 'The Map of Threats', which is a part of our website, citizens have access to the Police statistics on the basis of which new prevention programmes are created. The data clearly show that there has been an improvement in public security owing to intensive prevention programmes realised in the region.
- ✧ In 2009 – 2010 a hotline was launched. People interested in joining the project were given information how to do it or residents who wanted to take care of their neighbourhood could seek help there. Many citizens took advantage of it which proves that initiative was effective.
- ✧ We also educate senior citizens. Police officers started cooperation with the University of Łódź within the project "University of the Third Age". Senior citizens are taught how to prevent being victims of crimes. So far about 300 pensioners have been trained and we are planning to continue this initiative.
- ✧ Local media, which have great influence on the effectiveness of such actions, have also been engaged in the campaign. They present benefits that come from prevention programmes and they show examples of cooperation between citizens, the state and local administration and non-government organisations working together for the sake of public security.
- ✧ With the help of College of Public Administration, we conducted a survey in which we asked prevention officers and particularly community and patrol officers about their requirements concerning trainings. The results were the basis to draw up a plan for future workshops and trainings.

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

All reports and press notes about the project are available at:

http://www.wspolneosiedla.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15&Itemid=15

Information about prevention initiatives within our project and similar initiatives are available at:

www.komisarz-blysk.pl oraz <http://www.konkurs.komisarz-blysk.pl/index.php>
www.wr.piotrkow.pl/

Links to reports:

<http://www.policja.pl/portal/pol/1/54430/Wspolne...Mazowieckim.html>
<http://www.lodzka.policja.gov.pl/content/view/5283/277/>
<http://www.tvp.pl/lodz/informacyjne/lwd/wideo/31052010-1730/1871448>
<http://www.kuratorium.lodz.pl/page/index.php?str=89&id=313>

More information about the initiative can be found at:

[Ministerstwa Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji](#)
[oraz na portalu Interia](#)
http://www.policja.pl/portal/pol/592/59779/quotWspolne_Osiedlaquot.html?search=2890
http://www.wspolneosiedla.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76:midzynarodowa-konferencja-wspolne-osiedla-czyli-razem-bezpieczniej-w-regionie-lodzkiem&catid=1:wydarzenia&Itemid=11
<http://www.ipalodzka.pl/zdjecia/2010/dobieszkow2010/index.html>
http://www.ipalodzka.pl/zdjecia/2010/wspolne_osiedla/wspolne_osiedla.html

All the events within the project can be found at:

http://www.wspolneosiedla.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=1&Itemid=11
and
http://www.wspolneosiedla.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=2&Itemid=34

The report about „Common Housing Estates” was published in the July issue of the Police monthly „POLICJA 997”:

lipiec 2010 r. POLICJA 997

Bank Dobrych Praktyk Europejskiej

PREWENCYJNYCH

Osiedla znane w świecie

Kampania społeczna pod nazwą „Wspólne osiedla” trwa w woj. łódzkim już trzeci rok. Zaangażowane w nią są wszystkie grupy społeczne i włączają się kolejni partnerzy. Zdążyła już zdobyć uznanie w kraju i za granicą.

wiekowych, począwszy od dzieci po seniorów z uniwersytetu trzeciego wieku. Równie imponująca jest lista partnerów współpracujących na rzecz realizacji projektu. Poza instytucjami administracji rządowej i samorządowej, służbami odpowiedzialnymi ustawowo za bezpieczeństwo, prężnie działają rady osiedli, spółdzielnie i wspólnoty mieszkaniowe, placówki han-

W marcu br., dzięki Europejskiej Sieci Zapobiegania Przestępczości (EUCPN), łódzka kampania została zaprezentowana na konferencji w Londynie i wyróżniona jako najbardziej innowacyjna inicjatywa profilaktyczna spośród wniosków nadesłanych z 20 państw z całego świata. Z rządowego programu „Razem bezpieczniej” łódzki projekt dostał w tym roku 100 tys. zł dofinansowania, również za innowacyjność.

– Uświadamiamy ludziom, że mogą działać razem, zawiązywać koalicje – tłumaczy podinsp. Janusz Swat z Wydziału Prewencji łódzkiej KWP, gdzie trzy lata temu wymyślono program. – Ze ograniczanie przestępczości to nie tylko praca Policji. Ze tak samo ważne jest bezpieczne otoczenie mieszkańców i warto w to inwestować. Projekt się rozrasta, posypały się w województwie inicjatywy. Nie tylko w Łodzi. Ostatnio opiniowaliśmy projekty z Radomska i Piotrkowa Trybunalskiego, które mają duże szanse na wsparcie.

Na przełomie maja i czerwca łódzka KWP zorganizowała międzynarodowe seminarium, podczas którego goście z kraju (policyjni specjaliści ds. prewencji kryminalnej z komend wojewódzkich, eksperci z KGP) oraz policjanci i przedstawiciele organizacji pozarządowych z Anglii i Francji poznali szczegóły kampanii „Wspólne osiedla” i wymienili doświadczenia na temat prewencji. W Międzynarodowej Policynnej Akademii Bezpieczeństwa uczestniczyli też koordynatorzy i liderzy kampanii „Wspólne osiedla” z województwa łódzkiego.

Szef łódzkiego garnizonu insp. Marek Działoszyński, naczelnik wojewódzkiej prewencji podinsp. Mariusz Szyller i ich podwładni mieli mnóstwo roboty. Na zakończenie seminarium, 1 czerwca, odbył się V wojewódzki finał Konkursu Sprawności Fizycznej oraz Wiedzy o Bezpieczeństwie Policynnej Akademii Bezpieczeństwa, w którym uczestniczą uczniowie szkół podstawowych. Pierwsze miejsce zajęła reprezentacja Szkoły Podstawowej nr 173 w Łodzi, drugie – uczniowie SP nr 2 w Łowiczu, a nagrody za trzecie miejsce odebrała reprezentacja SP nr 2 w Wieruszowie. ■



wspólne osiedla

dlowe, lokalne przedsiębiorstwa, szkoły, przedszkola, uczelnie wyższe, akademiki, bursy, placówki opiekuńczo-wychowawcze, domy pomocy społecznej, świetlice środowiskowe, kościoły, biblioteki, kluby sportowe, domy kultury, Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego, hotele, noclegownie, stacje paliw, urzędy pocztowe, urzędy skarbowe, oddziały hanków, urzędy pracy oraz lokalne media itd. Na uwagę zasługują także innowacyjne formy i narzędzia zastosowane w projekcie, m.in.: działania profilaktyczne oparte na wolontariacie, ruchome punkty konsultacyjne, „tramwaje bezpieczeństwa”, wojewódzka mapa zagrożeń, fora dyskusyjne jako jeden z wielu elementów zawartych na stronie projektu www.wspolneosiedla.pl, ponadto spory na temat zasad bezpieczeństwa emitowane w środkach komunikacji publicznej oraz w mediach, billboardy, inne materiały edukacyjne dystrybuowane na terenie województwa, ale również dostępne na ww. stronie w „Bibliotece bezpieczeństwa”. Dodatkowo takie elementy, jak: szkolenia, konferencje, współpraca z uczelniami wyższymi, w ramach której realizowane są badania, ankiety, szkolenia liderów programu służb mundurowych. Warto zauważyć, że w ramach projektu realizowane są m.in. takie inicjatywy, jak: „Europejski dzień sąsiada”, „Widzę, reaguję 2010” – działanie zaplanowane do realizacji w ramach projektu na rzecz bezpieczeństwa w szkołach, analogicznie: „Miasteczko ruchu drogowego”, „Międzynarodowa Policynna Akademia Bezpieczeństwa”, debaty społeczne na temat bezpieczeństwa lokalnego, a ponadto kampanie promujące zasady bezpiecznych przestrzeni czy zagospodarowania wolnego czasu dzieciom i młodzieży.

Tak skonstruowane działania realizowane w ramach projektu łódzkiego „Wspólne osiedla” bez wątpienia wypełniają modelową strategię bezpieczeństwa lokalnego opartego na idei wspólnej dbałości o to, co najważniejsze – BEZPIECZEŃSTWO!

Stanowisko Biura Prewencji KGP

Chwali się bez wątpienia wielokierunkowość podejmowanych w ramach projektu „Wspólne osiedla” działań, które adresowane są do wszystkich grup

IF

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

The project „Common Housing Estates” involves many companies, institutions, social organizations as well as police officers, officials and residents of the Łódź province in taking care of security in the place of living.

An interactive website helps us publicise the most interesting prevention initiatives and we try to honour the most engaged people and institutions. Due to the proper identification of the problems and effective prevention measures there are more and more entities which want to support our actions.

The undeniable result of our initiative is the implementation of many interesting prevention programmes which aim to enhance public security of our residents, e.g. „Civil Patrol” in Poddębice and Radomsko and „I see-I react” in Piotrków Trybunalski, „Together we create safer Łódź”, „Together safer in Poddębice District”, „My safe town Bełchatów”. There is also a programme addressed to children and teenagers from our region called „Police Academy of Security” and “Cheer your team safely”.

It should be emphasised that the prevention officers from Łódź, who created the project „Common Housing Estates”, were inspired by many similar initiatives realised both in Poland and abroad. The initiative is effective because its form is attractive and it tightens the bond between the Police and society. Selecting a professional advertising agency made it possible to design an interesting and brief in form website which promotes the main ideas of the project. Publicising the prevention actions in the media encourages more and more people who want to take care of their place of living to join the programme. Intensive promotion work on the part of our partners and other institutions supporting us guarantees the project financial stability and lets us make plans for the future within the initiative “Safe spaces”.

The programme is effective and a decrease in the number of criminal offences proves it- from 49505 in 2008 to 48646 in 2011 . Moreover, recently (2010 – 2011) a crime rate has been falling steadily in such categories of crimes as: murders, assaults, mugging, extortion, thefts, house and car burglaries, assault and battery.

An indirect result of our programme is a decline in unemployment rate in Radomsko and Poddębice, where Civil Patrols have been introduced.

From the point of view of police officers realising the project and who have contributed to its success, an increasing number of trainings and an opportunity to share experiences in reducing crime rate or streamlining communication with local authorities is a great advantage of the project.