

## ECPA/BPC 2008

**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.)

### ECPA entry Belgium

2. What is the title of the project?

### How to keep uninvited guests away

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

The Limburg project is a coordinated campaign at the provincial level tackling burglary prevention and social security in an integral and integrated manner. The campaign strongly emphasizes stimulating a sound social control in residential areas and establishing safe architectural and urban development plans, focusing on burglary alarm systems in dwellings and buildings and social security in public spaces. The provincial authorities therefore closely collaborate with the local police and security departments, residents' associations, architects (training), locksmiths, carpenters, joiners and other experts in the field.

The initiatives contained in this campaign are divided into and addressed to 8 different target groups: local police and security departments, (Lim)burgers in general, neighbours/neighbourhoods, intermediaries (locksmiths, joiners, etc.), architecture students/architects, builders and renovators, the elderly and burglary victims.

An overview of some of the most outstanding elements of the campaign:

1. Stimulating a sound social control and good contacts between neighbours by spreading the message "Stop! The neighbourhood is alert!" in an original manner and by filling in a form for neighbourhood surveillance.
2. Organising anti-burglary sessions for which a provincial pool of qualified speakers may be called upon free of charge.
3. Offering a highly visible provincial burglary prevention stand.
4. Providing accessible and strong visual information material explaining the often technical subject matter of burglary prevention in the simplest terms possible.
5. Offering obligatory courses on the subject of techno-prevention for architects' training, thereby hopefully better integrating basic principles of burglary prevention and social security in the concept and planning of dwellings, buildings and public spaces in the long term.

4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project

**Main goal:** to reduce the number of burglaries in the Province of Limburg and to increase the feeling security in residential areas and public spaces.

**Derived goals:**

- Imparting a proactive techno-preventive attitude to (future) architects and

- encouraging them to draw up secure architectural and urban development plans.
- Stimulating Limburgers to adopt a secure way of living and to (better) protect their home from burglars.
  - Stimulating sound social control and good contacts between neighbours in residential areas.
  - Motivating Limburgers to apply for free burglary prevention advice.
  - If however burglary attempts do occur, considering the increase in the number of prematurely aborted attempts.
  - Reducing the subjective feeling of insecurity by providing the right information.
  - Motivating and supporting local police and authorities to pay more attention to burglary prevention.
  - Informing the Limburgers of all possible burglary prevention measures, existing premiums and fiscal advantages and about what to do after a burglary, etc.
  - Paying more attention to the aftercare of burglary victims.

## 5. How was the project implemented?

In 2006, there were 2696 burglaries in Limburg, approximately 20 percent more than in 2005. In 2007, the number of burglaries was nearly the same as the year before.

The Provincial Commission for Criminality Prevention has declared burglary prevention and stimulation of social security its annual theme for 2007 and 2008. Besides repression, we should pay particular attention to the incidence of burglaries, to stimulating secure planning for houses, buildings and public spaces as well as to the aftercare of victims. The police, municipal prevention services and the province are working hard within the commission on these points of particular interest. Because Limburg is a safe and liveable province and it should remain that way.

Thanks to the collaboration of the police, prevention services, different intermediaries (locksmiths, joiners, etc.), architects' training, neighbourhood committees, etc., the elaborated campaign was and is largely implemented within the Limburg province. The campaign is furthermore supported by a steering committee involving all sectors and by a full-time provincial coordinator.

Important for the campaign's success was that:

- 1) the professional partners in the field, on whose efforts the campaign's success mainly depends, were and are involved in and well informed about the campaign;
- 2) Limburgers who (plan to) renovate/construct are made aware and informed on how to act and where and from whom to get help;
- 3) the public at large clearly gets the preventive message.

For the professional target group this meant and means: internal meetings (Security Council, Provincial Police Consultation, Provincial Commission for Criminality Prevention, Provincial Round Table Techno-Prevention), a workshop on 18 March 2008, mailings, etc.

We reach specific target groups by a presence on various fairs, through advertising, mailings, by attaching relevant information to urban development permits, etc.

We reach the public at large by generating the necessary media interest in the campaign, by folders and brochures, by articles and advertising in the media, by broadcasting on local television channels, by online info, etc.

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?

To elaborate the project, all possible know-how within the Province of Limburg was called upon. The campaign was then developed in extensive consultation between:

- **The police:**
  - Local police: Beringen-Ham-Tessenderlo, GAOZ, Kanton Borgloon, Sint-Truiden-Gingelom-Nieuwerkerken and Tongeren-Herstappe
  - Federal police: CSD Hasselt and CSD Tongeren
- **Local prevention services:** Genk, Hasselt, Heusden-Zolder, Maasmechelen, Tessenderlo
- **Experts (for advice and testing):**
  - Locksmiths and joiners: technical advice
  - Communication bureau Tricolor: advice on communications and design
  - Provincial Round Table Techno-Prevention: testing
  - Provincial High School Limburg – Department of Architecture: advice on mandatory training

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

The project coordinator foresees a bi-annual follow up of the campaign's content.

The steering committee and the Provincial Round Table Techno-Prevention meet 4 times per year to discuss to what extent the formulated objectives have been met.

The following campaign-related results are followed up:

- the number of burglaries in the Province of Limburg;
- the number of aborted burglary attempts;
- the results of the design competition for architects' training;
- the number of requests for advice on construction plans and burglary prevention in and around the home;
- the number of neighbourhood committees participating in the campaign;
- the number of brochures and flyers distributed;
- the number of anti-burglary sessions organised;
- the number of times the provincial pool of qualified speakers was called upon;
- the number of times the info stand was loaned.

On a yearly basis a statistical follow-up and planning for the following year with existing, contributed and new initiatives is established.

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

About 2 months after the start of the campaign a first evaluation of the results is carried out during the meetings of the Provincial Round Table Techno-Prevention and the Provincial Commission for Criminality Prevention. These meetings consist of representatives of local authorities, police and experts. This evaluation is carried out through **objective assessments** (the quantitative aspect) and **subjective assessments** (the qualitative aspect). You will find the quantitative data in the subsection "results". The qualitative tests were carried out in the above-mentioned meetings and are also based on daily findings of the Limburg professionals involved in the campaign.

Furthermore, a continuous quality control is carried out by the project coordinator on the basis of feedback from professionals and private individuals.

On the basis of this first evaluation, i. a. design and content of the neighbour folder was slightly amended after the second printing. There were also suggestions to intensively promote the campaign within specific target groups.

A second evaluation of results, among others of the number of burglaries reported in 2008 (in collaboration with the strategic analysts of both Limburg CSDs) is foreseen in January 2009. On the basis of this evaluation's results, the campaign's emphasis will possibly shift somewhat.

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

- **The number of burglaries in the Province of Limburg** during the first 6 months of 2008 fell by 12% as compared to the same period in 2007.

*Results April 2008 – August 2008:*

- **The stimulation of sound social control:**
  - nearly 6,000 copies of the folder (with form for neighbourhood surveillance, sticker and key rings) were distributed (either directly or via various partners);
  - for example, most of the neighbourhood committees have distributed folders at barbecues, garage sales, etc. in the neighbourhood;
  - the sticker begins to appear here and there on Limburg letter boxes;
  - the folder and mainly the form for neighbourhood surveillance is a real success at anti-burglary sessions;
  - this year, there were anti-burglary sessions in 14 of the 18 police zones in Limburg or in the planning.
- **Local police and prevention services motivate and support:**
  - To date the provincial pool of speakers was called upon 2 times a week;
  - The existence of the provincial pool now also prompted info sessions in communes and police zones where none were held before;
  - Another very positive result is that 2 communes which to date had no active techno-prevention adviser, have decided to train a staff member in techno-prevention due to the increased demand of their residents;
  - Many local police departments have anticipated the provincial offer by organising neighbourhood sessions here and there in Limburg in the fall;
  - At the request of the Provincial Service for the Elderly, anti-burglary sessions are now also directly publicised in all senior citizens associations in Limburg.
- **The Limburgers inform and encourage burglary prevention measures:**
  - The provincial info stand was exposed during one week at the Limburg construction fair 'Bouwinnovatie'; as the stand is now more conspicuous and inviting than in the past, the number of requests for information and advice increased by approximately 25% as compared to previous years;
  - The stand has been (since April 2008) loaned once a week;
  - 5,000 copies of the brochure have been distributed and approximately 4,000 of the flyer;
  - The brochure was hailed by various partners (i. a. locksmiths) as the "most accessible and user-friendly brochure for private individuals ever";
  - The number of applications for a premium (in communes with a premium system) has increased according to the techno-prevention advisors

concerned.

- **Teach future architects a proactive techno-preventive attitude:**
  - The Limburg high-school for architects finally recognised the need to introduce 4 lessons on techno-prevention and social security – an important first step;
  - After publication of an article on the subject in the local newspaper, we received a whole lot of positive reactions from various quarters.
- **The Limburgers encourage requests for burglary-prevention advice:** the number of requests for advice has, according to assessments, increased on average by approximately 20% since the start of the campaign.

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

All relevant documents and publications can be found online at [www.limburg.be/inbraakpreventie](http://www.limburg.be/inbraakpreventie). They consist of a project summary, a folder for private individuals, a folder for neighbours, a flyer for private individuals, a form for neighbourhood surveillance, etc.  
The training dossier for future architects is already available, but may be consulted online only as of the beginning of 2009.

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

Because of a. the steep rise in burglaries in the Province of Limburg in recent years, b. the realisation that many citizens take inadequate or insufficient measures to prevent burglaries, c. often the lack of social contacts between neighbours in residential areas, and d. the lack of techno-prevention and social security in architects' training, the Provincial Commission for Criminality Prevention launched the campaign "How to keep uninvited guests away".

This is a campaign coordinated at the provincial level tackling the subject of burglary prevention and social security in an integral and integrated manner. The campaign strongly emphasises the stimulation of a sound social control in residential areas and secure planning with a view to prevent burglaries in dwellings and other buildings, and social security in public spaces. The provincial authorities therefore closely collaborate with local police and prevention services, neighbourhood committees, architects, locksmiths, carpenters and joiners as well as other experts in the field.

An overview of some of the most outstanding elements of the campaign:

- Stimulating a sound social control and good contacts between neighbours by spreading the message "Stop! The neighbourhood is alert" in an original manner and filling in a form for neighbourhood surveillance.
- Organising anti-burglary sessions, calling on a provincial pool of qualified speakers free of charge.
- Offering a highly visible provincial burglary prevention stand.
- Providing accessible and strong visual information material explaining the often technical subject matter of burglary prevention in the simplest terms possible.
- Offering mandatory courses in techno-prevention for architects' training, thereby hopefully encouraging the long-term integration of basic principles of burglary prevention and social security in the concept and home planning.

**Results:**

Although the campaign only started half a year ago, there are already some striking results:

- During the first 6 months of 2008, burglaries in the Province of Limburg fell by 12% as compared to the same period in 2007.
- The Limburg high-school for architects has finally recognised the need to provide 4 mandatory lessons in techno-prevention and social security ... an important first step.
- The number of requests for burglary-prevention advice has increased by approximately 20% on average according to estimates since the campaign started.
- Due to the existence of the provincial pool of qualified speakers, info sessions are now also organised in communes and police zones where none took place before.
- 2 communes which had no active techno-prevention advisor before decided to train a staff member due to the increased demand of their residents.