

# Czech Republic



## ECPA/BPC 2006

**Please answer the following questions in English.**

- 1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project? (Only one ECPA entry per country plus up to two other projects.)**

This project is the Czech entry to ECPA.

- 2. What is the title of the project?**

„JOINT WORLD“

- 3. Please give a short general description of the project.**

*Project name:* **JOINT WORLD**  
*Start date:* 2003  
*Address:* Police of the Czech Republic  
North-Moravian region administration  
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***Basic description:***

“Joint World“ is rather a set of measurements, targeting the police work with Roma community. It attempts to tackle the variety of issues connected with social exclusion, alcohol and drug abuse included.

***Recourse***

The project was inspired by “National strategy for Czech Police in relation to national and ethnic minorities in the Czech Republic” (based on the Government Decree of 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2003). This set of measurements responds to official policy of the Ministry of Interior and

thus it is partially financed by Ministry “*Partnership*” Program that supports local preventive projects.

### ***Realization***

The project started in 2004 by CZ Police Administration in North-Moravian region.

### ***Where***

„Joint World“ was initiated in *Ostrava City* (region capital), *Karviná City*, *Bruntál City* and *Nový Jičín City* districts. Nowadays, all districts of North-Moravian region are included ( ).

### ***Beneficiary group***

Beneficiary group has been defined as region’s inhabitants from socially excluded groups and groups in danger of social exclusion. They are mainly composed of Roma community members (especially Roma migrants from Slovakia and the so-called “*Olaš*” Roma - the specific tribe of Roma who originally made their living by horse-trade and palm reading).

### ***Alcohol and Drug Issue Background***

Socially excluded communities, suffering by the disruption of traditional way of life, resolve their complicated situation (unemployment etc.) and strict community rules (*Olaš* community) by abuse of alcohol (older generation) and drugs (youngsters).

The community is specific for toluene sniffing, “*pervitin*” (i.e. Czech version of methamphetamine) and heroin abuse. *Olaš* Roma also illicitly produce, distribute and abuse SUBUTEX, originally the medicine for replacement therapy. These people usually opt for acquisitive and violent offences (thieveries, assaults etc.) to raise money for alcohol and drugs. Other crimes enter the scene too: usury accompanied by violent recovery of debts, prostitution (before completely unacceptable by *Olaš* community). Being intoxicated and impaired, the mentioned socially excluded groups cause public disorder and enter frequent fights and skirmishes with majority.

According to sociological researches, Czech majority associates the Roma community with crime activities. That is why ultraconservative nationalist groups intend to “manage the order”, confronting the local Roma population.

For some time, the community tried to tackle its problems itself. Unofficially elected *Olaš* leader (so called “king”) keeps awarding for drug distribution the excommunication, the most severe punishment for community members.

Truth of the matter, police preventive actions were a failure for long time. They lacked the insight and contact with the socially excluded groups. What more, Romas used to take the police to be a purely repressive body. The need to amalgamate with the community was obvious. Therefore, the working group of 22 policemen from Ostrava units was established in 2003 to implement the elaborated set of measurements. The communication with local NGO started simultaneously.

### ***Target Group of Measurement Set***

Set of measurements is aimed at policemen, representatives of self-administration, public administration, NGOs workers and socially excluded (or potentially excluded) community members.

### ***Brief Project Description***

The project focuses at development of strikingly new proactive communication, activity and joint decision-making process concerning crime reduction by linking up all the subjects dealing with multicultural issues in the North-Moravian region (e.g. police, state and local

administration, NGOs, socially excluded groups representatives etc.). Minor groups are thus exposed to new police image, friendly and responsive to minor groups.

### ***Cornerstones***

The project based on the activity of **liaison officer for minorities**

Newly established **police assistants** mediate between police and crime victims/witnesses.

Policemen for example take part in **children summer camps**, organized by NGOs of purpose to change the children's attitude to law enforcement institutions.

There was a lot of **training for policemen** to understand the characteristics of minorities.

## **4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project?**

The main purpose of the project is to find out and check out new form of communication to resolve and prevent pathological behaviour of socially excluded / Roma groups by means of:

- Mutual knowledge
- Mutual confidence
- Mutual problem-solving

### ***Main areas:***

- Preventing crime inside the Roma communities:
  - Drug and alcohol abuse
  - Prostitution
  - Usury
- Preventing Roma crime activities against majority:
  - Public disorder
  - Street crime
  - Acquisitive crime and thieveries / robberies
  - Frauds
- Preventing majority crime against Roma community:
  - Drugs distribution
  - Racial discrimination
  - Credit frauds

## **5. How was the project implemented?**

The implementation of measurements settled down the example for Czech police of how to work successfully with socially excluded groups and minorities and introduced knowledge transfer to other police units.

## ***Educational activities***

### Training for policemen

- To change the thinking and attitudes toward ethnic minorities of middle and lower level police management and government officers.

- Two-days training to develop the communication skills for interaction with ethnic minorities
- One-day training of communication skills (4times – altogether 150 policemen)

### Round tables

Specialists meeting – police, local and public administration representatives, NGOs and public groups (3times – altogether 220 participants)

## ***Interactive meetings***

- Discussions in community centres with minority and socially excluded groups on topics of drug and alcohol abuse, usury, prostitution and crime consequences

## ***Interaction activities –Street Work***

- Establishing of **liaison officer for minorities** who co-ordinates police actions in the area of extremism, establish contacts with minority groups and finds ways how to reach the aims.
- Establishing of and maintaining contact with **police assistants** (workers of Roma association “*Vzájemné soužití*” - i.e. Life Together) as link between police and Roma activists. They mediate the meetings of crime victims and witnesses from the Roma communities with police, help to reduce crime as the outcome of life in socially excluded communities and inform them on crime, drug and alcohol abuse risks. As such, they ease the mutual communication and represent the friendly attitude of police towards Roma community.
- Preparation and realization of **summer camps for children** from socially excluded communities. The camps are run in conjunction with Roma associations, regional and district authorities. Up to September 2006, 12 batches were organized for 500 children. 37 police offices were there with children 24x7, teaching them on drug and alcohol abuse risks. Policemen present their work as dedicated to everybody without discrimination. In addition, policemen learn about children’s life patterns and attitudes and are more sensible to social problems of the Roma community.
- Editing “**Občasník**” (i.e. The Occasional) journal – the information bulletin (up to now 6 issues) on prevention and crime reduction joint activities of police and other subjects active in this field in the region. Legal advices and information on forthcoming activities can also be found there.
- Project realization and evaluation team was established.

## ***Problem solving***

Communication among all the concerned partners enables the promptly problem area identification and problem solving. Currently, police and municipal authorities focus at the area of usury and insolvency.

**6. Were partners involved in planning and/or development and/or implementation of the project? If so, who were they, and what were their roles?**

Regional police realized that the solution of local social problems with crime and public disorder committed by socially excluded Roma groups couldn't be resolved alone.

The rather informal round tables started in *Ostrava City*, *Bruntál* and *Karviná* where police, local authorities and NGOs got together to know each other, exchange their experiences and suggestions. Up to now, round tables have widespread through the whole region (11 districts).

- **Internal partners** (*coordination, logistics and methodology*) – Crime Prevention Department, Security Department (both Ministry of Interior), district and municipal headquarters of Police CR in North-Moravian police administration, local headquarters of Alien and Border Police in *Ostrava City*.
- **External partners** (*planning and realization of activities leading to achieve the objectives*) – regional offices of Moravian-Silesian and *Olomouc* region, Office of Czech Government Council for Roma community issues, municipal authorities, town councils, community centres, Roma activists.

In *Ostrava City*, the so-called pilot “*cellules*” are being developed within the project. It is a specific kind of cooperation in all *Ostrava City* quarters where local policemen, city representatives and NGOs meet to discuss and resolve jointly the issues typical for the locality.

**7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project?**

**Major criteria for performance measurement:**

- Crime reduction in all the areas (see question No. 3 – project purposes)
- Awareness enhancement of policemen, local and state administration, NGO workers, minority member on the problem solving in socially excluded communities
- Knowledge and communication skills improvement of policemen in the area given
- Direct and continuous contact of police with socially excluded communities representatives and Roma activists
- Mutual trust and friendly environment enhancement among police and all other subject concerned
- Police prevention activities promotion in media
- Continuous evaluation of partial tasks and its quantification

**8. Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?**

***The project is continuously evaluated by:***

- The management of North-Moravian regional police administration
- Realization team
- Prevention coordinator of regional authority of Moravian-Silesian region
- Liaison officer for minorities

Feedback use to be given to all the subjects concerned.

“Občasník” journal – its evaluation has been successfully done by telephone inquiries about its use by NGOs, local and state administration.

## **9. What were the results? How far were the objectives of the project achieved?**

The project evaluation is hardly possible to deliver in quantitative data with regards to beneficiary group – the socially excluded and Roma communities as the official statistics don't employ “ethnic” or “nationality” construct. Thus, qualitative analysis is being carried out.

The whole project (set of measurements) was several times appraised, especially for:

### ***Drug abuse***

Number of drug addicts is reasonably blazing down. Treatment and Medical Institution in *Ostrava City* informed that they registered 1 780 addicts in 2005 (the lowest number in last six years when there were 2 175 registered by in the institution in 2000 – 19% decline).

### ***Police point of view***

- Police detachment within all district police departments for activities regarding minorities
- Successful cooperation with police assistants from “Mutual Coexistence” association
- Cooperation development with state and local administration (by that time did not exist before, nowadays regular meetings)
- Highly evaluated liaison officer for minorities' work
- Informal contacts into the communities help better to investigate crimes (drug abuse, public disorder etc.)
- Thanks to training, local policemen display better understanding for minority issues

### ***Minorities point of view***

- Higher trust in police and franker cooperation concerning both crime investigation and prevention (they call the police while having skirmishes between themselves)
- Affirmative reception of policemen by children in aftermath of child summer camps. For many children, policemen in the regions are “uncles”. Subsequently, children transfer their police perception home to adults and elders.
- Many families prefer to report against their children for alleged robberies (§ 234 of Penal Code) because of their drug abuse or distribution with the aim to help them. They believe that being imprisoned, their children will get rid of addiction
- People come to police to ask for counselling regarding drug abuse in communities, Roma community members visits the discussions organized by police more than major population

### ***Majority point of view***

- Higher security feeling in the locality:
  - According to official police statistics, the number of robberies has dropped down from 9 512 reported crimes in 2002 to 7 723 reported crimes in 2005 (i.e. decline of 18 %).

### ***Success consequences***

- Joint World I – 2003
- Joint World II – 2004 – 2005
- Joint World III – 2005 – 2006
  
- Common project of *Ostava City* university and North-Moravian regional police administration – “Progressive Police Training” (financed by EU Structural Funds) – further communication and acquirement development
  
- The new Social Service Centre is emerging in *Karviná City* (supposed opening in second part of year 2007) where police assistants should be not only volunteer works but also fully professional employees.

### **10. Are there reports or documents available on the project? In print or on the Web? Please, give references to the most relevant ones.**

The reference to printed documents, for example “Občasník” (i.e. The Occasional) journal, is given in text above. Below, there are several references to web sites concerning project and mainly documents project has been based on. Web sites are available in Czech only.

<http://www.mvcr.cz/dokument/2004/lichva.doc>

*- Report on work evaluation of "USURY" police team dealing with usury in socially excluded Roma communities (especially part 2 - information on Liaison Officers for minorities and Police Assistants)*

[http://www.vlada.cz/assets/cs/rvk/rnm/dokumenty/dokumenty\\_rady/1\\_zprava\\_mensiny.pdf](http://www.vlada.cz/assets/cs/rvk/rnm/dokumenty/dokumenty_rady/1_zprava_mensiny.pdf)

*Government Report on National Minorities Situation in the Czech Republic for 2005*

<http://www.mvcr.cz/dokument/2002/strateg.doc>

*National strategy for Work of Police of the Czech Republic in Relation to National and Ethnic Minorities (Ministry of Interior)*

[http://www.mvcr.cz/dokument/2006/mensiny\\_2006\\_7.pdf](http://www.mvcr.cz/dokument/2006/mensiny_2006_7.pdf)

*Strategy for Police of the Czech Republic in Relation to Minorities for 2006 - 2007 (especially part 2.6.)*

[http://www.mvcr.cz/dokument/2006/npc\\_zprava05.pdf](http://www.mvcr.cz/dokument/2006/npc_zprava05.pdf)

*Yearly report - Situation in drug area in the Czech Republic in 2005*

<http://www.mvcr.cz/dokument/2006/extrem05.pdf>

*Information on Extremism Issue in the Czech Republic in 2005*

### **Please, write here a one page description of the project**

Project “Joint World“ is rather a set of measurements; targeting the police work with socially excluded Roma community. It attempts embarks upon social exclusion, alcohol and drug abuse included. The project started in 2004 by CZ Police Administration in North-Moravian region. The project results from “*National strategy for Czech Police in relation to national and ethnic minorities in the Czech Republic*” (based on the Government Decree of 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2003). It got financial support from “*Partnership*” Program controlled by Ministry of Interior that supports local preventive projects. „Joint World“ was initiated in *Ostrava City* (region capital), *Karviná City*, *Bruntál City* and *Nový Jičín City*

districts. Nowadays, all districts of North-Moravian region are member in the project. Beneficiary group has been defined as region's inhabitants from socially excluded groups and groups in danger of social exclusion. They are mainly composed of Roma community members (especially Roma migrants from Slovakia and the so-called "Olaš" Roma).

The community is nowadays extremely vulnerable to drug abuse, especially for toluene sniffing, "pervitin" (i.e. Czech version of methamphetamine) and heroin abuse. *Olaš* Roma also illicitly produce, distribute and abuse SUBUTEX, originally the medicine for replacement therapy. *Olaš* people usually opt for acquisitive and violent offences (such as thieveries and assaults to get money for alcohol and drugs. Other crimes follow: usury is accompanied by violent recovery of debts or prostitution (before utterly unacceptable by *Olaš* community). Being intoxicated and impaired, the mentioned socially excluded groups cause public disorder and involve in frequent fights and skirmishes with majority.

Police preventive actions were a real failure for a long time. They lacked the insight and contact with the socially excluded groups. What more, Romas used to take the police to be a purely repressive body. The need to amalgamate with the community was thereupon obvious. Therefore, the working group of 22 policemen from Ostrava police units was established in 2003 to implement the elaborated comprehensive set of measurements. The communication with local NGO started simultaneously. That set of measurements zeroes in on policemen, representatives of self-administration, public administration, NGOs workers and socially excluded (or potentially excluded) community members.

The project focuses at development of considerable new proactive communication ways, activity and joint decision-making process concerning crime reduction by linking up all the subjects dealing with multicultural issues in the North-Moravian region (e.g. police, state and local administration, NGOs, socially excluded groups representatives etc.). Minor groups are thus exposed to new image of police-friendly and responsive to minor groups. The project is based on crucial role of liaison officer for minorities and newly established police assistants. Accompanied by the overwhelmingly successful summer camps for children (aimed at crime prevention) and wide range of educational activities and training for both police and public sector, the projects delivers complex set of services.

The main purpose of the project is to locate and test out new forms of communication to resolve and prevent pathological behaviour of socially excluded / Roma groups by means of mutual knowledge, confidence and problem-solving. Generally, there are three areas of crime to be solved: crime inside the Roma communities, Roma crime activities against majority and majority crime against Roma community. Nonetheless, all of them are connected with alcohol and drug abuse.

There have been several types of activities launched to achieve mutual understanding: trainings for policemen, round tables, public discussions, preparation and realization of summer camps for children from socially excluded communities and issuing of "Občasník" (i.e. The Occasional) journal.

Set of measurements Joint world faces up against several problems. Regarding the evaluation it is impossible to exactly monitor impact on Roma communities because Czech Police is not allowed to distinguish Roma victims and offenders from the rest of victims and offenders. Therefore, rather qualitative criteria for evaluation are being carried out, for example awareness enhancement, continuous contact of police with socially excluded communities representatives and communication skills improvement.

Number of drug addicts is reasonably dropping down. Treatment and Medical Institution in *Ostrava City* confirmed that they registered 1 780 addicts in 2005 (the lowest number in last six years when there were 2 175 registered by in the institution in 2000 – 19% decline). A positive progress can be seen in several types of property crime as well, for example according to official police statistics, the number of robberies has dropped down from 9 512 reported crimes in 2002 to 7 723 reported crimes in 2005 (i.e. decline of 18 %).