



## **FRENCH PRESIDENCY**

### **7th Annual Conference on best practices in crime prevention and ceremony for the European Crime Prevention Award (Crime Prevention in Urban Public Spaces)**

Paris 16-17 November 2008

## **JURY REPORT**

The European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) was presented on November 18th by President Valéry GISCARD d'ESTAING, former president of French Republic.

This presentation closed the annual conference of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) about best practice in fight and prevention against crime.

The ECPA is presented annually to the project which, according to the jury, makes the greatest contribution to the prevention of crime.

A project submitted by a Member State for participation in the ECPA should comply with the following minimum criteria. The jury will assess projects on the basis of how far this criteria is met:

- The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme selected by the organizing Member State and agreed by the National Representatives of the EUCPN;
- The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives;
- The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches;
- The project shall be based on co-operation between partners, where possible;
- The project shall be capable of replication by organizations and groups in other Member States.

The jury is composed of up to eight members - no more than two per Member State. These members are or represent the National Representatives of:

- The current EU presidency (France);
- The former EU presidency (Slovenia);
- The two incoming EU presidencies (Czech Republic and Sweden).

The jury selects the project that in its opinion contributes most to the prevention of crime, on the basis of the criteria mentioned above.

Preventing crime in urban areas, particularly in inner cities and suburbs, is therefore an enormous challenge which justifies the exchange of know-how beyond national borders.

This is the reason why France chose this topic both for the conference on best practices and for the competition for the European Crime Prevention Award 2008.

The conference focused on three key areas of this main topic:

- Developing urban public space;
- Video protection;
- Actions or actors in daily public space management.

12 ECPA entries were in competition:

- Austria: "Preventive commercial spots – Play for safety"
- Belgium: "How to keep uninvited guests away"
- Denmark: "The BalanCity Project »
- Finland: "The safety oriented detailed city plan of the Muotiala Area, City of Tampere"
- France: "Making two social housing neighbourhoods in Brest more secure"
- Germany "Go Willi" – Crime Prevention with violent prone young people in and around the Wilhelmsplatz in Göttingen,
- Hungarian: "To support the implementation of programmes made to curb violation of the law in public spaces"
- Poland: "Together Safer in Czeladź"
- Czech Republic: "Zlín - Integrated regional security system"
- Slovakia: "Together for safer living"
- Sweden: "The mobile police office – part of the city weekend"
- United Kingdom: "Moppin up Dodge"

Major part of the entries was on actions - or actors - in daily public space management. Few of them have treated the development of urban public space. Video surveillance was used in several of the competing projects, for example in the entries from Czech Republic, Poland and United Kingdom. Thus, no projects used such surveillance as a single solution to crime prevention or to improve the feelings of safety and security among the population. Many projects were of quality but finally the vote shows that two projects have dominated the competition and have been unanimously appreciated by the jury.

One of these two projects is the town of Preston (United Kingdom), which won the European Crime Prevention through the project "Mopping up Dodge".

This is an action plan in two parts which has put in place to face the high rate of crime, environmental degradation and low community spirit, which the district was subject.

As a first step, measures of situational crime prevention have been adopted such as cleaning the area, improved street lighting and housing, the installation of fences, the introduction of video surveillance and modification of public space.

In a second step, the city has focused on the social aspects of prevention: a community garden and a centre providing advice to young parents on education and health, and offering a full range of services to all the community have been created. The group of residents also benefit from the presence of a community development officer, helping them to gain access to external financing flows, in order to pursue this action.

An important strength of the project is that convincing data strongly indicate positive outcomes, i.e. in terms of reduced levels of crime, insecurity and vacant apartments. The

prevention program can be easily reproduced and the cost of its implementation is low taking in account the savings that can be achieved over time.

It is an initiative that the jury considered particularly interesting, promising, serving as an example in the field of crime prevention in public space which is the theme for the conference.

The same holds true for the project from the city of Czeladz in Poland, which has worked radically since 1990 to rehabilitate its environment and to adapt its inhabitants in order to avoid lapsing into delinquency after the closure of mines and the social distress that followed.

The municipal council that coordinated the activities of local institutions and governmental organizations, police, etc. made a wealth of this tragedy renovating the mining sector and giving a new face in town. The public space has been opened and has gained visibility in order to be an open space and, based on a study about insecurity, video surveillance has been installed. The project received the support and participation of the population thanks to an offensive policy of public relation exercises in the field of security.

Unanimously appreciated the program was awarded for an honorary Special Jury Prize.

All contributed projects showed outstanding qualities and often dealt with the daily management of public space. That shows how this issue is sensitive and is of the utmost importance to the life of a city, an area and its inhabitants.

The jury found the race to be very close between the competing contributions of Czech Republic, Slovakia, Finland, Hungary, Denmark, Germany, Belgium or Sweden which makes it very hard to give special attention to one of them. All of them have done an outstanding job.

Some of them were more focused in space as the French program or in time as the Austrian program during the Euro 2008.

Each of them reached its objective in preventing crime.

Finally we must thank the Member States who participated in this competition in 2008 and encourage those who were absent to mobilize them for the future to present a project.

It is clear that in each country the crime prevention is a daily concern in which a lot of people is working. It is therefore important and fruitfully that members of the network make public what it is doing in their own country. The experience of everyone enriches the community.

Like the development of public space and actions in daily public space management, it is the mobilization of all which will allow the knowledge of good practices that will advance all countries in the prevention of crime. Every country, every region, every town or village, every citizen of Europe will benefit from this work and sharing that grows every year in the EUCPN and the interest that is held at the European Crime Prevention Award.