

# European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

## Annex I

Approved by the EUCPN Management Board in 2018

Please complete the template in English in compliance with the ECPA criteria contained in the Rules and procedures for awarding and presenting the European Crime Prevention Award (Par.2 §3).

### General information

1. Please specify your country.

Lithuania

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

Yes it is the Lithuanian ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

I Am Responsible for My Future

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

Šiauliai City and District Police Unit of Šiauliai County Police Headquarters,  
Community Police Group Chief Investigator Danutė Jakubkienė,  
phone +370 41 397846, e-mail [danute.jakubkiene@policija.lt](mailto:danute.jakubkiene@policija.lt)

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.

The start date of the project was 01/01/2018 and the end date was 31/12/2018.  
The project was being implemented during the 2018.  
The implementation of a certain successful activities has been continued in 2019.

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).

During the implementation of the project, the information about the project and its activities were announced by Šiauliai County Police Headquarters, Šiauliai District Municipality, Open Šiauliai District Youth Center. A substantive part of

information was disseminated through social networks. Also leaflets were distributed in communities which were involved in the project. Online reports and publications are available in Šiauliai County Police Headquarters Facebook account:

<https://www.facebook.com/siauliu.apskritis.policija/posts/>

and Šiauliai Community Police Facebook account:

<https://www.facebook.com/siauliubp/>

The project was recognized as the best crime prevention project of the national Crime Prevention Projects and Community Initiatives Awards 2019 organized by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania (MoI):

<https://www.facebook.com/Vidaus-reikal%C5%B3-ministerija/posts/>

The information about the project is also available on the official internet website of the MoI:

<https://vrm.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/viesasis-saugumas-1> under the heading "Nusikaltimų ir kitų teisės pažeidimų prevencijos projektų ir bendruomenių iniciatyvų gerosios praktikos konkursas"

All sources are in Lithuanian only.

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

The use of psychoactive substances is a serious social problem in a modern society. It is recognized that pupils and students are more aware of drugs than adults – parents and teachers. Drug addiction plays a crucial role in many major social problems such as violence, stress, crime etc.

The main objective of *I Am Responsible for My Future* (hereinafter "the project") was to protect the members of the society, in particular children and youth from harmful environment, to help them eliminate or reduce the risk factors which determine the use of psychoactive substances and the development of various addictions. Also it was seeking to improve the situation with drug-related offences (both criminal and administrative) in Šiauliai. As this issue is not matter of police only, but educational, health care, NGO and other institutions, media and local communities, some of them were involved in the project as partners and stakeholders.

The structure of the project consists of:

- Šiauliai county Police Headquarters and Šiauliai District Municipality Administration as public authorities leading the project;
- residents of Šiauliai district as a target group of the project;
- preventative measures through various activities, designed for the project, which affect the target groups in order to boost protective factors and eliminate or reduce risk factors for drug use;
- factors that impact the project promoters and participants and need to be assessed in the implementation of the project (economic, social, psychological, etc.).

Project activities were designed to have widespread community impact toward our goal and to help creating healthy and safe environments in which to raise young people as well as educate parents and families on the dangers of substance abuse. Our main task was to empower both families and youth to make a choice for a strong drug-free stance.

The project contains a variety of prevention activities performed by community police in cooperation with partners and stakeholders:

- **Educational activities** – meetings with different target groups, i. e. students to address risk and protective factors common to all children in a given setting, such as a school or community. Other meetings were organized for groups of children and teens who have specific factors that put them at increased risk of drug use. Also families and influential adults continue to play the most important role in determining how youth handle the lure of alcohol, cigarettes,

misuse of prescription drugs, and illegal drugs. That is why educational tools for parents were organized as well.

**Practical skills development** - training to develop skills helps to build and improve behaviors (e. g., communication within the family, social and emotional development, academic and social competence, and dealing with peer pressure). The method of Forum Theater was accepted for the first time in Lithuanian police. A contest of mini-performances "***I am for a better tomorrow***" was held. It had invited the youth to choose the relevant problem, play the situation, find different ways to solve it, shoot it and present for the contest. Other trainings were organized as well.

**Drug-related crime prevention** – increased number of K9 officers with service dogs inspections in educational institutions and their surroundings, other youth gathering places.

Working on the project we focused on multiple components to reach their intended target groups through a variety of settings. Combining some effective programs involving partners has proven to be more effective than conducting a single program, so some successful activities were continued in 2019.

**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 the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? Does it focus on raising citizens' awareness or does it apply other mechanisms? (**Max. 200 words**)

Preventative measures, held by the competencies together with social partners and other stakeholders were implemented during the project. The main idea was to protect the members of the society, in particular children and youth from harmful environment, to help them eliminate or reduce the risk factors which determine the use of psychoactive substances and the development of various addictions. The information on the legal consequences of a person's criminal behavior related to the use of psychoactive substances was disseminated widely.

Seeking the best results a complex approach was used. This method focuses not only on children, adolescents and youth, but at the same time their close environment (family members, schools and other educational institutions administrations, social educators, etc.).

On the other hand, the activities in the project were designed to include various age groups and various actors were involved (local authorities, police, non-governmental organizations, media and communities).

The project focused on raising citizens' awareness through preventative educational events, lectures, seminars were organized as well as meetings with the communities for the identification of problems and solutions. Other mechanisms of crime prevention were used as well.

**II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.<sup>1</sup>**

9. What were the reasons for setting up the project? Was this context analysed before the project was initiated and in what way (How, and by whom? Which data were used?)? In what way did this analysis inform the set-up of the project? (**Max. 150 words**)

According to the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) report 2015, assessing trends in the prevalence and frequency of student use of psychoactive substances, Lithuania is the leading country among other European countries in the number of students who were 13 years and younger when smoked their first cigarette. The proportion of students aged 15-16 who have never drunk alcohol was only 13%. Among students who have tried

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

drugs at least once in their lifetime, cannabis use is the largest – 18%.

Official crime statistics data is taken from Information Technology and Communications Department under the MoI. 150 offenses related to the possession and smuggling of drugs or psychotropic substances were registered in Šiauliai County in 2017 (comparing to 105 in 2016). The figures (source [www.ird.lt](http://www.ird.lt)) show that offenses of this type are most commonly committed by persons aged 21-24 and 25-29.

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

The main objective of the project was to protect young people from harmful environment, to help them eliminate or reduce the risk factors raising awareness, to reduce the number of drug-related offenses and finally to contribute to the development of a safer and healthier society.

The secondary objectives were:

- to form negative attitude towards harmful habits, raise awareness of all target groups on the drug-related health damage and the consequences of consumption;
- to provide legal education of all target groups, to develop children's and adolescent's psychological resilience to the negative/dangerous effects of the environment;
- to increase the involvement of family members, educators and other professionals in joint activities, promote cooperation and exchange of good practices among all stakeholders;
- to find and apply the new approaches that are comprehensible and interesting to all target groups;
- to promote the voluntary activities of young police supporters.

11. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what were the main results? Which indicators were used to measure the process? Did you make changes accordingly? (**max. 300 words**) - *for more information on process evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.9-10 & part 2 - section 2A*

The process evaluation was carried out both internally (by the project promoters) and externally (by partners) during the project activities and after the project was completed.

Before the project application was submitted to Šiauliai District Municipality, the consistent list of project activities with deadlines had been approved. Relevant

process indicators were discussed and multiple process indicators were agreed.

One of the process evaluation indicators was compliance with the deadlines. This indicator was fulfilled by 100 percent.

Another indicator of the process evaluation was considered the popularity of Šiauliai Community Police accounts in social networks (number of views, likes, comments). Social networks are being used by young people very widely, so this indicator clearly demonstrates the relevance of the issues raised to this particular target group. Users' reactions and comments can also provide useful information. 7 messages received in social networks were forwarded for further investigation in Šiauliai County Police HQ Organized Crime Investigation Board. It is worth mentioning that Šiauliai Community Police accounts in social networks (Facebook, Instagram) have more than 5500 followers, so this method of providing information is quite effective.

Third indicator is related to the second, it is the participation of a certain number of community members in project activities. It was planned to involve about 2,000 children and 5,000 adult community members. Interim evaluation was carried out after 6 months, results were matched as planned. The final evaluation was carried out at the end of the project and it was concluded that the indicator had been implemented and even exceeded as there were more children and adults involved in various activities than expected.

Fourth indicator – feedback from the participants during the activities. Usually the feedback is not being documented, but especially successful were Smart Orienteering Competition, Children's camp in Dengtiltis and Night Basketball Games.

12. 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? Which indicators were used to measure the impact? (**Max. 300 words**) - for more information on outcome or impact evaluation, see *EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.7-9 & part 2 - section 2A*

The evaluation of the outcome was carried out both internally (project promoters) and externally (partners) after the completion of the project. The general evaluation of the results was done by systematic analysis.

Same as for process evaluation, extensive outcome evaluation was chosen, multiple process indicators were agreed.

First indicator is the amount of the participants in different target groups. It was planned to involve at least 30 education institutions in Šiauliai district in activities and reach 2000 children and 5,000 adults. Community Police officers made more than 60 educational tools (lectures, seminars, tournaments) for youth and adults.

At the end of the project it was concluded that the indicator had been exceeded as there were more children and adults involved in various activities than expected.

Second indicator – the enhanced cooperation between school administrations and police. During the prevention of the use of narcotic and psychotropic substances, K9 officers with service dogs carried out 24 inspections in educational institutions, no narcotic substances were found in the students personal belongings (for comparison, in 2017, 14 inspections were performed, narcotic substance were found in 4 cases, 2 in gymnasiums and 2 in vocational training centers). The willingness of school administrations to cooperate and more frequent invitations for police to attend educational institutions let to increase the number of K9 inspections.

Third indicator – step by step changing attitude to the problem from local authorities, non-governmental organizations, media, and communities. For example, during Naisiai Summer Festival 2018, which is being attended by thousands of people, it was forbidden to sell and drink alcohol. Lithuanian celebrities were promoting a healthy lifestyle in the festival's advertisements.

And the most important, the crime, related to psychotropic and narcotic substances, clearance has increased to 112.5% in 2018 from 71.5% in 2017 in Šiauliai City and District Police Unit.

### **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**)

Our project is innovative in it's methods, since these approaches have never been used in Lithuanian police before:

1. The ***Kahoot app*** has been adapted for the Smart Brain Battle. This program significantly improved the dissemination of the tasks, let to receive answers and to fix their time.

2. A contest **"I create a safe and sober environment for the next generations"** was organized. It's objective was to encourage young people to be intolerant to the use and distribution of psychotropic substances, to strengthen their responsibility and to promote respect for rules of conduct.

3. The method of ***Forum Theatre*** was applied in the practices in Lauryno Ivinskio gymnasium in Kuršėnai.

4. A contest of mini-performances **"I am for a better tomorrow"** was held for the first time. It had invited the youth to choose the relevant problem, play the situation, shoot it and present for the contest.



**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 main partner of the project was:

- Šiauliai District Municipality Administration, Vilniaus str. 263, LT-76337 Šiauliai, Phone +370 41 596642.

Partners and stakeholders (education and training institutions, the Association of Šiauliai youth organizations "Round Table", Probation Service, Public Health Office, Children's Rights Protection Unit, Public Institution Mother Teresa's Family House) have participated in various project implementation activities. Prevention functions, which are legally attributed to the competence of both police and state/municipal institutions, agencies and other persons, were successfully performed in this project by organizing cooperation with the above mentioned entities.

Partners and other stakeholders were involved in the project according to their specific functions - organizing lectures, seminars, conferences and other events aimed at shaping the negative attitudes of young people towards the use of tobacco, alcohol and narcotic and psychotropic substances. Educational and training institutions cooperated organizing K9 Unit checks in classrooms. The project partners organized a children's camp in Dengtiltis, Šiauliai district, with 250 children from all over Lithuania. Open Šiauliai District Youth Center organized the Youth Day in Kuršėnai. Also some other summer pastime events were organized. Other partners contributed to the Smart Orienteering Competition in Naisiai.

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

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

Šiauliai District Municipality allocated EUR 6,000 for the implementation of the project.

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

Šiauliai District Municipality allocated EUR 6,000 for the implementation of the project.

EUR 4,000 were used for education: competitions, discussions, lectures, conferences, campaigns, camps, tournaments, the legal training for minors

introducing the consequences of drug use and offering solutions to the certain problems. This direction is very important to do in time, because certain amount of risk-taking is a normal part of adolescent development. The desire to try new things and become more independent is healthy, but it may also increase teens' tendencies to experiment with drugs.

EUR 2,000 were used for practical implementation of project activities. These funds were used for young police supporters (for signs, vests, other necessary tools), for the police and stakeholders' cooperation, for the target groups practical trainings, for training materials (video clips) creation.

Šiauliai County Police Headquarters, partners, stakeholders and local communities also have contributed with human resources and organizational decision making.

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**)

Cost and benefit analysis was carried out internally by project promoters and externally by partners. All project budget had been used.

The expenses for competitions, discussions, lectures, campaigns, camps, tournaments, the legal training for the different target groups, the prevention of the offenses had the direct effect "here and now" and also created the persistent intellectual and material value of the project, which will undoubtedly be used in the future.

- *Kahoot app* for the Smart Brain Battle;
- short video clips produced during the project will be demonstrated by Lithuanian Police.

Feedback received from teenagers, their immediate environment, social educators and project partners highlighted the relevance of the problem and the need for preventative measures. Requests for the project continuation were got.

Comparing the expenses used for the implementation of this project with its outcomes it's clear that good, long-lasting results were achieved with comparatively low costs.

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

The project activities are universal and would not be difficult to replicate elsewhere. Therefore, only slight adjustments might be needed taking into consideration the peculiarities of a certain area.

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

Since the use of any drugs and psychotropic substances occurs within the framework of the social environment, drug addiction should be considered in the context of complex interactions of mental, social and physical processes. This involves majority of us, especially affecting the younger members of the society. People all over the world who use alcohol and other drugs often have family and social problems, poor academic performance, health-related problems (including mental health conditions), and involvement with the justice system. The number of drug-related crime is increasing not only in Lithuania.

The European Union and the Member States have developed together, over the past two decades, a European approach to addressing drugs sustainably. This approach is enshrined in the [EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020](#) and two consecutive four-year Action Plans on Drugs, the first one covering the period [2013-2016](#) and the second one covering [2017-2020](#).

Given the rapid rise of new psychoactive substances, the system set up in 2005 was no longer considered effective and fast enough. Therefore, new rules were adopted in 2017 and became fully applicable on 23 November 2018. [Directive \(EU\) 2017/2103](#) amended [Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA](#) and repealed [Council decision 2005/387/JHA](#). [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2101](#) amended [Regulation \(EC\) No 1920/2006](#) as regards information exchange on, and an early warning system and risk assessment procedure for new psychoactive [substances](#). The EU's approach on cooperation with third countries on drugs focuses on specific drug trafficking routes. The EU conducts regular dialogues on drugs with the Latin America and the Caribbean, Central Asia, Eastern Partnership, Russia, the US and the Western Balkans.

Considering the above mentioned aspects and the importance of the exchange of good practices we believe that this project is highly relevant for other Member States as it sets a clear platform how we can tackle crime through education and mass participation.

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

I Am Responsible for My Future

Awarded Best Crime Prevention Project at the National Prevention Projects and Community Initiatives Awards 2019 (MoI, Republic of Lithuania)

Different people use drugs for different reasons (escape, relax, curiosity, fit in, boredom, rebel, experiment, etc.) but all of them want to change something in their lives. They think drugs are a solution. But eventually, the drugs become the

problem.

The main objective of our project was to protect the members of the society (in particular children and youth) from harmful environment, to help them eliminate/reduce the risk factors which determine the use of psychoactive substances and the development of various addictions. Also it was seeking to improve the situation with drug-related offenses (both criminal and administrative) in Šiauliai.

Drug-related problems have no simple solutions, but knowing the facts can help people deal with them and make a proper choice.