

European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I – new version 2014

Please complete the template in English in compliance with the ECPA criteria contained in the RoP (Par.2 §3).

General information

1. Please specify your country.

Lithuania

2. Is this your country's ECPA entry or an additional project?

It is Lithuania's ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

Complex Approach to the Problems of Human Trafficking in Panevezys Region, Lithuania

4. Who is responsible for the project? Contact details.

Caritas Lithuania, caritas@anti-trafficking.lt, +370-608-02202

5. Start date of the project (dd/mm/yyyy)? Is the project still running (Yes/No)? If not, please provide the end date of the project.

01.02.2012 – 30.12.2014

6. Where can we find more information about the project? Please provide links to the project's website or online reports or publications (preferably in English).

www.anti-trafficking.lt

www.caritas.lt

<http://www.anti-trafficking.lt/article/prekyba-zmonemis-nuo-vaiku-iki-vyru-sekundelt-2013-10-25>

7. Please give a **one page** description of the project (**Max. 600 words**)

Lithuania is known to be the country of origin of trafficking victims. Some regions – due to the economical, social reasons – are more exposed to the dangers of human trafficking than another. The criminals trap vulnerable women, men and children promising them good jobs, big salaries, education etc. Instead of that people find themselves sold to the brothels, illegal job places; quite often they are forced to perform criminal activities or to marry non-EU citizens. The available statistics shows that each year 100-120 persons become victims of human trafficking in our country though the real situation – according to the NGO sector – is not reflected in these numbers.

Panevezys region in Lithuania is one of such areas in the country where the traffickers are very active recruiting and selling young women to prostitution abroad and lately – organizing vulnerable men to steal, perform burglaries, sell drugs in such countries as G. Britain, Germany, Spain, and Sweden.

Caritas Lithuania project “Complex Approach to the Problems of Human Trafficking in Panevezys Region, Lithuania” primarily had to evaluate the existing situation and according to the results to prioritize the aims.

The trafficking victims have very clearly expressed needs – to get safe shelter, social and psychological counselling, legal advice, job skills training, an on-going support through all stages of integration. Caritas social workers in order to provide maximum effective support developed the strategies how to train the local volunteers – students, doctors, nuns etc – and to involve them in the volunteering activities.

The victims who decided to witness in the court against the traffickers received a special support – the skilled and experienced attorneys that were hired through the project and who helped the victims in the pre-trial investigations and during the court processes.

It was very clearly understood that without the active involvement of the community in Panevezys region no effective THB prevention is possible. Flexible teams of police officers, social workers and psychologists were formed and they pay special attention to the remote places in the regions local schools, orphanages, youth centres implementing a special programme “ SOS! The Dangers of Human Trafficking”.

Alongside anti-trafficking trainings were given to local social workers, police officers, prosecutors, judges. In total 190 persons were trained to identify the possible trafficking victims, to understand better the trauma process and the psychological portrait of the victim in general.

I. The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme.

8. How does the project contribute to crime prevention and/or to the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? (**Max. 150 words**)

Police officers, prosecutors, social workers who were involved in this project and dealt with the THB victims were active agents in the community spreading the message of prevention of dangers and traps of human trafficking. Through the articles in local and national dailies, face-to-face meetings with young people, discussions with different professionals the multi-disciplinary team was prepared and keen to show the inevitability of the punishment for the criminals, support for the victims, community responsibility addressing the 'hard' issues of poverty, violence, non-occupation.

9. How is the project contributing to raising citizens' awareness of crime prevention? (**Max. 150 words**)

The anti-trafficking team in the course of the project gave 25 open events to the community members, round table discussions with the local professionals in Panevezys district.

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.¹

10. What was the reason for setting up the project? What problem(s) did it aim to tackle?

The project started with the idea to give the response to the trafficking problem in Panevezys region. Especially it was aimed to the relatively big group of THB victims who needed safe shelter, social and psychological counselling, job skills trainings, follow-up services. Later on it was clearly acknowledged that victims' integration could not be successful without community awareness raising and introducing the victim-centred approach to the professionals.

11. Was the context analysed **before** the project was initiated? How, and by whom? Which data were used? (**Max. 150 words**)

The crime situation in Panevezys region is widely analysed by Lithuanian sociologists since 2008, the main data was taken from the researches made by the Institute of Law in Lithuania: "The Problems of Safety in Lithuanian Towns" (2008), "The Prevention and Control of the Organized Crime in Lithuanian Regions" (2009). Though there was indeed

¹ For more information on evaluation, see Guidelines on the evaluation of crime prevention initiatives (EUCPN Toolbox No.3): <http://www.eucpn.org/library/results.asp?category=32&pubdate>

scarce knowledge on THB in the community of Panevezys region – there were surprisingly big numbers of victims (most of them were trafficked for prostitution) and quite flexible criminal groups.

12. What were the objective(s) of the project? Please, if applicable, distinguish between main and secondary objectives. (**Max. 150 words**)

The main objectives were: to provide a complex support to the THB victims, to encourage and provide special legal support to those victims who decide to witness against the traffickers and the pimps, to introduce a team approach either dealing with the victim support or with prevention in the community, to lower the crime level in the region, discouraging young people from criminal mentality. The secondary objectives were: to develop the network of volunteers in the region, introducing the idea of giving time and energy to the vulnerable ones, and also the awareness about THB raising in the region including the remote, hardly reachable areas.

13. Did you build in internal goals to measure the performance of the project? If so, please describe at what stage of the project and how you measured whether the project was moving in the planned direction. (**Max. 150 words**)

Every 3 months the specially composed joint group of Caritas Lithuania, Panevezys municipality representatives, police officers is checking the course of the project, evaluating whether the set goals are fulfilled, what are the obstacles and the ways to overcome them.

14. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what were the main results? (**max. 300 words**) - *for more information on process evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.9-10 & part 2 - section 2A*

The internal evaluation of the process was made by Caritas Lithuania administration in January 2014 stating that some of the processes can be optimized – victim identification, victim reintegration – but in general the processes are adequate to the set goals.

15. Has there been an outcome or impact evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method were used and what were the main results? (**Max. 300 words**) - *for more information on outcome or impact evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.7-9 & part 2 - section 2A*

The outcome evaluation is planned to be performed in December 2014.

III. The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.

16. How is the project innovative in its methods and/or approaches? (**Max. 150 words**)

It's quite a challenge to introduce team approach in the places where all the institutions were used to work separately and with a certain amount of distrust even though this method is widely known in most of the parts of Lithuania. It was really new to agree that each trafficking case will be regarded multidisciplinary and even more – the case manager (from Caritas Lithuania project) will be heading the joint efforts of other services.

The same team approach was used to make the prevention strategies more effective in the community – to make the anti-trafficking message more attractive, comprehensible and valid while dealing with vulnerable young people, professionals, Church members, politicians.

Another new method for Panevezys region was to involve the former victims in prevention campaigns or actions. These brave people shared the stories of their exploitation, escape and dealing with consequences in front of various audiences allowing others to get the shocking picture of THB. In other words, we see the taking of THP phenomenon to the light as the innovation itself.

IV. The project shall be based on cooperation between partners, where possible.

18. Which partners or stakeholders were involved in the project and what was their involvement? (**Max. 200 words**)

Panevezys municipality was interested very much to be a part of this challenging project as well as Panevezys Police and Prosecutors' office. The international partner that covered most of the expenses in this project was the foundation "Renovabis" from Germany. Important partners were Panevezys College, association SOS Children Panevezys section, Soroptimist club in Panevezys. Valuable input was made by all 6 gymnasiums in Panevezys.

V. The project shall be capable of replication in other Member States.

19. How and by whom is the project funded? (**Max. 150 words**)

90% of all needed finances were provided by foundation "Renovabis" from Germany, 10% were given by the Lithuanian Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

20. What were the costs of the project in terms of finances, material and human resources? (**Max. 150 words**)

2 social workers were involved in full day job, project administrator – 0,5, the accountant – 0,75. Also 3 lawyers were hired in total for 19 cases. The entire costs of the project is 39.000 EUR.

21. Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? If so, describe the analysis, including how and by whom it was carried out and list the main findings of the analysis. (**Max. 150 words**)

The cost-benefit analysis is planned to be performed in December 2014.

22. Are there adjustments to be made to the project to ensure a successful replication in another Member State?

No major adjustments are needed for this project for the replication in the another MS as almost all countries of victims' origin has regions with high criminality, non-cooperating services, broken trafficking victims.

23. How is the project relevant for other Member States? Please explain the European dimension of your project.

The trafficking in human beings is the international issue. The victims are recruited, transported and exploited within the EU or outside. The good practise that we can share with other member States is about constructing a united platform against criminal world under rather complicated circumstances. The example of Panevezys region shows that the systematic approach stirs the intrinsic community resources and step by step the responsibility about the safe location can be distributed by the partners involved adequately.

24. Please provide a short general description of the project (abstract for inclusion in the conference booklet – **max. 150 words**).

The main idea of the project "Complex Approach to the Problems of Human Trafficking in Panevezys Region, Lithuania" was to construct a united platform against human trafficking in the region with high criminality, poor local resources and weak cooperation. Three concrete directions were chosen – a)victim support (95 adults and 18 children were supported in the course of the project) and training; b)consolidation of the professionals in the region (police officers, prosecutors, social workers, municipality officials, politicians, 190 persons in total), c)community training and awareness raising (a special programme " SOS! The Dangers of Human Trafficking" was delivered in local schools, orphanages, youth centres, giving special attention to the remote places in the region).