



ITER Project

Programme of Security and Safeguarding Liberties – Prevention and fight against crime



www.dip-alicante.es/iter



Interest aspects

- Programme of Security and Safeguarding Liberties – Prevention and fight against crime
- Type of operation: Justice and Security
- Total budget: 267,928. 85€
- Community contribution of 70%
- Duration: 24 months
September 2008- September 2010
- Partners:
Alicante County Regional (Spain)
Videscenter for Integration (Denmark)
Town Hall of Latina (Italy)
Fundación Comunidad Valenciana-Región Europea (Spain)
National Association of Municipal Employees in Bulgaria

In today's society, violence and juvenile delinquency are complex, multi-causal and more and more serious problems. The County Council of Alicante, leader of this European project that is framed within the Programme Prevention of and Fight against Crime 2007, of the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission, has focused the project mainly on the integration of the Security Forces within multi-professional networks of support and prevention of juvenile violence.

The origin of juvenile violence lies in the delegation by the family of the educational task to the school. The problem arises when teachers prefer to instruct rather than to educate, since the young does not receive the necessary education. However, the situation is also controversial when the teacher acts as an educator, since it is forbidden by the parents of the minor. So the young takes advantage of the lack of hierarchy to take control and command (reversed hierarchy).

As a consequence, one often resorts to the police as a substitute of parental figure, but as they are used to exerting repressive functions, they wonder what new functions they must assume and how to be more effective.

The multi-professional networks of support and prevention are necessary to achieve a decrease of the violent behaviour of the young. In fact, the integration of the Security Forces has made it possible to considerably reduce the absenteeism in Educational Centres which have put into practice protocols of joint action, as well as to reduce street incidents.

A change in police culture

Taking into consideration that this type of experiences has still not spread to all of the countries of the European Union, the partners of the ITER European project are trying to promote a change in the police culture, a greater implication of the police commands, as well as a greater acceptance of the professional groups that suffer from the consequences of juvenile delinquency, many of them still consider the Security Forces as conflict repressors.

The coordination of a multi-professional network, in which the Security Forces are integrated, will enable to achieve a greater fluency and understanding, better joint strategies, both towards violent young people and towards the families that have given up their functions and, in short, the union of forces in a single direction: to prevent juvenile delinquency.



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Itinerarios policiales en la red multiprofesional para la prevención de la delincuencia juvenil.
Police's itineraries in the multi-professional network for the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

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9-12.6.2009, Vejle (Denmark)
Partners of ITER together with the mayor of the city, Leif Skov



6-7.11.2009, Sofia (Bulgaria)
Partners of ITER in the third international meeting

The project, which is in the phase of implementation and development, has as main objectives: to increase the implication of the police force in the prevention of juvenile delinquency, to improve the relationship and coordination between the different agents that take part in the prevention of juvenile delinquency, to redefine the interactions between police officers and families of difficult young people, to plan and implement concrete actions to prevent juvenile violence, as well as to spread results at national and international levels.

Actions and activities of ITER

Second international meeting of partners

The partners of the ITER project held their second international meeting in Vejle (Denmark) from 9th to 12th of June. It was attended by different governmental organisations that work with socially vulnerable children, familial therapy departments, police offers and social workers, and the mayor of Vejle, Leif Skov.

During the encounter, the main themes were the following actions of the project: the designing of a practical-methodological guide to give preventive courses of juvenile violence, the designing of a didactic video-game aimed at young people and rich in values, as well as the importance of carrying out a quantitative research about the families of troubled young people by means of questionnaires.

Moreover, a seminar, focused on initiatives for socially at risk families, was also held. Various therapists and social workers from a residential complex in Vejle made their contributions in the field of work with children and teenagers. The mayor Leif Skov expressed his satisfaction of being part of the ITER project, since it implements programmes and services that are designed to give the young and children the best possible conditions, both in culture or education, and in health, sports, art...

Third meeting in Bulgaria

On November 6th and 7th, the third international meeting of the partners of the ITER project took place in Sofia (Bulgaria).

To make the most of the meeting between the partners of the project, the III Seminar of this project was held on the 6th, in which various representative members of the towns of Sofia and Mezdra presented examples of good practices for the prevention of juvenile violence. Among the important speakers were present Irena Dimitrova, from the Administration Council of the municipality and Antoaneta Apostolova, mayor of Slatina district.

Later on, two visits were carried out: the first one was to the centre for children who have undergone violence. The director of this centre, Simeon Krastev, explained the procedure and the required conditions so that the children can be accommodated in the institution, and detailed the work done by the psychologists and tutors with the minors aged 4-18. The second visit made by the partners of the ITER project was to a centre of difficult children.



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LINKS

Alicante County Council
www.ladipu.com

Instituto de la Familia Dr. Pedro Herrero
www.ifhalicante.es

National Association of Municipal Employees of Bulgaria
www.namcb.org

Videscenter for Integration
www.vejle.dk

Latina Town Hall
www.comune.latina.it

Fundación Comunidad Valenciana-Región Europea
www.uegva.info

Results of the project

The ITER project is immersed in the development of its main activities to obtain the implication of all the responsible persons for the education of the minors and to succeed in eradicating delinquency and juvenile violence. These activities, the achievement of which is following the planned calendar, are:

Didactic guide

The ITER project is developing a practical-methodological guide for the organisation of preventive courses of juvenile violence. This didactical guide, imagined so that the police officers give lecturing chats to the young with preventive purposes, already includes contents about family, drugs, graffiti, legislation about minors... All the countries being part of the partnership are bringing the aspects they consider important for their young population.

A videogame

Devilish Games-Spherical Pixel S.L. is developing the videogame for the ITER project. The game will be available in Windows PC version, but will also be compatible with mobile phones, social networks and online messages.

The game is based on a type of social simulation, a model of simulation that has been growing for the last two years. The videogames of social simulation are very successful among all types of public (female and male), which guarantees that the videogame will be a means capable of attracting the attention of teenagers.

The characters that will appear in the game have already been designed. Moreover, each country is elaborating the scenarios, dialogues and other circumstances which will form the content of the game and which will be about situations with violent content; facing these situations, the young people will be able to answer to one out of three possible options.

Research in the juvenile violence field

Within the ITER project, a quantitative research on juvenile delinquency and violence is being carried out, with the aim to identify its causes, to see possible preventive measures and to find appropriate solutions.

The achievement of this study, focused on the families of difficult children, is performed through the filling in of questionnaires.

Until now, in Spain have been gathered a total of 263 questionnaires filled in by fathers of undifficult children, 19 surveys of fathers of troubled minors, 147 questionnaires of the troubled children themselves and 352 polls answered by undifficult minors.



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All this data of the research is already in phase of study of results. Some aspects concerning the functioning of a family are relevant and will be causes of conclusions that will invite to do some thinking about the way in which the current families are related to the context and between their members.

Training courses

Alicante County Council is giving courses of training and awareness-raising about the prevention of juvenile violence to the Security Corps and Forces, specially to the people in charge.

In October, the first edition of the course "Prevention of the violence on the minor. Social-familial aspects and legal framework" was given. It was intended to local police officers who occupy a leadership job or middle managers.

Apart from the courses, Alicante County Council is carrying out chats with young people in schools through the multi-disciplinary work network formed for this project.

Concrete objectives

All these actions of the ITER project seek to reach a series of objectives:

- to increase the implication of the police force in the prevention of juvenile delinquency
- to improve the relationship and coordination between the different agents that take part in the prevention of juvenile delinquency
- to redefine the interactions between police officers and families of difficult young people
- to plan and implement concrete actions to prevent juvenile violence
- to spread results at national and international levels.

Next activities

After the international meetings of the partners of the ITER project in Alicante (Spain) in January 2009, in Vejle (Denmark) in June, and in Sofia (Bulgaria) in October, a fourth seminar is planned in La Latina (Italy) in March 2010.



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