



## *European Crime Prevention Award – ECPA 2012*

### **Annex I**

**Please answer briefly the following questions**

**1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project?**

This is the **ECPA Entry of the SLOVAK REPUBLIC** – Municipal Police of Pezinok

**2. What is the title of the project?**

With knowledge to a valuable life

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

The project „With knowledge to a valuable life“ is a follow-up project from the year 2007, which updates and upgrades its activities every year. It is focused on crime prevention of children and young people, and it uses new types of prevention programmes such as canistherapy, bibliotherapy, gestalt pedagogy, graphology and martial arts. The project programmes are realized by the Department of Crime Prevention of the Municipal Police of town Pezinok together with a psychologist and other specialists joined with the project by their participation. It is realized in the form of the educational programmes, the socio-psychological trainings, sport-preventive and safety programmes, media campaigns, publishing and advisory activities in our own client centre. Topics of the project programmes are focused on prevention of theft, fraud, kidnapping, human trafficking, domestic and school violence.



Furthermore, on vandalism prevention and various forms of personality manipulation among the youth. Project yearly addresses all schools in the municipality, while using local and national media promotion campaigns. We closely cooperate with the teachers as well as with parents. Continual interest of educational institutions in these activities is being documented regularly. To be specific, 82% of the target group responders have expressed their interest in further activities. Positive results of the project have been proved twice on the international level, in a competition representing the Slovak Republic, four times was placed among the best projects on a national level, and it was once awarded for innovation and contribution to crime prevention on a national level. Moreover, the project has already been successfully implemented in other towns.

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

The aims of the project are:

- I. to increase the safety in residential houses, housing estates and public areas;
- II. to eliminate socio-pathological phenomena at schools and to increase their safety while establishing active assistance and providing education for the target groups;
- III. to establish an advisory centre for the target groups;
- IV. to improve the cooperation with the media in order to make the activities available for the general public.

#### 5. How was the project implemented?

The project was divided into four phases:

**In the first phase**, we have established a professional work team and determined the project aims, based on information gathered from conducted surveys. Afterwards, an information campaign in media had started and followed by first educational programmes for youth. **In the second phase**, a volunteer group consisting of secondary school and university students has been created and trained for work with their peer groups. Multiple self-defence courses and series of preventive all year programmes with various prevention themes were conducted for all schools in town.



Furthermore, the advisory activities had begun along with successful safety actions in housing estates, which were supported with media campaigns. **In the third phase**, a new consulting centre was established and surveys have been conducted. Based on them, further prevention programmes attended by students, pedagogues and educators were created. We started socio-psychological trainings for, so called, problematic classes at schools in cooperation with a specialist. It was in this phase, when first successes occurred, both on national and international level. The author of the project published a expert publication focused on youth work. **In the fourth phase**, we have conducted surveys again, significantly increased media campaign and education, while, the interest in our activities of other municipalities increased. Our publishing activities extended (four new publications and contributions in professional journals), an educational DVD was made together with audio recordings themed on crime prevention and new innovative pilot programmes, too.

**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?**

Following partners participated in the project:

- I. **Civic Association - Together Against Crime (OZ-SPK)** - it is the main co-organizer of the project. Its role is to participate on all programmes personally, methodologically, technically and financially.
- II. **The Department of Social Affairs** - provides skilled help and crisis intervention.
- III. **The Pedagogical-psychological Centre and the Centre of Educational and Psychological Prevention** - provides specific preventive programmes at schools, at so-called problematic classes and for parents, as well as for pupils and students.
- IV. **The Psychologist** - cooperates during the socio-psychological training and gives a skilled help to the target groups of parents and their children.
- V. **Judo Club Pezinok** - provides space for sport-preventive activities and exhibitions.
- VI. **Crime Prevention Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic** - provides methodical help and financial subsidy for the project realization.



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

Measuring of the project effectiveness was provided by:

- I. feedback – in the form of written confirmation provided by the target groups for every action conducted;
- II. surveys;
- III. examination of appointed goals – conducted monthly through reports, assessed by the Chief of the Municipal Police of Pezinok as well as by the Mayor of the town;
- IV. inviting the media to the activities to get the most objective feedback from public;
- V. yearly assessment by the means of summarizing of all information and knowledge gained during the course of the project.

The project was evaluated by following individuals:

- I. the members of preparation and realization team of the project,
- II. the Chief of Municipal Police,
- III. the Town Council – by the Deputies of the Council,
- IV. the school headmasters,
- V. the coordinator and the author of the project.

The final reports were submitted to assessment of the regional crime prevention coordinator and to Secretariat of Crime Prevention Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

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

The aims of the project were more than fulfilled:

- I. The safety in residential houses, housing estates and public areas was increased by the regular prevention activities. The public opinion confirmed the increasing of safety.
- II. We obtained a permanent interest in our both preventive and advisory activities from both educational institutions and target groups. It helped to solve the crisis situations at schools faster and has prevented various socio-pathological phenomena at schools.
- III. The advising centre for the focused group was created. It is regularly used by the students of The Trnava University, who undertake a compulsory practice in the area of prevention and crisis intervention.



**IV.** The cooperation with the media on local, regional and national level was improved by providing the education in the area of crime prevention.

**Positive results beyond the appointed aims:**

- I.** Four books for the youth work were published.
- II.** The reissue of the audio recordings from the meetings with the youth on the topic of crime prevention was provided.
- III.** A tradition of charity evenings of martial arts, where the children and youth can show their skills have been introduced.

**Note:** In its final part this project was an experimental programme. It was expected to last for one year only, but this successful project is still being active and it obtains regular support from the Municipality. Furthermore, it has represented the Slovak Republic in international competitions. At present, individual programmes of this project influence crime prevention in various regions of Slovakia.

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

At the beginning the project has been implemented through a form of information campaign, that informed schools and target groups about the aims and form of the project, and furthermore, through education programmes followed by surveys. Based on the positive feedback from the target groups, an auxiliary work team was assembled from the secondary school and university students. They actively participated in realization of the project. Then there were preventive programmes held together with some advisory activities designated to the target groups. For these purpose a client centre was built directly in the building of the Municipal Police. Apart from consultation services, various courses and socio-psychological trainings are held regularly. Then the author of this project summarized the obtained knowledge and published it in his book. Later he published also other materials in the journals designated for pedagogues and other prevention workers. An interesting fact of the project is a usage of a therapeutic dog (canistherapy) during project activities. This kind of approach was awarded also by a Golden Award in the national competition. With the help of this programme a male paedophile, which harassed children in front of their schools was revealed. Further innovative components successfully



implemented during the course of the project like bibliotherapy, graphology, and martial arts activities.

**References:** 82 % of the target group participants expressed their interest in these activities. Headmasters of educational institutions are continuously demanding for our both preventive and advisory activities that lead to a boosted awareness and safety at schools.

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

**Available documents:**

1. monthly, biannual and annual assessments,
2. laudatory acknowledgements,
3. surveys,
4. newspaper articles and TV reports,
5. photographs from the course of the project, publishing activities of the author of 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.**

Project is financed by our own resources, by the resources of our cooperating subjects and by the grant system.

The total project cost is from 10.000 to 15.000 EUR yearly. Preventive activities are yearly realized in all schools and including kindergartens.

Approximately 70% of town population is being addressed with project activities every year. A constant interest in continuous activities in educational facilities is being documented in regular surveys. The awareness has been increased and problem solving processes within the school environment have been accelerated.

The project is presented in local, regional and national media every year, so more than 100.000 people is being addressed. Cooperation in field of practical application has been conducted with a university whose students attend compulsory practice. Furthermore, practical experience gained through this project was processed into expert publications and are regularly published in professional journal "School Management in Practice."



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

The project „With knowledge to a valuable life“ has been a continuous project since 2007 that annually updates and upgrades all of its activities. It is being focused on crime prevention among children and youth, while it uses state of the art concepts in the field of crime prevention such as: canistherapy, bibliotherapy, gestalt pedagogy, graphology and martial arts. The project's programmes are realized by Municipal Police's Department of Crime Prevention team in cooperation with a clinical psychologist and other experts from participating subjects. It is realized in the form of educational programmes, socio-psychological trainings, sport-preventive and safety programmes, media campaigns, publishing and advisory activities in our own client centre.

Topics of the project programmes are focused on prevention: of theft, fraud, kidnapping, human trafficking, domestic and school violence, furthermore, on vandalism prevention and various forms of personality manipulation among the youth. We address with project yearly all schools in the municipality, while using local and national media promotion campaigns. We closely cooperate with the teachers as well as with parents. Continual interest of educational institutions in these activities is being documented regularly. The project was evaluated for four time on national level among the best projects, it has represented Slovak Republic on international competition twice and in 2012 his author was awarded for his **innovative approach** in the area of prevention by the **Golden Award in a national competition** (it has prevented a sexual harassment of children).

The total project cost is from 10.000 to 15.000 EUR yearly. Approximately 70% of town population is being addressed with its activities every year. Preventive activities are yearly realized in all schools and including kindergartens.

### **The aims of the project were more than fulfilled:**

- 1.** The safety in residential houses, housing estates and public areas was increased by the regular prevention activities. The public opinion confirmed the increasing of safety.
- 2.** We gained a permanent interest in our both preventive and advisory activities from both educational institutions and target groups. It helped to solve the crisis situations at schools faster and has prevented various socio-pathological phenomena at schools.
- 3.** The advising centre for the focused groups was created. It is regularly used by the students of The Trnava University, who undertake a compulsory practice in the area of prevention and crisis intervention.
- 4.** The cooperation of the media on local, regional and national level was improved by which we provided the education in the area of crime prevention.
- 5.** The project was successfully applied even in other towns through participating organizations and publishing activities of the project's author insp. Miroslav Schlesinger.