

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.

Slovak Republic

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

ECPA entry

*shall be filled in upon the result of the national competition

3. What is the title of the project?

"Let's Protect Each Other"

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

Maj. Mgr. František Linet, Head of the City Police Corps, Čadca, telephone:
+421907886585

Sgt. Mgr. Marcela Voreková, Department of Crime Prevention of the City Police
Corps, Čadca, [telephone:+421908499210](tel:+421908499210)

Ing. Božena Cvečková, Department of Social Affairs of the Municipal Office of
Čadca

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.

1st June 2012 – the project is running

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.nadaciaorange.sk/media/files/zelena_pre_seniorov_projekty.pdf

<http://www.mestocadca.sk/novinky-z-mesta/Pomahajme-si-navzajom-uspesny->

[preventivny-projekt-pre seniorov-v-nasom-meste.html](#)

<http://policia.mestocadca.sk/fotogalerie/chranme-sa-navzajom-preventivny-projekt-pre-seniorov.html>

<http://policia.mestocadca.sk/pevencia/projekty.html>

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

Organized crime groups use various scenarios to steal money from seniors and the most popular scenarios are as follows:

1. "*Relative in the hospital*" - The perpetrator pretends his relative is in the hospital in serious condition and needs money for the surgery. He asks the senior for a money loan and offers false money in different currency as a guarantee.
2. "*Grandchild/ nephew in need*" - The perpetrator picks up an older person in yellow pages, looking for names that are typical for the older generation. He calls the seniors and pretends he is his grandchild or nephew and asks for money to buy something or just to loan the money. If the senior agrees to provide the money, the perpetrator explains he cannot come personally but his friend will pick up the money.
3. The perpetrator pretends to be "*the employee of the gasworks, waterworks or power station or a doorknocker*". They pretend the senior is supposed to get reimbursement. Perpetrators use bank notes in high amount, so they need to get the change back from the senior. They see where the senior keeps the money and after that they ask for a glass of water to get the possibility to steal the money.
4. "*Employee of the charity*" - The perpetrator pretends to be from a charity and is going to monitor the conditions the senior lives in, in order to provide him financial support from charity. He gives a senior a bank note and needs to get the change back, so he sees where the senior keeps the money and tries to distract the senior to steal the money.

The project focuses on active seniors who were willing to participate in voluntary activities such as visiting lonely seniors, friends and acquaintances with the aim of informing them on the project called "Let's Protect Each Other". The project also deals with **passive seniors** as the recipients of the information on their own safety and protection.

The project aims especially at the development of citizen solidarity of seniors, at establishing positive relations among seniors, at the protection of their property and personal safety. The priority of the project consists in organising trainings for active seniors interested in such voluntary activities.

Aims of the project:

- Improvement of lonely seniors' safety
- Strengthening of seniors' ability to make independent decisions
- Strengthening of own competences
- Minimizing of the number of crimes committed on seniors
- Integration activities support - opportunity to participate in voluntary activities

On the ground of recommendations given by active seniors and competent authorities who intended to voluntarily participate in prevention activities, we have prepared an educational training programme which was supported by the members of the city police corps, state police corps and by social workers. The programme was aimed at all active seniors and their participation in the process of criminality prevention in our town. These seniors became familiar with the particular cases of criminal offence with the aim of learning more details about the tricks used by offenders (offenders wearing tracksuits versus offenders wearing suits). The participating seniors received guidelines and recommendations on what to do and what to avoid in the particular situations. The seniors were informed on the latest tricks used by offenders when dealing with lonely seniors. Furthermore, the seniors were provided with the tips of how not to increase offenders' success (PIN code written on the ATM card, keys hidden under flower pots, signing of unknown contracts, purchase of stolen things, lending money to strange people etc.)

The seniors taking part in the training (volunteers) received information brochures and door stickers with important telephone numbers to be contacted in case of any suspicion and notepads with the list of seniors contacted.

These activities were held with the help of lecturers from the City Police Corps in Čadca, social workers in Čadca and other specialized lecturers.

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**)

The project is aimed at integrating our active seniors into criminality prevention in our town, as well as at obtaining objective information on criminality prevention concerning this target group and at integrating our passive seniors (recipients of the information on their own protection and safety) into criminality prevention.

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

The seniors taking part in the training (volunteers) received information brochures and door stickers with important telephone numbers to be contacted in case of any suspicion and notepads with the list of seniors contacted (own family members, children in the neighbourhood, grandchildren etc.). Voluntary activities consisted in face to face encounters with lonely seniors and citizens in the neighbourhood. Such encounters shall result in the improvement of citizens' knowledge and criminality prevention.

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?

Originally, the project was based on the general priorities of criminality prevention in the Slovak Republic and on the safety policy of the municipality of Čadca for the period of 2006-2015 which was approved by the municipal council of Čadca. We intended to focus on the prevention aimed at the most endangered groups of citizens including seniors, as well. Seniors used to become and still become easy targets for criminals and thieves who easily profit from their age, credulity and lack of information. There have been an increasing number of cases where elderly citizens became victims of criminals and thieves taking away their life savings. Therefore, we have decided to implement this educational project focused on the prevention of offences committed on seniors in our town.

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

¹For 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>

First of all, the project was implemented by means of our own capacities, i.e. the members of the city police corps were visiting elderly citizens in their homes in order to inform them on the possibilities of personal protection and safety improvement. Later on, we got interested in an article published in 2010. Under the guidance of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, this article brought the outcomes of the questionnaire on the life of seniors in Slovakia. The questionnaire contained a few questions on voluntary activities. The first question asked about the willingness and concern to work for others as a volunteer without being guaranteed any financial reward. The answer saying certainly yes was given by 36.7% of respondents, out of which 23.2% were seniors. This was the moment when we started thinking of the project where we could involve seniors who are still full of energy, eager to do something useful, willing to help and to communicate. It was as early as 2011 when we started training the first active pensioners. We benefited from the cooperation with the Department of Criminality Prevention of the Police Corps in Čadca, local social workers as well as doctors and psychologists.

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

The objective of the project:

The main objective of the project consists in educating active seniors with the intention of increasing their safety by means of voluntary activities.

Increasing safety of others, mainly lonely seniors.

Secondary objectives of the project:

- Strengthening of seniors' ability to make independent decisions
- Strengthening of own competences
- Minimizing of the number of crimes committed on seniors
- Supporting of integration activities– opportunity to participate in voluntary activities

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**)

The internal goals of the project are as follows:

- Improvement of the information on the prevention of crimes committed on seniors
- Property crime reduction
- Seniors' living standard improvement

With respect to the materials assessed, our project follows a good direction and has been evaluated positively, so far.

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

Yes, the process evaluation is done annually. The completion of our goals is evaluated internally under the guidance of the Head of the City Police Corps of Čadca Mjr. Mgr. František Linet. The evaluation is made in form of questionnaires filled in by seniors after the completion of the first stage of the project (education stage). The results reflecting the level of the acquired knowledge were positive. Another form of evaluation consists in the feedback given by the passive participants in the project which is realised in form of questionnaires and personal interviews. On the ground of all evaluation materials, it can be concluded that the project follows a good direction and is perceived only positively.

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 project evaluation is performed annually within our project team. On its final session, the project team issues its annual final report which is involved in the overall report on all prevention activities realised by the municipality during the respective year and which is then submitted to the municipal council. The report includes a short description of tasks completion within the particular set of tasks, the status of the allocated budget and its usage, as well as potential problems or discrepancies. The evaluation meeting is attended by the municipal council leaders, state authorities and independent active seniors. During the period of 4 years, the total number of 602 seniors was trained. These seniors visited other 1889 seniors; therefore the total number of all seniors involved in the project during the 4 year period was 2491.

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 is innovative due to its attitude to seniors, as it deals not only with their own safety but also with the safety of other lonely seniors, their integration

into social life and their self-fulfilment. The project as a whole thus makes a significant contribution to the improvement of seniors' lives especially by means of:

- Educational activities in the process of criminality prevention
- Seniors' self-fulfilment
- Independence and autonomy support
- Integration activities

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**)

Considering the project content, the project is focused on the improvement of cooperation with state authorities and police, on the improvement of mutual informal relations among neighbouring families and citizens and on the establishment of their mutual responsibility and fellowship etc.

The activities are performed with the help of members of the City Police Corps of Čadca, Police Corps of the Slovak Republic, social workers of the nursing home for pensioners in Čadca, doctors and a social worker provided by the local authority of Čadca.

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

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

The project was funded and supported in the particular years as follows:

2012 – supported by the Foundation Orange Slovensko + co-funding by the Town of Čadca

2013 – supported by the Council of Government for Criminality prevention + co-funding by the Town of Čadca

2014 – supported by the Council of Government for Criminality prevention + co-funding by the Town of Čadca

2015 – self funding by the Town of Čadca

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

2012 - supported by the Foundation Orange Slovensko in the amount of 1550€ + co-funding by the Town of Čadca in the amount of 500€

2013 – supported by the Council of Government for Criminality prevention in the

amount of 1000€ + co-funding by the Town of Čadca in the amount of 500€

2014 – supported by the Council of Government for Criminality prevention in the amount of 2450€

2015 – self funding by the Town of Čadca in the amount of 1200€

Material costs of the project:

Providing or renting of the conference room, data projector, projection screen, education materials, leaflets, stickers and other promotion materials, office equipment etc.

Human resources:

Professionals provided by the City and State Police Corps and involved in the criminality prevention process on the local levels, social workers and doctors able to recommend particular seniors qualified to participate in the project. The human resources costs are not involved in the project as voluntary activities of seniors cannot be exactly expressed in numbers. Material costs and salaries for specialists involved in the process of the project implementation and entrusted with the training of seniors shall be covered by the municipality.

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 analysis was analysed in the project study named "Prevention for Seniors" and carried out by the City Police of Čadca. The study is based on the basic priorities of the crime prevention strategy in the Slovak Republic and on the strategy of safety policy planned by the Town of Čadca for the period of 2006 – 2015 approved by the Municipal Council of Čadca.

The project has brought a positive reaction of the surrounding municipalities and towns who became interested in the project, as well. In the years 2014 and 2015, we organised trainings for seniors from 8 adjacent municipalities and we are currently preparing trainings for specialized clerks appointed by 3 different towns which are intending to implement the project in their town.

Benefits for the municipality, community and society as a whole:

- Acquiring the information on the particular problems and needs of elderly citizens
- Improving the knowledge and criminality prevention information of seniors in their own community
- Improving the active approach of seniors, submitting of real proposals and ideas for solving problems of the elderly people and of the families within the community

An active elderly citizen – a volunteer

- Improving of his social status and knowledge on the prevention of crimes committed on seniors
- Acquiring his feeling of dignity, usefulness and a new sense of life
- Acquiring respect in public and in his family
- Applying his skills and experience
- Not being a burden, but a benefit for his family and for the society

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

The project is supposed to be applicable in all of the EU Member States.

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

The project is focused on the criminality prevention as defined by the appeal of the EUCPN (EU Crime Prevention Network). The project has been evaluated and has reached the set goals; therefore it is applicable by the organisations and bodies also in other EU member states, as it is based on cooperation among municipal authorities, police and seniors.

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

The project "Let's Protect Each Other" is focused on active seniors willing to take part in voluntary activities consisting in visiting lonely seniors and also on passive seniors acting as the recipients of information on safety and protection.

The principal aim of the project consists in active seniors' education with the intention of their safety improvement. Such education shall be provided by means of voluntary work and shall result in the improvement of the personal safety of others, especially lonely seniors.

As for its content, the project primarily consists in the involvement of active seniors in the process of criminality prevention in our town. The project shall further result in providing objective information on criminality prevention to the target group, in getting the possibilities of contacting with specialists, in learning social skills, in changing the attitudes of citizens to their own safety, in decreasing their fear and anxiety related to crime, in intensifying mutual informal relations with other seniors, neighbouring families and other citizens and in building up the feeling of their mutual responsibility, fellowship etc.