



Centre for Crime Prevention in Lithuania

F I N A L R E P O R T

Concerning the accomplished tasks pursuing a project

Title of the project:

Formation of the crime victims' rights and responsibilities, their rightful interests' assumptions

Vilnius
2004 06 30

Preface:

Firstly we would like to express out gratitude to the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Lithuania for their financial support provided and partnership in implementing our joint project. Mutual confidence, exchanging of information and understanding were essential for achieving great results, and it was more then expected. The project reached its aims, and further on put background for further project continuation. This is evidenced by the hereinafter specified facts, information on the work done, realization of the objectives, etc.

A. For the first time in Lithuania „Publication (memo) for Crime victims“and special poster, designated for the crime victims were prepared and published.

This type of publication was the first of such type in Lithuania. During implementation of the project the publication (memo) was prepared, published and distributed.

Latter means are not oriented towards separate kinds of crime victims, for example victims of domestic violence. There were 40 000 of publication (memo) and 100 units of posters published. “Publication (memo) for crime victims” is advertised and can be accessed at the Centre for Crime Prevention in Lithuania website <http://www.nplc.lt/aukos/informacija/informacija.htm> This can help to reach people having good access to internet.

The publication have such sections: Definition of the crime victim; definition of the aggrieved party; rights of the victim; duties of the victim; Pretrial investigation; procedure of cases of personal prosecution; State guaranteed legal aid; primary legal aid; state legal assistance; legal aid provided by public institutions; Institutions, providing free legal aid; Section intended for notes, example of protocol-application form is provided. The publication is base on the Lithuanian national and international legal acts. National legislations, that was taken as the basis in preparing the publication (memo) were: Lithuanian Criminal Code, Lithuanian Code for criminal procedures, Law on State guaranteed legal aid. International legislature that was based on include UN Declaration.

The poster for crime victims is intended to be hanged at the police institutions, where crime victims and other people could read them. In the poster there is a short version of information, put in the “Publication (memo) for crime victims”. The poster has those sections: definition of the crime victim; rights of the victim; duties of the victim. This also includes website address of the Centre for Crime Prevention in Lithuania. Crime victims, who were given and got familiarized with the “Publication (memo) for crime victims”, after acknowledging their rights, duties, legal status, will feel better psychologically, will be better wishing to participate in the criminal process.

There were very positive responses and evaluation received on the preparation and distribution of the “Publication (memo) for crime victims”. Heads of the law enforcement institutions very often emphasized, that this was the best informational activity (in the crime victim sphere), in which they have participated.

Competition as concerns the printing of memo and posters. The printing terms, formats, design was agreed.

Title	Information publication (memo)	Poster
Format	A6; 12 p. pages+cover	A3
Paper	150 g. gloss	200 g. Gloss
Press	4+4	4+0
Works	clip (2 clips)	
Run	40,000	100

Layout of information publication for the crime victims (memo) and poster.

B. 10 informational seminars were organized and conducted in all counties of Lithuania.

The main aim - organize and conduct the educational-training seminars in the juridical institutions (for example, in the police commissariats). The purpose and the use of the above-mentioned publications would be introduced to the persons during the seminars;

Time, place of seminar and number of officials participated

Date of Seminar	County/police institution	Number of participants	Number of publications/posters
10.03.2004	Telšiai district police department	11	2100/10
23.03.2004	Klaipėda city senior police department	47	4200/10
08.04.2004	Alytus city and district police department	16	3500/10
09.04.2004	Utena district police department	14	3500/10
21.04.2004	Panevėžys district police department	9	3600/10
18.05.2004	Šiauliai city senior police department		4500/10
25.05.2004	Marijampolė district police department	7	3900/10
09.06.2004	Tauragė police department	8	3900/10
04.06.2004	Kaunas city senior police department	14	5000/10
17.06.2004	Vilnius city senior police department	20	5800

In total there were 146 officers of leading positions, who were issued certificates on the participation in the seminar and in the project in general (See appendix, example of certificate). Certificates – are not only papers certifying about the knowledge, information gained, but also an obligation to cooperate in order to guarantee an appropriate social and legal protection for crime victims in Lithuanian.

Acknowledging especially problematic situation (lack of information) in the periphery, first seminars were organized and conducted in the most distant and smallest counties, and Kaunas and Vilnius counties were left at the end of the list. Informational seminars were conducted in the centers of all counties in Lithuania, in the central police institutions of respective county.

Seminars were oriented towards the heads of the institutions of pretrial investigation (police), but other stakeholders could also participate in the seminars.

For instance, in Klaipėda, Kaunas there were participating officers from other institutions, that also directly interfere with crime victims. Seminars were not closed, the information announced publicly, while sending official announcements and putting the information on the website, “news” section.

Officers of pretrial investigation – are the main group of people, dealing with crime victims. During the seminars there was a general overview of the crime victims’ situation in Lithuania, their status within the criminal process; participants were familiarized with the Crime victims social and legal support program.

It emerged, that previously there were no seminars of such kind, that there is lack of information for practitioners, who carry out the pretrial investigation, on the crime victims in general and institutions that provide help and support for crime victims. During these seminars various discussions and questions were brought up, for example, participants of the seminar that was organized in Utena raised the question on were the better rights of crime victims were regulated: in the current Code of criminal procedure or the previously in force one. Participants of the seminar that was organized in Kaunas city were interested in how to make the more effective prevention of particular criminal acts, for example robberies from homes. Seminars’ participants stated that no one is considering their comments and recommendations provided regarding the draft legal acts. Participants of those seminars were sure that such kinds of seminars are of particular need and benefit.

Seminars were being conducted by the coordinator of the crime victims social and legal support program and an independent expert – lawyer, hired particularly for the implementation of the project.

C. Creation of website.

Centre for Crime Prevention in Lithuania created and maintain (both in future, emphasizing the continuation of the project) crime victims website, that could be named as the informational system for crime victims. The website presents all newest and necessary information for crime victims, that is public and available. It produces: the “Publication (memo) for crime victims”, links to the laws or parts of legal acts that regulate crime victims’ status, forms of criminal procedure documents, that are officially approved, there is available information on the organizations, providing free legal aid, and non-governmental organizations, providing services for women – victims of violence, victims of people trading, people with disabilities, children – victims of violence.

Besides, there is the information collected on all police institutions in Lithuania, their websites and addresses are listed. It should be mentioned section on publications and statistical data, wherein the more specific information for officers of laws enforcement institutions, such as information on crime victims’ status, their situation, and various innovations introduced, are provided. This has a educational-informational impact.

The website design was created by the professional IT specialists, working on the contacts signed with them.

D. Publication of informational – analytical articles in Lithuanian daily newspapers. During the implementation of the project there were 3 articles published in national daily newspapers:

- Juodkaitė D. Pagal nusikaltimų aukoms: mitas ar realybė? // "Lietuvos žinios" 2004 m. gegužės 22 d., Nr. 117 (10850);

- Юодкайте Д. Необходима ли помощь жертвам преступлений? // «Обзор». No 19 (382), 6-12 мая 2004, с. 30;
- Juodkaitė D. Ar būtina pagalba nusikaltimų aukoms? // "Lietuvos rytas" 2004 m. balandžio 16 d. Nr. 87 (4047);
- Publication in regional newspaper – Genytė I. Seminaras apie nusikaltimo aukas. // Telšių apskrities laikraštis "Kalvotoji Žemaitija", 2004 m. kovo 16 d. (see appendix)

Articles present the situation of crime victims in Lithuania, information on the project, it's purposes, means, focus groups and possible problems' solving ways. It should be mentioned, that articles also proclaim thoughts and ideas of **Pim R. J. Dumore**, ambassador of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Lithuania, on the implementation of preventative activities in Lithuania.

Articles were prepared by the contracted expert of criminology.

E. Monitoring of nongovernmental organizations rendering assistance and support for the crime victims. Present situation, a distribution, a spectrum of rendering services and extent of the organizations were identified. In consideration of the crime victims' categories, i.e. victims-children, victims-women, etc., a list of nongovernmental organizations was made. During the course of investigation the following data bases were used: a) data base of nongovernmental organizations of Lithuania; administrator is Aid and Charity Foundation "Non-Governmental Information and Support Centre"; b) Women's NGO data base – administrator is "Women's Issues Information Centre"; c) data base of Ministry of Justice; d) data base of Vilnius City Municipality.

Accomplished tasks:

- Prepared lists of non-governmental organizations, providing support and services for all types of crime victims (women – victims of violence, victims of people trading, people with disabilities, children – victims of violence), that are presented in the website accessed at the address <http://www.nplc.lt/aukos/informacija/nvo/projektas-nvo.htm>. Also information on the organizations, providing free legal aid, collected – website address - <http://www.nplc.lt/aukos/informacija/nvo/projektas-nvo.htm>;
- Data collected were used in the Publication (memo) for crime victims, wherein all the organization, providing free legal aid are listed;
- gathered and presented examples (forms) of documents, wherein respective information and data, that are important for confirming or denying any circumstances, significant in righteous conflicts resolution between the crime victim and offender. Data recorded in the procedural documents directly concern rights, legal interests and needs of crime victims. All the procedural documents can be accessed at the website address - <http://www.nplc.lt/aukos/projektas/bp-doc/projektas-bp-doc.htm>

F. The list of legal acts, regulating crime victims' legal status in Lithuania, is being cumulated and presented.

Analysis of the crime victims' legal status. A corresponding digest concerning the legal acts regulating the crime victims' legal status in Lithuania. International legal acts were analyzed, too.

All the legal acts or their extracts are produced, and this is of benefit to the victim, since she does not have to search for the particular State News magazine, but everything is presented in one place. It should be emphasized that the constant supervision of legal acts, in order to track all their amendments or alterations and to inform potential or current victims, was performed.

Situation analysis, personal observations, discussions with crime victims, as well as, that means of prevention developed and introduced within the project are very useful and efficient in seeking:

- to reach the security of the crime victims' rights and interests and the meeting of their requirements in the juridical and other governmental institutions;
- to stimulate the crime victims' participation while solving the conflicts that arise because of the crime;
- to inform the crime victims about the possibilities of the social support and assistance; to decrease number of cases when the crime victims suffer the secondary victimization in the juridical institutions
- to activate the activity of other governmental, non-governmental organizations by giving the information to the crime victims about the activity and services of such organizations, etc.;

Besides, analysis of the situation showed that it is necessary to continue above mentioned means, to promote activity of crime victims to defend their rights, publicize related problems, organize their resolution, etc.

Project coordinator

dr. Rokas Uscila