



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

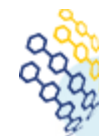


PREVENTION  
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# Security Volunteer project in the municipalities of the Czech Republic

**Conference on Citizen Participation in Security and Crime Prevention**

Brussels, May 30th, 2024



**EUCPN**



## Content

Security Volunteer project in the municipalities of the Czech Republic:

- 1) Framework project of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic**
- 2) Security volunteers in the city of Stříbro - implementation and results**



# Security Volunteer Project

designed and financed by the Ministry of the Interior (Mol)  
**since 2014**

**methodology since 2016**

the **goals** are:

to encourage greater **involvement of the public in local policing**

to inspire municipalities and their residents to **develop volunteer activities**

to respond to the **initiatives of civil society** (among others former police officers or soldiers)

to contribute to the **improvement of the quality of life** in municipalities



## Who is the security volunteer?

- a person **living in the municipality**
- a **well-informed** and trained citizen
- has local knowledge, informal authority, and is a role model
- performs the role – **voluntarily, in their free time, without remuneration**
- focused on **prevention, not repression**
- strong **communicator**
- does not replace the police





## Examples of Activities

**road safety** – ensuring safe crossings, informing drivers, and assisting in traffic control in cases of temporary restrictions (sport, cultural events etc.)

organising **informative meetings** between the citizens and the authorities about public safety and risks

helping with **preventive activities and campaigns**

**external inspections** of houses and flats

when occupants are away

**patrolling** in gardening colonies and

houses areas

creating a network of people to be available

to help **search for missing persons**

**mapping and reporting** illegal waste sites, car

wrecks, damaged or missing road signs, and damage to public facilities





## What are the legal restrictions?

They are volunteers, not official persons, not employees of the municipality, not authorized with any special powers of the public authority

They can

- a) act within the limits of the rights given to all citizens
- b) notify the authorities about lawbreaking and/or call the police
- c) stop vehicles to ensure safe crossings
- d) patrol in the municipality
- e) detain offenders on the spot where a crime was committed, if necessary (self-defense)
- f) prevent a crime, an offence or the causing of other harms (necessity)



They cannot

- a) request a proof of identity
- b) request an explanation
- c) carry out a body search
- d) enter residential or non-residential premises without permission
- e) evict persons from premises
- f) order persons to remain on spot





## Organising the Work of the Volunteers

**the municipality** is responsible for the volunteers and coordinating and managing the project

there should be a **designated project manager**

to execute, manage, administer, monitor and evaluate

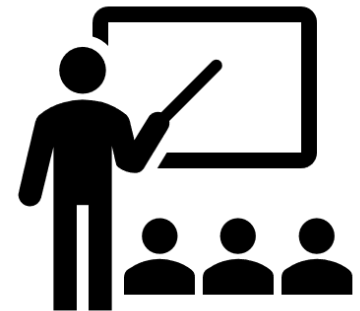
to manage communications between the stakeholders

for more than 5 volunteers also a **coordinator**

to lead and organise the volunteers

to report to the manager

to mentor and motivate volunteers





## Financial Support of the Mol

it is possible to apply for **a grant** from the Mol to cover:

insurance for liability

the costs of registering and training the volunteers

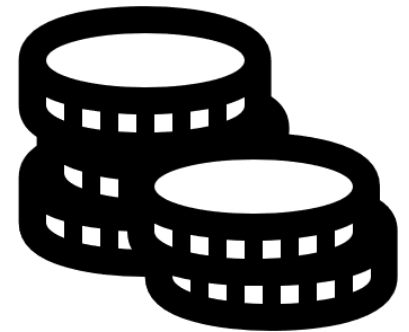
material equipment

informational and promotional materials

the organisation of meetings with the citizens

fees for an issue from the Criminal Records Office

one-year, possibility of repeating, no need for co-financing







## Contracts

**no employment contract**, no financial remuneration, no special authorizations

avoid confusion with the Police and other official authorities

the municipality can have a **civil contract** with the volunteers containing:

- type of activity to be performed and how

- place and time of the activity

- the duration of the contract

- training of the volunteer

- certificate of the volunteer's performance

- instruction on the associated risks

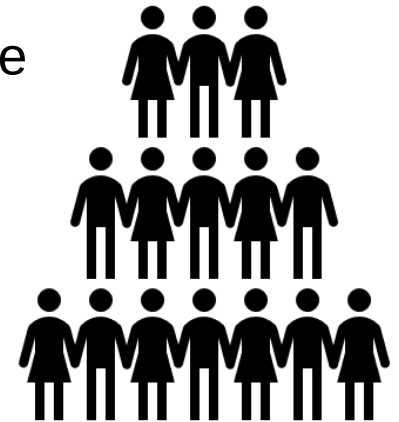
- liability for damages and insurance obligations





## Recommendations for Engaging the Public

1. reach out to volunteers directly
2. use social events in the municipality
3. actively present the needs of the community and the activities of the volunteers
4. use media: press, radio, television, internet, social networks
5. highlight that volunteers do not replace the police



**Active volunteers** can be approached directly through their parent associations (e.g. cooperation with volunteer fire-fighters, veterans associations etc.) – not competition, but cooperation.



## Recommendations for Choosing the Volunteers

1. require an issue from the Criminal Records Office
2. avoid applicants known to be regular and heavy users of alcohol or other addictive substances
3. avoid applicants with a bad reputation
4. establish basic health requirements for different activities
5. keep the priorities and specific needs of the municipality in mind
6. focus on candidates' abilities and motivation, time availability, and their relationship to the security forces
7. diverse teams work better





## The Volunteer Training

**simple, informal, and continuous**

based on the specific activities they will be performing  
engaging the Police department or veterans

the goals are:

to **motivate** the volunteers

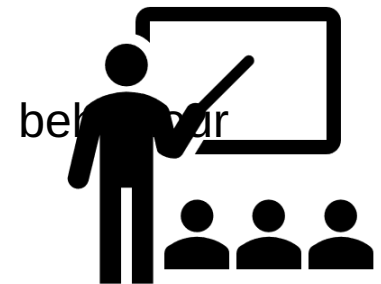
to clarify the requirements and activities to be carried out

to **highlight the legal regulation and boundaries**

to **prepare** the volunteers **and reinforce** appropriate

and required basic skills

to minimise failings





## Municipal Monitoring and Evaluation

the project manager should **monitor and evaluate the work of the volunteers periodically**

focus on prevention, continuous oversight,

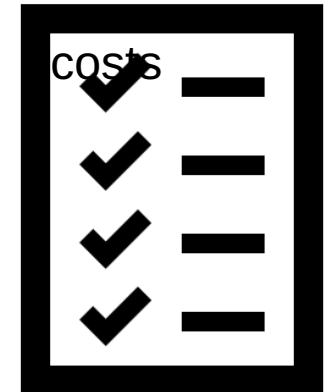
and benefits, cooperation with the citizens

**evaluate the project outcomes** and success

set the evaluation criteria individually for each activity

collect and share **examples of good practices**

the volunteers can be **motivated through symbolic rewards**





# Stříbro

small city in the West of Bohemia

8 145 inhabitants

founded in the 12th century

mining history

foreign workers





## Security Volunteers in Stříbro

project realisation **2016 – 2024**

**24 long-term, 52 short-term**, and hundreds of occasional volunteers

maintaining public order in their communities

interested in helping others, professionally trained, and materially

equipped

experience and skills in the field of internal security on the local level

since 2022 **involvement of Ukrainian refugees** – 9 long-term

volunteers



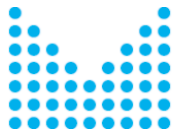
*„The Stříbro City Security Volunteer project has brought together dozens of brave women and men who, in their free time, have stepped out of anonymity and are dedicated to crime prevention and increasing the feeling of security of their neighbours and visitors to the city.“*





## Activities of Střebro volunteers

1. informational meetings with different age groups of the city's inhabitants
2. checking houses, cottages in recreational areas, and the security of parked vehicles
3. clearing of illegal waste sites
4. ensuring safe crossings of school children
5. supervising the course of cultural, social, and sports events
6. supporting the implementation of the crisis measures during Covid-19
7. helping with the adaptation and integration of war refugees from Ukraine



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## Supporting Ukrainian refugees

using the project to help with the **adaptation and integration** of war refugees from Ukraine

**involving** refugees and foreigners in **public matters** as volunteers

**becoming ambassadors** in their own community

**providing the much-needed information** about the history and life in their place of residence

creating a **sense of community and safety**

resulting in **greater certainty, less fear, less anxiety** of children, and generally **more trust in local citizens and local self-government**



## Costs and financing

an annual budget of 70.000 – 80.000 CZK (i.e. approximately

**2.800 – 3.200 €)**

covered by a **grant from the MoI**

the municipality guarantees

financing of any additional costs





## Evaluation

based on a quantitative and qualitative data collection

increase in public **feelings of security**

improvement of **tolerance** between different communities

**reduction of risks of conflict escalations**

strengthening of bonds within the municipality

increased **safety at pedestrian crossings**

improved **communication** between the municipality and the public

personal and professional **development of the volunteers**



and





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**Thank you for attention**

