



FORMAT FOR PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION

The described project belongs with the topic:

- Domestic violence
- Public private partnership
- Young prolific offenders¹

MEMBERSTATE: Hungary

NAME OF THE PROJECT: Public Seasonal Touris Crime Prevention Program

IN USE SINCE: 2001

INFO ON THE WEB: www.

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Please answer the questions on the following pages in English and in no more than the given six pages. This way the information will be as comparable as possible.

To process your contribution, we ask you to return the completed form by e-mail no later than October 1st.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact:

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We look forward to receiving your best practice!

¹ Please tick the appropriate topic.



PROBLEM (intelligence)

Give a short description of the problem?

The southern shores of Lake Balaton, with summer holiday resorts, is situated on the north part of Somogy county. This is the largest sweet water lake of Central Europe. Hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world come and visit this area in every summer holiday season. This situation generates substantial possibilities and opportunities for perpetrators to commit criminal acts to the detriment of tourists. This problem had been multiplied with hardships of police work contact with partners since to the change of the political system in 1990. Successful solving of crimes also decreased. That was the reason why this crime prevention project had to be worked out.

Since when is it a problem?

Since 1960.

Is it possible to give any data regarding the problem?

In the lake shore and only in the season, from June to August, the number of criminal acts is almost 40% of the annual sum total occurring on the whole territory under the Somogy County Police Headquarters authority. After the political change in 1990 there was a fourfold increase in the number of crimes.

Describe the type of offenders?

Burglars, thieves and the sort. Most of the offenders come from different counties of Hungary and also from abroad. Sometimes they work in groups.

What is their modus operandi?

The offenders seize the opportunities to commit thefts (mainly on the beaches), burglaries (targeting valuables of foreign tourists mostly), breaking into cars breaking and stealing valuables left there.

Who are the victims?

Mostly tourists from Hungary and abroad, sometimes local citizens.

What are the causes?

Opportunities arise with people gathering in crowds and habits of holiday-makers, tourists being unaware of the risks, lack of preventive measures and awareness raising information given by competent authorities.

Do's

It was recognised that the problem cannot be accomplished by the police alone, but in partnership in which the involvement of various local authorities, local governments, institutions and groups of citizens having experienced losses caused by this sort of criminality is most essential. All participants assist in recognising the real problem in the field of protection of their properties and valuables.

Don't's



WHAT (intervention)

Give a short description of the project.

Local problems have to be solved where they arise. Therefore based on local authorities and local police forces working in partnership with local civil organisations and citizens, students and suchlike volunteers a higher level of public safety is provided, and the local feeling of safety is increased by spreading information and providing patrol services where more attention should be concentrated, thus the number of offences can substantially be decreased.

What is the short, medium and long term objective of the project?

Short: Presentation and understanding of the aims of the project. Summing up local problems.

Medium: Create partnerships of participants to work together to achieve the purpose of the project.

Lessen criminal losses and strengthen local feeling of safety.

Long: Partners work together to increase achievements, spread of the system to other areas.

What are the activities in the project?

Continuous presence, visibility in public places. Police specialists work together with voluntaries and civil activists. Crime prevention information centers with victim care. Delivering of special multi language information leaflets. Special video observation (CCTV) centres at busy places and beaches.

Is the project to address

- situational
- offender or
- victim

orientated causes? Namely,
see above.

Do's

Dont's



HOW (implementation)

Give a short description of the history of the project?

In 2001 in a small town on the southern shore of the lake an office for crime prevention and victims care was established which cooperates with the local government. Furthermore a special "camp" for students of a public security faculty of higher education was put up. It also integrated the local civil guards, post office workers and other volunteers.

The next year it was duplicated in another town, Siófok, the "capital" of Lake Balaton with similar technical equipments and partners.

Since then it has been spread to the entire length of the southern shore of the lake.

Is there a project plan?

Yes.

How is the project customised for the local situation and context?

Special local problems are identified and targeted. Local participants were provided with the necessary information and expertise to successfully solve their problems. The problems to be met are mostly similar in the whole area.

Do's

Dont's



WHO (involvement)

Which –both public and private- partners are involved in each fase of the project?

Local governments, police forces, civil guards, private security services, hotel owners, restaurants, civilians, students, other voluntaries working together during the summer period fulfilling special tasks.

What role and task does each partner have?

Local governments provide offices, accommodation for participants, assist in the local spreading of information on crime pervention.

Police forces, civil guards and students (wearing uniormised T-shirts with the wording: "Police Crime Prevention" provide patrol (on foot, bycycle, by car) service on the project area, deliver leaflets to residets.

Who gave the input on the know-how?

Hungarian and international technical literature & expertise, police experience in theory and in practice.

How is the project financed?

Financial support from local governments, the Minstry of the Interior and the Foundation for a Safer Hungary (the latter two upon special application).

Did the project effect them who it was ment to, or also others?

All the residents (temporal / toursits & permanent/local) as well as local authorities in the area benefited from the project as the feeling of security was increased, less offences were to be investigated, public-private relations became better, victims had much better assistance, etc.

Do's

Dont's



EFFECT (impact)

Has the project been evaluated?

Yes, on a permanent yearly basis.

What was evaluated?

Decrease of crime on the basis of criminal statistics figures and the feeling of safety according to public opinion polls accomplished by university students

At what stage did the evaluation take place?

Accomplishments are evaluated evaluation annually, just after the season (in September) each year, followed by discussions among the partners.

Who did the evaluation?

It was conducted by the police as well as the local governments.

What are the results?

Since 2001 the number of crime decreased by 25% in the area, information leaflets were issued in 3 languages (H, E, D), local feeling of safety increased, police - public relations became much better, local governments have increased their commitment & activities.

Are the goals of the project achieved?

Yes, but the project is still to be continued. There is a certain indications that this project will be spread to other areas (mostly frequented by tourists) within the country. On the basis of the experience of this project tourist protection programs will most probably be initiated in Croatia and possibly in Slovenia as well.

Do's

Dont's