



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)

This is Slovenian ECPA Entry for 2012.

2. What is the title of the project?

WORKING GROUP FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF ACTS RELATED TO STREET-LEVEL DRUG DEALING

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

Regional police directorate of Murska Sobota, located in northeast part of Slovenia, has identified an increase of street crime especially related to drug dealing and other type of secondary crime within the region. Situational report also identified an increased fear of crime amongst local population in particular areas. Participation of local community in disrupting this phenomenon was low. Most targeted locations or areas of such crime were schools, play grounds etc. Involvement of youngsters in crime commitment significantly increased as well.

In accordance with these findings, the Slovenian Police proposed to the local authorities the initiation of a project focused on decreasing street crime and fear of crime committed by young people. The local community supported this initiative and promised full cooperation.

Various local authorities and bodies have participated in the project led by the police. Purpose of the project was to raise awareness and disrupt criminal activities at local level. The established working group acts in preventive and repressive way. Partners who complement the work of the working group are local authorities, school administrations, the media and other entities of the private sector.

Preventive actions are aimed on one hand at enhancing cooperation between the local community, local authorities and the police through different means of communication (media, round tables, internet,...). School authorities were also important partners. On the other hand, actions are focused on raising awareness concerning the importance of safe community for a better life.

Repressive actions are focused on determination of particular crime areas where street crime and drug dealing are more frequent, identification perpetrators, and use all measures to disrupt such criminal activity.

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

Objectives of the project are:

- Increased safety at local and regional level;
- Increased cooperation between the local community and local authorities;
- Decreased number of criminal acts related to street crime with involvement of young people;
- Decreased number of areas identified as drug dealing areas;
- Decreased number of drug users;
- Raised awareness of risks of drug use at the local level;
- Raised awareness of the importance and benefits of safe life.

5. How was the project implemented?

In May 2010, the Police established a working group for investigation of criminal acts related to street drug dealing. Working group is composed by representatives of regional Criminal Police Division and representatives of local Police Stations. Main tasks of this group are to increase police activity in the areas of repression and prevention. First actions focused on identification and disruption of criminal activities in identified areas influenced by drug dealing and other secondary criminality. Young people were mostly identified as perpetrators. First results were well accepted by the local community and at this point we invited also the local community to participate in the implementation of the project. Various local authorities started to support the project and co-operate within agreed actions. Mayors of local communities have taken an important role in the implementation of the project. School authorities have also recognized the importance of raising awareness and prevention for the safety of children and the community. Common actions were taken and round table discussions were organized. In the schools time was dedicated to raising awareness on the consequences of drug abuse.

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?

Establishing partnership between the police and local community was one of the key elements of the project. In the phase of raising awareness, local authorities and schools were involved in implementation of the project. Local authorities, in particular mayors, local marshals and security companies were involved in organizing events such round tables, and actively participated in exchange of information and findings with the police. Media were involved in raising awareness of the problem amongst population and reported about the results of actions undertaken. Schools are an important partner too. They were involved in organization of thematic hours on drug-related topics, such as drug abuse and related risks.

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

It is very important to know how the community feels or sees the results of actions undertaken. An interim measure was taken, including members of community as evaluators. Inquiry was made within the community (questionnaires were distributed) in with the aim of receiving feed-back on the achievement of key objectives. The enabled the leaders of the project to take other measures and develop actions to make the region safer from street crime and to decrease the involvement of young people in criminal activities.

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

As the most important result, we should point out closer cooperation between the local community and the police. We discovered that common action decreases the costs of making a safer community. Active participation also raised awareness about the importance of safety, especially related to young people.

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

The working group was established on 17.5.2010 by the regional Police Directorate of Murska Sobota. Monthly statistic reports have shown an increase of police activities in the field of identification of criminal offences related to drug dealing, involving mostly young people. Anual police reports also show a number of preventive activities at schools. Round tables were organised in public-private partnerships.

It is important to notice that the project itself wasn't populised in the part dealing with repressive measures. Parallel activities, such as prevention and other forms of



cooperation, were presented via local media.

Most of relevant documents are available at Slovenian Police intranet also for future use by other regional police forces in Slovenia.

The project was identified as a good practice example and was later copied also in other regions in Slovenia.

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

Please, give references to the most relevant ones.

Report on good solution/practice is available in Slovenian language in electronic and printed version.

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.

One of the more important outcomes of the project is that the project itself did not impose and significant costs. This means that most activities were implemented within the framework of daily activities of participating stakeholders. Some activities, such as round tables, were financed through private-public partnership.

This proves that many crime prevention activities can be done without the use of extra financial resources!

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

See annex

Annex

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Various local authorities and bodies have participated in the project led by the police. Purpose of the project was to raise awareness and disrupt criminal activities at local level. The established working group acts in preventive and repressive way. Partners who complement the work of the working group are local authorities, school administrations, the media and other entities of the private sector.

Preventive actions are aimed on one hand at enhancing cooperation between the local community, local authorities and the police through different means of communication (media, round tables, internet,...). School authorities were also important partners. On the other hand, actions are focused on raising awareness concerning the importance of safe community for a better life.

Repressive actions are focused on determination of particular crime areas where street crime and drug dealing are more frequent, identification perpetrators, and use all measures to disrupt such criminal activity.

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- Raised awareness of the importance and benefits of safe life.

In May 2010, the Police established a working group for investigation of criminal acts related to street drug dealing. Working group is composed by representatives of regional Criminal



Police Division and representatives of local Police Stations. Main tasks of this group are to increase police activity in the areas of repression and prevention. First actions focused on identification and disruption of criminal activities in identified areas influenced by drug dealing and other secondary criminality. Young people were mostly identified as perpetrators. First results were well accepted by the local community and at this point we invited also the local community to participate in the implementation of the project. Various local authorities started to support the project and co-operate within agreed actions. Mayors of local communities have taken an important role in the implementation of the project. School authorities have also recognized the importance of raising awareness and prevention for the safety of children and the community. Common actions were taken and round table discussions were organized. In the schools time was dedicated to raising awareness on the consequences of drug abuse.

Figures show that safety conditions in areas such as schools and playgrounds significantly improved and that the local community is more willing to cooperate with local authorities and the police to ensure a safer living environment.

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