

## 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

2. What is the title of the project?

Together Safer in Czeladź

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

The "Together Safer in Czeladź" project concerns supplementing and expanding the activities of the local self-government, connected with increasing the safety level in the city. The project is based not only on the current experiences but also makes use of the safety diagnosis which has been for many years carried out by the Police, Municipal Police, Municipal Welfare Centre and the Social Policy Department of the Municipal Council. The self-government of Czeladź has been for several years implementing activities for increasing the sense of personal and public safety: increasing the role of the Municipal Police, number of service personnel, patrol frequency, the action "*Safe kindergarten, school, lower secondary school*" is carried out each year, there are also other programs, such as *the Municipal Programme of Preventing and Solving Alcohol Problems, the Municipal Programme for Counteracting Drug Abuse, the Municipal Programme for Cooperating with Non-governmental Organisations...* and other programs aiming at improving the sense of personal and public safety. Exceptionally dangerous places have been monitored for several years, and educational institutions have been monitored since 2005. Activities connected with safety are currently concentrated in the Municipal Police and the Department of Social Policy and Education of the Municipal Council, which favours coherence and the improvement of action effectiveness.

The *Together Safer in Czeladź* programme comprises a range of organised components:

1. safer at school and on the way to school (cutting down trees and bushes around schools, clearing green areas, improving road signs at pedestrian crossings, redeveloping public space in the vicinity of schools: sports fields, additional lighting, barriers, visual monitoring in schools, fluorescent labels for younger pupils,)
2. personal safety - demonstrations and practical activities on first aid during events organised by the city for inhabitants and educational classes for children and teenagers)
3. public space safety:
  - expanding the city monitoring: 2006r. - 3 cameras, 2007. - 5 additional cameras: the cameras are located in busy places, where there is an exceptionally high risk of petty crime / theft, coercion, vandalism / as well as in places of high cultural value, areas where there is a risk of traffic accidents and areas threatened with the consequences of potential chemical accidents;
  - lighting of city parks, since these are frequented places and venues of outdoor events;
  - works connected with cutting down trees and bushes limiting the visibility and safety of road traffic in places considered dangerous (places where informal groups meet)
  - activities connected with revitalising the city in three regions: Old Town, former industrial districts with former miner's residential estates - knocking down old buildings, creating green squares, playgrounds, changing a purpose of buildings,

e.g. a skate park instead of a disco, expanding traffic lights, introducing limitations to the road traffic,

4. counteracting domestic violence and works in the scope of preventing and solving alcohol problems (tasks connected with implementing the Municipal Programme of Preventing and Solving Alcohol Problems, in close cooperation with associations and institutions operating in the city), including:

- educational activity involving children and teenagers, teachers, parents, conducted directly by educational centres and the Voluntary Fire Service, the Municipal Police, the Police, the Psychological and Pedagogical Service;
- organising free time (extra-curriculum classes, holiday trips for children and teenagers, day-care centres for children);
- running centres for helping addicted persons and their families, counteracting domestic violence;

5. promoting prevention and appropriate behaviour (placing information about the project and preventive educational materials on the city's webpage, gadgets and brochures distributed during events organised by the city, articles in a self-government's magazine)

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

The basic project objectives were:

1. increasing the sense of individual and common safety
2. social education in the scope of personal and public safety

One of the main assumptions of the project was to achieve the objective not only by intensifying the activities carried out by the Police and the Municipal Police and through educational activities, but above all, by modernising public space which would consist in creating order in the areas considered dangerous until presently (the Old Town area, areas previously belonging to mines, areas around educational institutions). The organisation included cutting down trees and bushes, renovating old buildings and building new ones, setting up additional lighting in the areas mentioned above, placing more signs along traffic routes, more traffic lights, installing barriers etc. The other important assumption was to expand the network of the city monitoring and modernise the monitoring of school areas.

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

The implementation plan was prepared at the beginning of the previous year, and it included the schedule and costs of particular tasks performed in 2007.

The municipal self-government was the initiator of the project and the coordinator - the Municipal Council, the Department of Social Policy and Education. The project was executed in cooperation with:

- municipal services and units (the Police, the Municipal Police, the Municipal Engineering Institution, the Municipal Welfare Centre, educational institutions),
- poviats units (the Poviats Complex of Health Care Centres, the Psychological and Pedagogical Centre, the Children and Parent Support Centre)
- social organizations (the Voluntary Fire Service, the Association for Supporting Families - *I am with you*, the Czeladź Association of Persons with Psychomotor Deficiency, the Order of Carmelite Sisters, the Municipal School Sports Association, school sports clubs, teetotaler's clubs, sports clubs).

The activities were carried out on the basis of local programmes thematically connected with preventing addictions, prevention and prophylaxis work with children and teenagers, therapeutic work, social work. Problems connected with widely understood safety in the city were discussed as they were arising, during monthly meetings of municipal services and units. A lot of time was devoted to problems connected with public space safety.

Meetings with non-governmental organisations were organised, during which the implementation of particular thematic programmes was discussed.

The project *Together Safer in Czeladź* has been actually executed for almost 10 years. Last year, systematically implemented activities for improving safety were named *Together Safer in Czeladź*.

The policy activities carried out by the self-government in the scope of improving widely understood safety began in 1998 with the implementation of the Municipal Programme of Preventing and Solving Alcohol Problems, enriched every year with new elements. Our City was two times awarded in national *Safe Municipality* contests organised in the previous years by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. The scope of educational and preventive work, the amount of funds for conducting activities connected with public safety, the number of offences and crimes, and other factors were assessed in the contests. We belong to the national Network of Leading Municipalities by the National Agency for Solving Alcohol Problems. Participation in contests and awards caused that more and more attention has been devoted to the problem of safety.

Development programmes concerning various spheres of municipal activity have been prepared and successively implemented since last year. The programme of the city development in the social sphere - "Friendly City" for the years 2008-2011 is nearing completion. Last year, the "Infrastructure" programme was adopted by the Resolution of the Municipal Council. This programme concerns issues connected with safe public space, which are also included in the programmes: "Saturn" and "Old Town". These programmes specify the schedule of tasks, methods of their implementation and financial expenditure.

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?

The partners of the self-government authorities in the project implementation were: municipal budget entities, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations operating in the city, the Police, the Municipal Police - as the units executing, planning and preparing the activities.

The partners which co-financed some of the tasks were:

The Provincial Office - co-financing of activities included in the project "Together Safer in Czeladź" and co-financing monitoring in educational institutions in 2007;  
The Ministry of Sport and Tourism - co-financing sport and leisure activities for children and teenagers, carried out by the Municipal School Sports Association;  
European funds - revitalisation of the Old Town

The meetings of the Municipal Council concerning the safety issues were the opportunity to consult and make decisions, as well as the already mentioned monthly meetings of the city authorities and the representatives of municipal units and particular departments of the Municipal Council. Also, the meetings of city authorities with inhabitants organised in particular parts of the city were the opportunity to conduct social consultations.

The project was and is financed mainly from the city budget and external sources (as above). The total cost of the project in 2007 (apart from works connected with revitalisation, co-funding sport and leisure activities) was PLN 1 278 622.78, including the internal funds in the amount of PLN 1 028 004.06.

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

- At the stage of planning and preparing, the assessment was made during regular discussions and meetings between the project coordinator and executing parties;
- The activities were also systematically corrected, e.g. non-governmental organisations using city budget funds submitted activity reports once in three months;
- Particular project stages were assessed by assessing the execution of particular

tasks - activities were evaluated (e.g. satisfaction surveys of workshop classes);

- The number of participants in educational activities, from among the local community, was also the execution indicator.

Surveys put on the website of the city constituted the material for assessing current activities in the scope of improving public space (infrastructure changes);

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

Results are assessed mainly by the City Council in Czeladź - there are annual summaries made in connection with the assessment in the scope of implementing municipal social programmes and the assessment of the results of work performed by the police and the municipal police. Moreover:

1. The Provincial Police Office in Katowice made a survey on safety in public places and places of residence (September 2007); the following was assessed, among others: the sense of safety, the sense of safety in the city area, threats were identified and located, also, the factors influencing the sense of safety were established.
2. a survey was also conducted, by means of the method of the European School Survey on Alcohol and Drugs, on using alcohol and drugs by young people at school age (in 2007/2008); the survey analysed, among others, the intensity degree of this problem among teenagers (the survey was conducted by municipal employees and school employees),
3. every year the effectiveness of actions undertaken under the Municipal Programme of Preventing and Solving Alcohol Problems is evaluated, by estimating numerical indexes concerning the number of families where the Police intervened, the number of families on welfare due to alcoholism, the number of people included in educational programmes, number of publications in local media, number of interventions against persons consuming alcohol in public and other places (the assessment is not made by municipal councillors).

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

- According to the results of surveys carried out by the Provincial Police Office in Katowice, the objective connected with increasing the inhabitants' sense of safety was achieved (24% of respondents noticed that the level of safety has increased during the last 3 years, 41.5% did not notice any difference, neither for good nor for bad; 8% of the respondents think that it is definitely safe in Czeladź, 43.5% - that it's rather safe and 17% have problems with establishing the safety level)
- Surveys conducted among high school students show the necessity to intensify preventive actions in this social group
- The results obtained during the assessment of the activity effectiveness carried out according to the Municipal Programme of Preventing and Solving Alcohol Problems indicate that: the index of families where there were police interventions has decreased (2006 - 1211; 2007 - 866), the index of families on welfare due to alcoholism has increased (2006 - 50; 2007 - 200), the index of the number of persons included in preventive programmes has also increased (2006 - 3300; 2007r. - 3500), the number of thematic publications in the local press has increased (2006 - 32; 2007r. - 35), also, the number of interventions against persons consuming alcohol in public places has increased (2006 - 660; 2007r. - 1351)

The assumed objectives have been achieved: the sense of safety among the inhabitants has increased (it should be noted that the survey was conducted in a district considered dangerous against a background of the whole city). There were more direct interventions connected with consuming alcohol in public places, which eliminated this most common cause of offences and petty crimes. The number of persons included in

preventive and educational activities were growing systematically, as well as the number of local publications about safety, which must have improved the educational level of the local society. An excellent measure of the increased social awareness in the area of dealing with alcohol problems in a family is the increased number of persons reported to the Municipal Commission for Solving Alcohol Problems - it was 16 persons in 1998 and 74 persons in 2007. Also, families on welfare are able to correctly identify a problem, e.g. alcoholism, more often now than in the previous years.

We have also observed other positive results of the project:

1. When analysing the results of actions undertaken by the Police in Czeladź in 2006 and 2007 we can state that not only the sense of safety among the inhabitants has increased (as the survey shows), but also the safety in the city has improved. And so:
  - the dynamics of cases was decreasing from 100% in 2006 to 72.9% in 2007r.;
  - the dynamics of petty crimes was decreasing by 7.1% in the analogous period;
  - the number of car thefts has decreased by 5.5%;
  - the number of traffic collisions has decreased from 290 in 2006 to 208 in 2007
  - the detection index has increased from 58.3 in 2006 to 58.6% in 2007;
2. New forms of cooperating with the Police in order to improve safety have been introduced (additional police patrols financed from the city budget)
3. The support of additional patrol force from prevention units in Katowice was obtained during the project execution;
4. The material for diagnosing problems and threats for the local community has been obtained (material from the survey of the Provincial Police Office, ESPAD research);
5. The public space has been put in order;
6. Cooperation forms between the services which are directly responsible for safety (the police, the municipal police) and the municipal services have been improved in the scope of organising safe public space;
7. New forms of therapeutic work have been introduced (the educational workshops with persons using violence, still functioning);
8. The city monitoring has been expanded and the school monitoring has been modernised;
9. Activities connected with the project *Together Safer in Czeladź* are also carried out during this year.

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 most important information about the project and last year activities has been published on the website of Czeladź [www.czeladz.pl](http://www.czeladz.pl). Articles informing about the conducted social surveys concerning the inhabitants' sense of safety were published in the local newspaper "Echo Czeladzi" in February and March this year. Articles presenting the activities carried out by the city, connected with the project execution, were published in January and April this year. The results of the surveys are available as a document at a coordinator.

## Write a one page description of the project:

Czeladź is a city with the population of 34 thousand, located in Silesia agglomeration along the state road no. 4. This is a city which used to be dominated by the mining industry, and most of the inhabitants were employed in mines in the city and the nearest area. Closing down the mines caused the impoverishment of the society and all problems connected with this. The process of the City taking over the property which used to belong to the mines and the subsequent revitalisation process of this infrastructure has been going on for years. Initially, at the end of the 1990s, we paid attention only to the social aspects of safety: preventive work, working with socially maladjusted persons. Several years ago we were trying to implement the New York CAPS prevention programme - unfortunately the attempt was not successful due to the low interest of the local community. We started to act in a different fashion, namely by engaging municipal institutions and associations in carrying out activities and organising public space. The coordinator was always the Municipal Council. The *Together Safer in Czeladź* programme comprises a range of organised components:

1. safer at school and on the way to school - organising green elements in the city, improving signs at pedestrian crossings, redeveloping public space in the vicinity of schools; additional lighting, barriers, building sport fields, visual monitoring, fluorescent labels for younger pupils, educating children and teenagers in the scope of safety, educating teachers etc.)

2. personal safety - demonstrations and practical activities on first aid during events organised by the city for inhabitants and educational classes for children and teenagers)

3. public space safety, i.e. :

- the city monitoring: 2006r. - 3 cameras, 2007. - 5 additional cameras: cameras are located in busy places, where there is an exceptionally high risk of petty crime / theft, coercion, vandalism / as well as in places of high cultural value, areas where there is a risk of traffic accidents and areas threatened with the consequences of potential chemical accidents;
- lighting of city parks, since these are frequented places and venues of outdoor events;
- works connected with cutting down trees and bushes which limit the visibility and safety in different areas of the city;
- activities connected with revitalising the city in three regions: The Old Town, former industrial districts together with former miner's residential estates;

4. counteracting domestic violence and work in the scope of preventing and solving alcohol problems (activities based on the cooperation with institutions and associations functioning in the city area), including:

- educational activity involving children and teenagers, teachers, parents;
- organising free time (extra-curriculum classes, holiday trips for children and teenagers, day-care centres for children);
- running centres for helping addicted persons and their families, counteracting domestic violence;

5. promoting prevention and appropriate behaviour (placing information about the project and preventive educational materials on the city's webpage, gadgets and brochures, articles in a self-government's magazine)

We have observed the positive results of the project:

1. The sense of safety among the inhabitants has increased (survey results), the safety in the city has improved (police data; the dynamics of cases was decreasing from 100% in 2006 to 72.9% in 2007; the dynamics of petty crimes decreased by 7.1% in the analogous period; the detection index increased from 58.3% in 2006 to 58.6% in 2007;)
2. New forms of cooperating with the Police in order to improve safety have been introduced (additional police patrols financed from the city budget)
3. The material for diagnosing problems and threats for the local community has been obtained (material from the survey of the Provincial Police Office, ESPAD research);
4. The public space has been put in order;
5. Cooperation forms between the services which are directly responsible for safety

(the police, the municipal police) and the municipal services have been improved in the scope of organising the safe public space;

6. The city monitoring has been expanded and the school monitoring has been modernised;

7. Activities connected with the project *Together Safer in Czeladź* are also carried out during this year.