

Three basic pillars

The project is based on the three main pillars – preventive technical solutions (the technical factor), the management support (the organisation factor) and general public understanding (the human factor). The objectives of the projects can be fulfilled only with the well - considered combination of situation and social prevention suitable for a specific environment such as large housing estates are.

The Technical Factor

Effective and competent use of access control systems in apartment buildings in combination with communication, identification, barriers and surveillance systems in order to keeping the potential perpetrator or intruder as far from the individual apartments as possible.

The Organisation Factor

Efficient use of technical equipment to provide proper building management, better security and support of the legitimate suppression of the negative influence of rent dodgers, black tenant and inadaptible individuals. New forms of residents' co-operation with local authorities and creating the expert network to assist and help owners committees.

The Human Factor

Increasing the legal awareness of housing estate residents, their involvement into community life and crime prevention activities. Improving the image of police force in the eyes of general public, creating the environment for open discussions about serious crimes related to drug dealing in apartment buildings.

International presentations

- 2005 - presentation for Ministry of Interior of Czech Republic
- 2006 - new methods presentation on seminar „City Camera Systems“ in Brno, Czech Republic
 - presentations in Hungary
- 2007 - introduction of the project in Romania and Bulgaria
 - presentation - The EUCPN best practice conference in Lisboa, Portugal
- 2008 - presentation for the official of Ministry of Interior of Czech Republic, Czech Republic Police Force, Brno and Zlin Municipal Police Force
 - presentation - The EUCPN best practice conference in Paris, France
- 2009 - International Trade Fair Amper 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic
 - presentation for CPTED representatives, Bratislava
- 2010 - „Joining up at the front line“ - NPIA/IDEA and LGA conference, London, England

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“SAFE LIVING RYS®” is a project based on the public private partnership with main focus on fighting the urban crime in large housing estate and prefab apartment buildings. The project uses forms of situation and social prevention with accent put on the implementation of new technologies.

Project's objectives:

- * Suppress the anonymity and increase the sense of security and safety among the residents of housing estates;
- * Eliminate the crime acts and vandalism;
- * Create community rooms within the apartment buildings;
- * Improvement of social and cultural character of apartment buildings and their neighbourhood;
- * Improvement of the dissemination of information relevant to crime prevention among the residents of housing estates;
- * Exchange of information relevant to crime prevention among owners committees and building managements from different apartment buildings;
- * Creating of a fruitful co-operation between citizens and Police Force, including
 - the registered access of Police Force into the secured apartment building with a possibility to control the time and date of their entries by owners committees or building managers,
 - signposting the apartment building with a special registered sticker,
 - annual meetings of police representatives with citizens,
 - presence of local police officers at the tenants meetings,
 - assistance to crime investigation.
- * Improvement of the dissemination of information relevant to fire prevention in apartment buildings;
- * Providing professional and legal help to citizens, implementation of new preventive measures into practice and upholding legislative changes through the Expert team;
- * Aim the attention to apartment buildings with drug related problems.

 **SAFE LIVING RYS®**

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Unique combination
of situation and
social prevention

project

**SAFE
LIVING
RYS®**

including follow up schemes
DrugsOut
Field Lines of Safety

CD inside

project awarded with the
Honourable Acknowledgement
PRIX SECURITY BRATISLAVA 2005

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Project

The project "SAFE LIVING RYS®" is focused on crime prevention and security problem-solving in larger residential areas lined predominantly with multi-apartment buildings. Project represents unique fusion of situation and social prevention and formation of public-private partnerships to pursue solutions to remaining challenges in targeted areas.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to protect safety and well-being of the housing estates' residents and to implement prevention measures for assuring sustainable safe living environment for all citizens.

History

The project focuses on large housing estates because more than 40% of Slovak population lives in prefab apartment buildings. The essential activities of the project that go back to 1999, included mostly elements of situation prevention. With the combination of technical and organizational measures, we tried to eliminate various criminal acts spread inside the multi-apartment buildings and its close neighbourhood.

The pilot implementations were carried in city district Bratislava – Petržalka, the largest compact residential area in Europe with high density of inhabitants and country's highest rate of resident fluctuation and considerable anonymity. These facts eventually caused high rate of criminal acts and misdemeanours committed in multi-apartment buildings and its close neighbourhood.

Problems to be solved

Within the project activities we try to eliminate criminal acts spread in multi-apartment buildings, mostly property crimes such as theft and vandalism, breaking and entering, presence of homeless on the premises and other crimes, e.g. domestic violence, physical and verbal assaults and drug trafficking. All this has very negative affect on the life in the whole neighbourhood and the social development of children and young people, it damages the relationships among residents, causes ineffective building financing, decreases the quality of building management and eventually lowers the market price of the property.



The very first project implementation -
- the apartment building on
Rovniankova str. 14, Bratislava

Implementation

The project is focused on improving the technical solutions by including the new surveillance technologies into the standard property protection systems and extending the project activities heading towards better management support and better general public understanding and public involvement in crime prevention.

First step in each case is the successful implementation of situation prevention in to practise. This includes installation of technical components used to protect main entrances, gates, hallways, stairways, elevators and other commonly shared areas.

One of the important part of the project is direct work with building managers and members of the owners committees, during numerous free trainings they are taught how to efficiently use the installed technical equipment to guarantee sustainability of newly created conditions.

Most difficult task is the motivation and activation of residents, overcoming their uncertainty and fear, as well as overcoming the bad name of selected apartment buildings or locations in public eyes. We motivate people to get involved in activities helping to improve the cultural character of their apartment building, to get to know their neighbours and also to get to know their rights and responsibilities.

Follow up schemes

DrugsOut - a special scheme of crime prevention for one apartment building "Pentagon" with critical social, security and safety conditions and with a long criminal history - drug dealing inside the flats, prostitution, physical violence and property crimes, located in Municipality Bratislava - Vrakuňa, Slovakia.

Field lines of safety - the latest scheme focused on improving the already existing organizational measures and wider public involvement into crime prevention in residential areas; co-operation of citizens with police force, creating new partnerships and new activities contributing to the improvement of living in large anonymous residential areas.



Home is a place where we want to feel cosy, nice and safe. The most critical apartment buildings involved in the project had to face reality filled with daily fear of junkies and homeless wandering in hallways under influence of drugs and alcohol, incredible stench, mess, ditched needles and condoms lining the way to flats - the picture we've decided to "re-paint".

SAFE LIVING RYS®

Partners

The new conditions in the apartment buildings enabled to establish better co-operation between residents and local police departments, which includes: free access of the police officers into the secured buildings; signposting of these buildings with a special registered sticker; regular meetings for building managements and local police force; the presence of the police officers at the tenants meetings; creating a web site "Lost and Founds of Identifiers", used as an assistance service to residents as well as the assistance to criminal investigation.

We also co-operate with Fire departments, Slovak Post, Personal data protection Office, General Secretariat of the Board of Ministers for Drug Addiction and Drug Control and representatives of local municipalities and private companies involved in apartment building management.

Expert team

In co-operation with Secretariat of the State Council on Crime Prevention, the Expert Team for Prevention and Safe Living has been established in 2008. The main goal of the Expert team is to focus on recognizing the causes of criminal activities and propose the appropriate crime prevention measures for apartment buildings, uphold the reasonable changes in legislation and its harmonisation and provide the necessary professional assistance to the residents and building managements.

Results

At the present time over 1000 apartment buildings have taken part in the project in two Bratislava districts and the project spread to other Slovak cities as well. The crime rate level has been minimized inside the apartment buildings and reduced by 40% in their close neighbourhoods. We were able to join the state and the citizen objectives naturally and in a mutually acceptable way, this involves the professional co-operation with entities affecting the life in the housing estates. The citizens are involved directly and actively into preventive actions, 530 secured apartment buildings has agreed on a closer co-operation with local police department.

Police Statistics

Official statistics of the Police Force of Slovak republic declared these numbers of breaking and entering (burglaries) into flats of apartment buildings situated in the location mostly effected by the project the Bratislava - Petržalka district:
in 2001 – 92 cases, v 2002 – 75 cases, v 2003 – 46 cases, v 2004 – 25 cases, v 2005 – 21, v 2006 – 26 cases and in 2007 – 23 cases.