

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.

Portugal

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

ECPA

3. What is the title of the project?

"Spring Break" Operation

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

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 operation began in 2014 and runs every year.

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.gnr.pt;

<https://www.gnr.pt/comunicado.aspx?linha=4203>

<https://www.gnr.pt/comunicado.aspx?linha=4341>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7J71hi0fLYs>

<https://www.facebook.com/GuardaNacionalRepublicana/posts/1549982451766135>

/

<https://www.facebook.com/GuardaNacionalRepublicana/posts/2085936454837396>

/

<https://tvi24.iol.pt/pesquisa/spring+break>

https://www.rtp.pt/noticias/pais/gnr-atenta-aos-exageros-nas-viagens-de-estudantes_n1138825

<https://observador.pt/2018/03/19/gnr-lanca-operacao-para-prevenir-comportamentos-de-risco-de-jovens-em-ferias/>

https://www.rtp.pt/noticias/pais/operacao-spring-break-gnr-sensibiliza-jovens-finalistas_v1139080#

<https://www.msn.com/pt-pt/video/sicnoticias/opera%C3%A7%C3%A3o-spring-break-gnr-sensibiliza-jovens-finalistas/vp-BBVzF0F>

<https://www.msn.com/pt-pt/video/sicnoticias/opera%C3%A7%C3%A3o-spring-break-gnr-sensibiliza-jovens-finalistas/vp-BBVzF0F>

<https://www.jn.pt/justica/interior/gnr-apreende-262-doses-de-droga-em-fiscalizacoes-a-viagens-de-finalistas-10781178.html>

<https://www.publico.pt/2019/04/05/sociedade/noticia/operacao-spring-break-gnr-vai-fiscalizar-1868223>

<https://www.tsf.pt/sociedade/seguranca/interior/correcao-gnr-lanca-operacao-para-prevenir-comportamentos-de-risco-de-jovens-em-ferias-9197743.html>

<http://www.radioregiaodebasto.com/index.php/fr/sociedade/2476-gnr-passa-a-fiscalizacao-no-ambito-da-operacao-spring-break.html>

<https://observador.pt/2018/03/19/gnr-lanca-operacao-para-prevenir-comportamentos-de-risco-de-jovens-em-ferias/>

<https://sol.sapo.pt/artigo/653228/gnr-apanha-262-doses-de-droga-a-jovens-que-seguiram-para-viagem-de-finalistas>

<https://www.centronoticias.pt/2017/04/11/gnr-balancos-das-operacao-spring-break-e-seguranca-privada/>

<https://rr.sapo.pt/2016/03/18/pais/operacao-spring-break-da-gnr-arranca-esta-sexta-feira/noticia/49620/>

<https://www.diarioviseu.pt/noticia/43036>

<https://www.noticiasao minuto.com/pais/976360/as-viagens-de-finalistas-estao-ai-a-porta-a-gnr-estara-atenta>

<https://rr.sapo.pt/2017/04/03/pais/ferias-da-pascoa-gnr-na-estrada-para-prevenir-comportamentos-de-risco/noticia/80169/>

<https://www.rederegional.com/index.php/breves/8434-gnr-da-aco-es-de-sensibilizacao-sobre-drogas>

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

According to reports from the Directorate General for Health, "the ages of individuals with episodes triggered by the new psychoactive substances ranged from 14 to 52 years (with quite asymmetric distribution particularly concentrated in individuals very young). A median of 20 years was observed; the 40% quantile was 17 years old; 17 years was the most reported age (17.6% of cases); 14.7% of the cases were verified in 14 and 15 year olds".

At ECATD-CAD 2017 - Study on Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use and others Additive Behaviours and Dependencies, 2017 - "Regarding the ages of onset of consumption, and focusing on the group of 15-24 years where it is higher the likelihood of recent onset of use, cannabis remains the substance that presents the earliest ages, with an average age of onset of consumption identical to registered in 2012 (17 years) and a higher modal age (16 years in 2012 and 17 years in 2016/17).

According to the 2017 SICAD statistical synopsis, 43% of young male students aged 18 and 29.6% female students reported having already used illicit substances. In 2016/17, once again cannabis was the illicit substance with the highest prevalence (10% lifetime, 5% last 12 months and 4% last 30 months) very close to those of any drug, and the prevalence of substance use, either in the total population (15-74 years) or in the young population and young adult (15-34 years)".

The Republican National Guard (GNR), through its Sections on Criminal Prevention and Community Policing, as part of its proximity policing mission, creates awareness in the entire education community with the aim of taking prevention closer to young people, alerting them to the dangers that are associated with the consumption of alcoholic and narcotic beverages, constituting a means of reaching preventive and dissuasive behaviours, but equally pedagogical information.

As part of this scope, since 2013 and every year, GNR carries out the "Spring Break" Operation, developing awareness and/or supervision actions aimed at the students of the schools within its area of responsibility, directed specifically to the students of the 9th and 12th grades, ages 13/14 and 17/18, respectively, taking advantage of Easter time to make their "Finalist Travels".

During these trips, the use and consumption of narcotic products and drinks is recurrent, especially by adolescents and young adults. This experience for some of the young people may become the beginning of behaviour additive.

In this measure, and in conjunction with the school calendar, which establishes the school holidays, in mid-April, the Operation takes place in order to coincide before the trip, during the trip and during the stay. The "Spring Break" Operation is divided into three phases. The first phase, which consists of classroom awareness actions on the dangers associated with alcohol and drug use, safety issues (in its many aspects), best practice advice and the recommendation to adopt appropriate preventive measures. Following the awareness phase, the second phase begins which coincides with the students' trip to their holiday destinations. At this stage the students are transported and monitored, even to verify the safety conditions in the vehicles that guarantee their transportation, coinciding with border inspection actions to check the possible transportation of narcotic substances in the luggage, using to drug detection dogs.

Once the transport is completed and they are already in their holiday destinations, the 3rd and last phase of Operation "Spring Break" begins, where joint patrols are carried out with similar forces with the Spanish Guardia Civil, since most trips are to southern Spain, where some hotel units are hosted where students are staying and nightlife establishments to check out how their holidays are going. In this phase are also carried out inspections in portuguese establishments to verify the eventual sale of alcoholic beverages to under 18 years, which is not allowed in Portugal, as well as the verification of any other infractions such as the detection and sale of narcotics.

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**)

The main objective of the "Spring Break" Operation Project is the safety of young people and the prevention of risky behaviour, specifically the prevention of the addition of alcoholic beverages and narcotic substances. This is aimed at young people susceptible to risky and deviant behaviour, namely 13/14 and 17/18 years, where they are far from their families enjoying their finalist journey and are more exposed to the risks posed by of group dynamics and possible affirmation in the face of peers. The excessive consumption of alcohol and drugs are in this type of behaviour and our intervention aims to prevent their consumption and the adoption of safety behaviours.

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

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

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>

data were used?)? In what way did this analysis inform the set-up of the project? (**Max. 150 words**)

The "Spring Break" Operation is a success every year and has a tremendous impact at the national level, largely due to youth work and contact with the media. Annually, the 360 military of the Criminal Prevention and Community Policing Sections aware thousands of students aged 13/14 to 17/18 about the adoption of risky behaviours related to alcohol and drug abuse. Only in the 2019 Operation 9.473 young people were aware about the thematic risk behaviours associated with excessive alcohol and drug use. They work with these young people as they are at-risk groups in adopting deviant behaviours, and the travel of finalists tends to be a time of excess, even because of group dynamics and affirmation towards peers. Also following "Spring Break Operation", narcotics detection inspections are carried out.

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 "Spring Break" Operation is to promote the safety of young people from the risks associated with the consumption of alcohol and narcotic substances.

Secondary objectives are to raise awareness about risky behaviours and promote direct contact with GNR staff to increase the sense of safety of young people who may be in contact with risky situations related to excessive drinking and narcotic substances, ensuring closer proximity.

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 project is evaluated at a national level by the Portuguese Board of Assessment and Accountability that evaluates performance in Public Administration and internally within the GNR 2020 Strategy.

In addition to the assessment of public institutions (QUAR), the GNR, by way of university institutions, encourages carrying out master's theses that through the research and use of the scientific method seek project analysis and evaluation.

Internally reports are made on the lessons learned, which are taken into consideration before operations are developed in the next year. Only in QUAR 209 GNR has established the objective to aware 70.000 children and young students about preventing the use of drugs.

12. 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? 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 GNR has conducted a systematic evaluation of the project through a (qualitative and quantitative) statistical analysis of the outcomes achieved by the different Community Policing Sections and encouraged carrying out academic research of Master's Theses in coordination with the Military Academy or the Military University Institute. The GNR is currently developing an investigation project through the Master's made available by the Research and Development Centre of the Military University Institute.

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**)

An action research method was adopted to achieve the project, seeking a descriptive study of criminal phenomena, as well as evaluation and signalling of samples. The intervention stems from the intervention in educational establishments, monitoring and referral of flagged young people and awareness about risk behaviour.

In order to promote the development of awareness actions, civil society partnerships was established with the National Health Service's Addiction Behaviour Intervention Service (SICAD) to ensure that the GNR Community Policing Sections have the aware of the issues and resources needed to carry out awareness actions. The role of cooperation with establishments is central to their knowledge of young people given the time they spend there and current risk behaviours.

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**)

Partnerships made were essential to quickly address the problems of young people identified by GNR personnel during awareness and signalling actions that go beyond the area of competence of a security force.

These include the following partners: local councils, health centers, Microsoft, PT Foundation, and CTT. Nevertheless, partnering with youth and partnering with the National Health Service's Dependency Behaviour Intervention Service (SICAD) to ensure that GNR Community Policing Sections are aware of awareness issues and awareness.

Equally relevant is the cooperation with the Spanish police, specifically the Guardia Civil in joint patrols in hotel units where students are and nightclubs frequented by them, given that most of the finalist trips are to southern Spain.

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 is funded by the GNR budget with the support of other partners.

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

The costs results essentially from human (police salaries) and logistic (fuel, paper, printing, etc.) resources used to conduct the various programme actions. Magnets and other support resources have been borne with partner backing.

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**)

A cost-benefit analysis was performed concisely, as patrol expenses were already budgeted; it was only necessary to know which schools have students who are going to make the finalist trips and monitor the youth transportation for their finalist trips by directing the patrolling effort, maximizing and saving resources to direct the effort to the most needed places in order to raise awareness among young people about risk behaviours.

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

We believe that major adjustments are not necessary for the project to be replicated in another Member State, as all European countries are currently developing a community policing culture, creating their own teams to ensure closer proximity to citizens and young people are certainly a concern from all member states.

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

The project is relevant within the EU context. The phenomenon of the use of narcotic substances by young people is a reality in all European countries and its consequences cut across all sectors of society. Taking steps to create social

awareness about drug-related problems will enable young people to be more aware of the risks and consequences of adopting risky behaviours.

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

The GNR, through the Special Community Policing Programs, carried out markedly social activities in the field of human rights in order to protect vulnerable citizens, specifically young people.

To achieve this goal, since 201~~4~~³, GNR has been developing the “Spring Break” Operation, which aims to raise awareness among young people who will make their finalist trips. They are young from 13 to 14 to 17/18 years, many of them for the first time are away from their families, and may be exposed to risky behaviour, imminently associated with excessive consumption of alcohol and narcotic substances.

In the 2019 edition, the 360 community policing police officers aware 9.473 youths in this operation, about the risks inherent in drug and alcohol use. Another action is joint actions in coordination with Guardia Civil, inspecting the main land border access routes, with special focus on the control of buses specially hired to transport young people to southern Spain border and inspection actions to check the possible transportation of narcotic substances in the luggage, using to drug detection dogs. Internally are also carried out actions of supervision of commercial establishments in the field of the consumption of alcohol and products and the supervision and permissibility of the sale of products and sale of alcohol to adolescents and young adults.