

European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I

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.

Hungary

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

ECPA entry project

3. What is the title of the project?

"CRIME-SCENE – AUTUMN FLOWERS" – crime prevention programme in the theatre for the elderly.

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

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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.

Start date: 01/11/2015

End date: 15/05/2016

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).

<http://www.heol.hu/galeria/heves/kek-hirek-bulvar/71766>

<http://www.baon.hu/bacs-kiskun/kek-hirek-bulvar/megvedenek-az-idoseket-602163>

<http://www.police.hu/hirek-es-informaciook/bunmegelozes/aktualis/kulonleges-tetthely>

<http://hiros.hu/kecskemet/hirek/kulonleges-%E2%80%9Etetthely%E2%80%9D>

<http://www.baon.hu/bacs-kiskun/kek-hirek-bulvar/tetthely-oszikek-656882>

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

Cooperation between the Bács-Kiskun County Police Force and Katona József Theatre in Kecskemet started in 2012. One of the elements of this cooperation was a new crime prevention programme called "CRIME SCENE". Actors in the local theatre played adaptations of criminal offences, examples from the real life that put youth in danger. The target group was the high school generation at that time. There was a lot of positive feedback from the audience which was very encouraging. The initiative became known countrywide via press reports.

Based on the success of the programme, officers of the Crime Prevention Department and the art director of the theatre worked out a new crime prevention play called "CRIME SCENE-AUTUMN FLOWERS" specially for elderly people. This was a three-part performance, adaptation of crime stories from the real life. During the performance actors play 10-15-minute-long episodes that describe criminal situations, problems such as self-defence, tricky theft, fraud and marriage scams. After the scenes there is an interactive evaluation of the situation when the audience takes part in the discussion and the crime prevention officers answer the questions.

The performance is generally played in a smaller chamber theatre, in front of 100-120 participants maximum. This way the spectators are closer to the actors and the stage, so they can feel as if they were part of the story. On the other hand, it is easier to discuss the story line with a smaller audience after the scenes, the evaluation is more efficient.

Scenes were worked out for crime prevention purposes, and specially for elderly pensioners who can easily become victims of crime due to their age, health conditions, good intentions etc. The theatre is a place and also a tool for this special crime prevention work. The special environment with its theatrical tools help to convey the message, and help the elderly understand different crime related situations and dangers.

Several times we have met victims of crimes in the audience or people who had been affected by crimes in their lives.

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**)

We can raise awareness and understanding regarding crime against seniors. The play can be easily comprehended by the audience because real life situations are performed. The small size of the theatre is very important because the tighter place makes the experience more effective. In this environment spectators become part of the play, they are able to be immersed in the plot. It is easier to

recall useful information in a critical situation if it was received in this special way, as if it had been a real experience. The discussion part after the play where the audience, the police officers and the other participants evaluate the story make the learning process more efficient.

Information they can get from the "CRIME SCENE" crime prevention project helps elderly people to recognise and avoid criminal situations and enables them to defend themselves. With the help of this programme they can avoid becoming a victim of a crime.

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

Real-life situations are dramatized in the play therefore spectators meet real situations that are useful in their everyday life. Theatrical tools – dramaturgy, scenery, sound, light – make the experience realistic. The project also offers solutions for the participants in dangerous situations in order to prevent crimes.

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 whole population of Hungary is less than 10 million. According to the statistics the median age of the population is steadily growing. The age structure is also changing; the rate of the population under 14 is decreasing, while the rate over 60 is increasing. According to the criminal statistics and victimisation surveys, large number of elderly becomes victims of crimes in the country. Typical method of these crimes is to deceive the victims; take advantage of their kind-hearted, credulous, careless behaviour and the fact that they live alone.

Due to their bad health conditions, predictable life style and habits elderly are easily deceivable, often their own careless behaviour (open doors, windows) make them victims of criminals. These findings led us to work out the "CRIME SCENE – AUTUMN FLOWERS" – crime prevention project for seniors, in order to give useful information to as many people as possible within the target group and help them to avoid becoming a victim of a crime.

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

The project was preceded by a comprehensive demographic analysis; statistical

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>

and criminal assessment. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office provided data for the project and we also used the police database. The resident population of Bács-Kiskun County is 534 545 persons. The old-age group, over 60 is one third of the whole population (126 002). Out of the old-age group 82 490 persons live in cities (2/3), and 43 512 in villages or farmhouses (1/3). One of the main characteristics of Bács-Kiskun county is the extensive rural area with farmhouses where large number of elderly people lives alone. According to the police database 1542 criminal offences against elderly people were committed in Bács-Kiskun County, in 2013. So called "tricky" theft and fraud was the most frequent method.

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

The main goal of the project is giving useful information to as many vulnerable elderly people as possible and help them to avoid becoming a victim of a crime.

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**)

Permanent analysis of criminal statistical data and the actual situation is the basis of the crime prevention planning. Statistical data doesn't contain information regarding latent criminality so we can use the target group and their personal experiences as a source of information.

Internal goals didn't seem necessary to build in during the project because the main goals had been set at the planning phase. Nothing new occurred during the project that would have justified the modification of the original plan.

The crime prevention project proved to be successful. This evaluation is based on the reactions of the audience and personal feedbacks after the performances.

14. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what where 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 long time that had passed since the beginning of the project and the regular feedbacks during the scene evaluation process with the spectators gave us the opportunity to evaluate the project. Based on this evaluation we built in two new scenes in 2016 which were inspired by the seniors. With the new scenes we tried to reflect on the most probable and dangerous situations that cause them

difficulty to solve. From the old scenes the most comprehensible and efficient ones remained in the programme.

15. Has there been an outcome or impact evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method where 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*

An outcome or impact evaluation was not carried out in connection with the project. However, we received a lot of positive feedback after the performances from the participants, they regarded the programme useful. They were always active during the post-scene evaluation process, put questions to the officers from the Crime Prevention Department, so we were able to give them useful and practical advice.

After the performances we asked them to pass on the useful information and advice to their acquaintances in order to make our efforts more effective. They were partners in this.

We received numerous requests from social institutions and social workers where they asked us to carry on the programme.

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**)

The project called "CRIME SCENE- AUTUMN FLOWERS" became well-known in Hungary because of its new methods. The special environment, the theatre with its tools – dramaturgy, scenery, sound – helped spectators to understand crime related situations. This project turned to be an efficient crime prevention tool, where the crime prevention process took place in the theatre, actors played short episodes, adaptations of real life criminal situations for the audience.

The scenes were worked out for crime prevention purposes and especially for the pensioners who can easily become victims of the crimes due to their age, health conditions, good intentions etc.

This way we were able to raise awareness and draw attention to the importance of crime prevention. We interacted with the active, inquiring part of the target group with widespread connections in their community. These people were ready to enhance their self-defence abilities, and convey the message to their acquaintances.

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**)

The Katona József Theatre in Kecskemét was the main partner of the Police in the project. They wrote the scenarios, actors played the scenes, used their own location, tools and people in order to make it a successful performance. Appointed members of the theatre helped to organise the audience.

Other strategic partner in the project was the Medical and Social Institution in Kecskemét. We also cooperated with the representatives of the pensioners' clubs in Bács-Kiskun County; they helped us to invite elderly pensioners in the programme.

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

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

To make it available for everyone the participation in the crime prevention programme was free. This was one of our principles. The project was funded externally; we use mostly state or city council grants or tender sources.

For the first time the programme was funded by Kecskemét City. Based on the success of the first programme the County Police Department applied for support on a tender funded by National Crime Prevention Council.

After a successful application the project for seniors was financed by the National Crime Prevention Council.

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

Three separated, 10-15-minute-long scenes were performed in the play. Scenes were followed by a 10-15-minute evaluation process, where the audience and the crime prevention experts took part in the conversation.

Costs included: writing scenarios (copyrighted), directing, dramaturgy, rent fees, actors and other backstage workers' salaries and other costs.

Police officers took part in the project for free; their contribution didn't mean additional cost.

The first stage was financed by the Council of Kecskemét City. The contract was signed between the city and the theatre, but the terms and the costs were not known by the project manager at the police department.

Cost of the second stage, financed by the National Crime Prevention Council were

as follows:

2 new scenes writing and directing 254,000 HUF (~795 EUR)

6 actors' allowances 635,000 HUF (~1985 EUR)

Lighting other stage costs: 110,490 HUF (~345 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**)

No, there hasn't been a cost-benefit analysis.

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

Every project requires preparation, preliminary planning. In case of a crime prevention project it is necessary to analyse the local criminal situation thoroughly. Important to know what are the most prevalent types of crimes against elderly people (or other target groups). The distinctive features of the known perpetrators and the methods they use must be examined in order to recognise them. Based on this evaluation it is easier to create useful scenarios with practical crime prevention advice for the elderly.

In the second step it is necessary to get in contact with the local theatre and the social institutions for the elderly.

The key to success is the effective cooperation between these above mentioned counterparts.

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

Maintaining public safety is one of the main tasks of the police forces either in Hungary or in other EU Member States. Citizens expect rapid and efficient response from the Police if they become the victim of a crime. In this global world there is a growing demand for a safer environment which is a huge responsibility. Police forces can't handle the challenges alone. Public safety – defending elderly people – is a common responsibility of the society. Law enforcement authorities need to be supported by NGO's.

This idea led the Bács-Kiskun County Police Force to work out this crime prevention project for elderly, where the excellent cooperation between the Police department and local NGO's contributed to the public safety.

The average age is steadily growing in Europe, the rate over 60 is increasing.

Presumably the criminal acts against elderly are also increasing, so the similar projects can be adaptable in other EU countries.

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

CRIME SCENE – AUTUMN FLOWERS crime prevention programme was a unique initiative in Hungary.

The Bács-Kiskun County Police Department and the Katona József Theatre worked out the project that is a 90-minute-long play for elderly people. The play contained 3 different crime stories adapted for crime prevention purposes. After the play the audience took part in an evaluation process where they discussed the story, told their own experiences and put questions to the officers.

The innovation of the programme was the venue –the theatre – and its special tools used for crime prevention purposes. The chamber theatre with its tight space and the professional performance of the actors helped spectators become part of the story and fully comprehend the situation, recognise the possible solutions in different crime related situations.

The post-scene evaluation helped the learning process, participants got additional information about possible threat situations, how to avoid them and they also got answers to their questions.