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## SUCCESS STORIES

### Training Programme “Under 18” for “Police Prevention Officers” in Austria

“Under 18” has been conceived as a special programme in continuous training to police officers in Vienna. The Vienna Police Force is commissioned by the Austrian Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt) to carry out the training independent of the organisation of basic training.

Police officers are recruited from ordinary police departments in the city districts, the training is voluntary. Ideally, there is some self-interest of officers who ask for permission to take the training.

**Objectives:** *This training is dedicated to juveniles at schools.* The training programme offers information on life competences and provides support to juveniles to lead an active and healthy life (according to WHO standards).

**Structure of the training programme:** The training is introduced by a basic e-learning session as a precondition to participate in the 5 following modules:

- Module 1: Basic knowledge (5 days)
- Module 2: Methods, didactics and communication
- Module 3: Prevention of violence: “All Right” and “Click and Check”
- Module 4: Prevention of addiction: “Look at your Life”
- Module 5: Prevention of radicalisation and recruiting (3 days)
- Fresh-up training 1x/year

The overall programme shall be delivered within a period of two years. Police Prevention Officers are trained to provide information and training predominantly to schools to reach young people together with teachers and parents. Each prevention module shall be delivered to schools within max. 2 semesters. The school may select one of the prevention programmes, but must give its commitment in order to start the programme.

**Module 1** contains basic training given by external lecturers on violence, addiction, radicalisation, using expert (scientific) knowledge; psychology of youth; development and definition of addiction (ICD-10 – classification of illnesses); ethics; interfaces and differences with other organisations such as social work, ambulances, private security, etc.

We will highlight **three prevention projects**: “All Right”; “Click & Check”; “Look at your Life”.

“All Right”: Prevention of violence; information on legal standards and youth protection laws with its variations in the Austrian counties; age of criminal responsibility; conflict management; moral courage versus vigilant justice.

“Click & Check”: Basic legal standards and youth protection laws; special focus on social media competences, e.g. “sexting”, cyber mobbing, etc. Method: “The tree metaphor”

“Look at your Life”: 5 sub-modules to work with pupils in school:

1. “Look at your class”: The social climate in class, social relationships among pupils and between pupils and teachers. Method: “The target metaphor (Zielscheibe)”. This module also has the function to alert trainers in the police to potential existing conflicts and misunderstandings about the role of the police in this training (not dedicated to conflict resolution for particular cases).
2. “Look at your law”: Basic legal standards and youth protection laws
3. “Look at your web”: Critical review the time spent online; consumer behaviour on the web; exercise to renounce using the smart-phone for some time (offline-time) with information (and invitation to participate) to the parents;
4. “Look at your party”: Discuss the behaviour at parties, alcohol consumption; exercise in small groups: “Please organise a party – what do you need?” Help in cases of overdose, legal consequences; exercise: Quiz on alcohol (myths to get sober etc.) together with parents(?);
5. “Look at your time-out”: This module is about activities in leisure time.

Other sub-modules are not limited to pupils but include meetings with teachers and parents:

- “Look at your school”: Meetings with teachers of that particular class where the training is given to give them background information on the training programme. Teachers may pick up topics from the training for his or her lectures (ethics, etc.).
- “Look at your family”: Meeting with parents of the pupils involved to inform them and also to include them in the programme; raise awareness in parents as role models; legal input;

Giving training in prevention in schools to pupils is a delicate matter for police because police officers are permanently subject to the “*ex officio crime*” (duty to investigation - “*Offizialsprinzip*”). Whenever the police learn about an offence they must register it as a legal matter and investigate the case: criminal registration, arrest, or pronounce a prohibition to re-enter (“*Wegweisung, Betretungsverbot*”).

Education about substances and criminal investigation about drug markets is not part of this training.