

# 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.

Slovak republic

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

It is country's ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

Knowing of a Valuable Life

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

Non-governmental organization - together against crime and City Bánovce nad Bebravou, Autor, Bc. Miroslav Schlesinger – crime prevention coordinator, [riaitel@oz-spk.sk](mailto:riaitel@oz-spk.sk) Javorová 2877 / 5, 921 01 Piešťany, Slovak republic

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 project started in the city 01.10. 2015. The history of the project began in 01.05.2001. (YES) The project continues to run.

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).

Information on the project is available at [www.banovce.sk](http://www.banovce.sk) in the municipal newspapers: <http://www.banovce.sk/banovske-noviny.phtml?id3=28027> in the municipal television: <http://www.banovce.sk/banovske-televizne-vysielanie.phtml?id5=6246>

The broadcasts were broadcasted in Regina Radio, WOW Regional Radio, RTVS, TV JOJ, TV Markíza and regional media: MY Trenčianske noviny, General News and TASR. Information about the project was also publicized by the Department of Crime Prevention of the Office of the Interior Minister of the Slovak Republic on his profile <https://www.facebook.com/prevenciakriminality/> During the project, two informative brochures and distributed information leaflets were

published. [www.oz-spok.sk](http://www.oz-spok.sk) Publication of the author of the project: [http://www.oz-spok.sk/publikacna\\_cinnost/knihy/](http://www.oz-spok.sk/publikacna_cinnost/knihy/)

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

The project "Recognizing Valuable Life" has been implemented since 2001. Since then, it has been supplemented several times with new forms and a focus on prevention. Its system and forms have proven themselves in several cities and towns. During his realization, he has won several local, national and international achievements and awards. It focuses on all ages. Including children of pre-school age, teachers, crime prevention workers and seniors.

It is a form of educational and publishing activities, self-defense courses and counseling. Priority focuses on: prevention of drug, property, violence and internet crime, prevention of trafficking in human beings, programs aimed at positive motivation and elimination of hate speech in society. Part of the project is to work with a marginalized community in the form of the so-called "Roma patrol", which performs mediation and patrol activities there. An innovative form of the project is the use of canistherapy (work with a therapeutic dog) in the prevention of crime. The project is based on creating active cooperation at local, regional and national level. Adequate attention is paid to work with media and publishing.

In connection with this year's European Crime Prevention Award ESPA 2018, the project presents a comprehensive and comprehensive "community policing". This activity demonstrates successful practice created by internal and external forms of cooperation in self-government.

The project in Bánovce nad Bebravou lasts 2015 and aims to improve cooperation with citizens, eliminate crime in schools and the city, reduce tension in a marginalized community, create good communication with this self-government community, eliminate racially motivated verbal attacks in the city, implement and to undertake preventive programs and to improve the methodology and tactics of police operations. All of the targets are filled.

The City Police, as part of the self-government, co-ordinated its community policing activities through the Chief of the City Police and the Crime Prevention Coordinator of the City Authority. This is a trained city policeman, who prepares crime prevention, communicates with the public as a city spokesman and at the same time provides a new crisis center (counseling office) for citizens.

The city police created the "Roma patrol" provided by three people from this community. Their role is to act as mediators and at the same time assist the members of the municipal police. One member of the city police has special training to work with this community. Since the establishment of this patrol, it has been possible to eliminate the crime and the various tensions in this community. Over two years, the emerging tension between extremists in the city has been eliminated. Thanks to active work in this community, it was possible to

achieve higher employment of these citizens, as well as the gradual repayment of financial liabilities (debts) to the city.

As the community policing activity is connected directly with the local government within the project, the project succeeded in: improving the work of the municipal police, communicating with citizens, reducing crime and increasing the sense of security of the population, ensuring a comprehensive system of preventive activities in schools, also for seniors and educators, significantly improve the publishing activity, which simultaneously eliminates hate speech on the Internet, has established a functioning communication system in a marginalized community and has managed to create cooperation throughout the region. To achieve goals, the therapeutic dog is also actively used as an innovative form of prevention.

**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 demonstrable fact is that, after two years of implementation of the project, the Bánovce nad Bebravou region was declared one of the safest regions of Slovakia in terms of safety. (Source: <https://www.dnes24.sk/bezpecnost-na-slovensku-vlani-bolo-spachanych-vyse-66-tisic-trestnych-cinov-288940> There is External Survey) We have created an effective crime prevention system based on extensive co-operation in self-government and throughout the region. Active participants are: local government, city police, pre-school and school facilities, 11th Seniors' clubs, city newspapers, city television, NGO and state police. Three advisory bodies were created to improve communication with citizens: the Senior Board, the Business Council and the Youth Council. Provision of preventive information is ensured by city newspapers, a website, social networking profile, and city television. We regularly held talks, preventive-educational actions, two self-defense courses for girls and two police self-defense courses for MsP members. During the cooperation in the region, 104 teachers were trained in the region, who are currently implementing crime prevention and 40 members of the Kennel Rescue Corps of the Slovak Republic, who are engaged in search for missing persons. For communication purposes by the marginalized community, a special watch is created to meet the objectives of the project. (Communication at a good level.)

**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**)

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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>

The reason for this project was the lack of comprehensive preventive actions and measures in the city. Priority of preventive measures was drug prevention, child safety and the prevention of property crimes committed on seniors. A particular problem was the resolution of problems related to the marginalized group (Roma) and the elimination of the growing extremism in the city, which spreads the adherents of a political party that is (probably) trying to have this city as its symbol. In the city during II. World War II was the controversial president of the Slovak State Jozef Tiso, who was associated with Hitler and fascism.

The Gestapo was in the city, their prison and the court. The aim was to eliminate all the aforementioned negative factors, to ensure co-operation in self-government and to create a comprehensive functional crime prevention system in the city.

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

The aim of the project was the introduction of an effective crime prevention system in the city that had been absent before. The secondary objectives were:

1. Establishment of cooperation with all pre-school and school facilities and senior clubs.
  2. Introduction of a new system of work for municipal police officers.
  3. Improve the work with the media and at the same time with the citizens (especially with the Roma).
  4. Active work on crime prevention in self-government.
- The main goal was the reduction of crime in the city, the elimination of extremist expressions and active work with citizens, respectively. for citizens. These goals have been met. This was also confirmed by an independent survey published by government institutions (the police). This district has become one of the safest in Slovakia.

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*

All schools in the city were involved in the evaluation process. Schools were evaluated by the project managers. The assessment process was provided by the senior organizations separately via written feedback. Objectivity was secured by the non-traditional form of written assessments provided by students of all grammar schools. Another evaluation output was provided by the grammar school. The result of their comprehensive evaluation of the 3-year implementation of the project was the award ceremony of the city and the author of the project. The Metodicko-pedagogical center and Kynologická rescue brigade of the Slovak Republic participating in the project were also involved in the evaluation process.

The survey has shown that prevention in this range and form is needed in schools. 40% of schools said that these activities are literally "necessary" to continue. All prevention activities are considered by schools as a suitable addition to the teaching process. Up to 78% of them said they contributed not only to improving the awareness of pupils but also of teachers. All subjects (learners, educators, seniors and participating organizations) involved in the final evaluation

report confirmed 100% satisfaction with the work of the crime prevention coordinator who coordinated and ensured the implementation of all activities, including co-operation in the region. The work of the city police has improved both in qualitative and quantitative terms. The members of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities also expressed a positive response to the problems with the marginalized community.

The external evaluators were school principals, students, 11 senior clubs and participants. The above results were also evaluated by the Criminal Prevention Department of the Office of the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic. The positive results of the project were proven by independent police statistics in January 2018.

The internal evaluator was the city's leadership, drawn from feedback from citizens.

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 impact of the project was achieved both internally and externally. External evaluators were school principals, students, 11 senior organizations and participating bodies. The project was also evaluated by the Department of Crime Prevention of the Office of the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and independently by the Police Force of the Slovak Republic. The members of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities also expressed a positive response to the problems with the marginalized community.

The internal evaluator was the city leadership, drawn from feedback from the target groups.

The data for the evaluation of the project were: the number of activities carried out (88 per year), the number of interviewed (more than 20,000), the number of clients who used the counseling (11 victims per year), the feedback from the target groups (100% satisfaction) the publicity of the project and the interest of the media in the media coverage of the project (media coverage of all types of media - commercial, national, regional, place), counts of contributions related to crime prevention and other anti-social activities and outcomes in the form of 2nd publications on crime prevention especially for the other population - parents, educators, pupils). In the marginalized community, a large proportion of the adult population was employed and began to repay the debts of the city. Extremism in the city is actively eliminated by the police and city press releases.

### **III. The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.**

13. How is the project innovative in its methods and/or approaches? (**Max. 150 words**)

The project has created a new comprehensive system in which there is co-ordinated cooperation with the city police, the local government, schools in the city and in the region, the state police, the social department, the 11. seniors' clubs, the social department and the Ministry of the Interior. Three self-government advisory

committees were set up within the project: the Senior Council, the Youth Council, the Business Council, a free counseling office, and the special "Roma Guard" (acting as a patrol and community mediator) co-operating with the city police. The whole system was well supported by publishing and good cooperation with the media, which made it possible to eliminate extremist expressions in the city.

The innovative element of the project is "canisterapia" (dog therapy). The dog is used during preventive activities and helps overcome learned stereotypes and prejudices that citizens have created, for example, for the work of the police or for those involved in crime prevention.

#### **IV. The project shall be based on cooperation between partners, where possible.**

14. Which partners or stakeholders were involved in the project and what was their involvement? (**Max. 200 words**)

Cooperating partners:

1. The non-governmental organization OZ - jointly against criminality provided methodical materials, didactic aids and therapeutic dog.
2. Schools provided space for preventive activities such as lectures, self-defense courses, and information leaflets on crime prevention. Actions for pupils allowed to be realized during classes.
3. The City Police cooperated in preventive actions, in the services of the "Roma Patrol" and in the provision of cracked order. It was one of the objectives of the project to improve its work qualitatively and quantitatively.
4. The State Police (PZ SR) cooperated to ensure public order, especially during the period when the tension in the marginalized community grew in society and increased extremist attacks on the social networks in the city.
5. The local government has created a crime prevention coordinator and office for free counseling for citizens in need (Crisis Center for Victims of Crime) and has provided professional training throughout the region. It has set up three advisory bodies - the Council of Seniors, the Youth Council and the Council of Entrepreneurs, who have actively cooperated with the self-government.
6. The Metodicko-pedagogical center of Trenčín cooperated to organize professional training for teachers from all over the region.
7. The Government Council for Crime Prevention provided financial support for the project.

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

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

The project was funded from three sources.

1. Own city budget (self-government).
2. Participation in the budget through the non-governmental organization of the OZ - jointly against criminality.
3. The project was financially supported by the Government Council for Crime Prevention.

The budget of the city provided workers' wage costs, transport and telecommunication costs, uniforms and equipment of the city police, finance for local newspapers, television and radio, ensuring people's awareness. The NGO budget - together against criminality, provided: didactic aids, all necessary veterinary examinations for the therapeutic dog and feed for him, as well as finance for communication services and transport. The Government Council for Crime Prevention has provided grants to ensure the implementation of the project, financing of vocational training, provision of

educational materials and other printed materials and part of didactic materials for the purpose of the project.

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

The project was provided by 18 City Police officers, including three members of the "Roma Patrol", one crime prevention co-ordinator. In addition, 11 members of the Seniors' Council, who were contact persons and official representatives of senior organizations in the city, were actively involved. There were 7 active members of the Youth Council and the same number was for the Business Council. The annual cost of the project was without the inclusion of wage costs of approx. 20 000 Eur. The number of human resources can be rounded to 50 active workers per year. Material costs consisted mainly of didactic aids, printing of materials and provision of preventive activities. The amount of the costs depended on the amount of professional training and the printing of methodical and informative materials (eg on pre-campaign campaigns).

17. 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**)

An analysis of the cost of the project and its contribution to the city was carried out by city management on the basis of project outputs. It summed up the financial costs of a crime prevention coordinator, the financial cost of preventive activities, the financial costs of "Roma patrols" and the financial costs of printing materials and purchasing didactic aids.

The city concluded that in the initial phase of the project the financial costs were higher. Gradually decreased. The project analysis confirmed that the implementation of the project is favorable for the city. The objectives of the project are fulfilled. Crime has shrunk, security has increased, citizens' awareness has improved, urban police work has improved, and cooperation with citizens. The debt of the marginalized community to the city has fallen and the extremist moods in the city are successfully eliminated. Cooperation in the region has improved significantly. The city also received positive ratings in the media.

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

No major modifications are necessary to make the project applicable in another Member State.

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

The project is based on the requirements of today's society, as it is based on criminality surveys and target group requirements. In essence, it is based on a relatively simple functional system that is capable of being created by each EU Member State. In the initial phase, it is necessary to invest finance to ensure the training of workers who will carry out crime prevention. We recommend the widest range of education, for example. law, social and psychological counseling, communication

and presentation skills, and at the same time focus on orientation in various areas of crime (drug, property and violent crime, extremism, etc.). The advantage is to train these workers also in the area of self-defense to provide courses for individual target groups. At present, it is a desirable trend not only for children, young people and women, but also for seniors. In the second phase, these teams, which should consist of at least one male and one female (depending on the size of the site where the preventive activities are to be carried out), will need to be provided with appropriate spatial and technical security and motivating salary. Otherwise, unwanted fluctuation will occur and the results of the work will not have the required noticeable (especially qualitative) value.

The third phase is already the prevention itself, which fulfills the basic criteria and achieves the desired goals. To overcome prejudices or negative attitudes from society, respectively. from the target groups will help, for example, an innovative crime prevention element that we have been using successfully for eight years. He is a canine therapist. The European dimension of this project lies in its simplicity and relative low financial costs. Due to the 18-year practice in this field, the project's author guarantees the positive results within half a year after its implementation into practice. However, the educational requirements and the personality of the workers who will implement the project must be met. At work, a therapeutic dog should be used as a complement to preventive activities. The reason is that the public is most sensitive and most responsive to animal-related messages and information. Especially with dogs. This has also been confirmed by our research on the Internet and social networks. Another necessity is the creation of cooperation with relevant entities, regular publishing and cooperation with the media. Regular feedback from target groups is also necessary. The project must be aimed at all target groups in order to achieve a generational succession and cooperation with them.

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

The "Learning for a Valuable Life" project has been implemented since 2001. Since then, he has won several local, national and international awards. It focuses on all age categories of the population, including preschool children and various helping professions. It is a form of educational and publishing activities, self-defense courses and counseling. Priority focuses on: prevention of drug, property, violence and internet crime, prevention of trafficking in human beings, programs aimed at positive motivation and elimination of hate speech in society. Part of the project is to work with a marginalized community in the form of the so-called "Roma patrol", which performs mediation and patrol activities there. An innovative form of the project is the use of canistherapy (work with a therapeutic dog) in the prevention of crime. The project is based on creating active cooperation at local, regional and national level. Adequate attention is paid to work with media and publishing.