

Call for projects

2024 European Crime Prevention Award

Dear National Representatives,

Dear National Substitutes,

The Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union is honoured to organise the European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) in 2024. Since its inception, the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) has highlighted the importance of the ECPA as a key event, fostering the exchange of best practices in crime prevention across the EU and showcasing the success of such initiatives throughout Europe.

The Hungarian Presidency of the EUCPN will emphasize the prevention of reoffending¹.

The growing number of inmates in many European countries is a pressing concern. Research indicates that the social conditions, educational levels and vocational qualifications of inmates are generally less favourable than those of the average population. Consequently, developing skills and competencies during imprisonment is of utmost importance. It is essential for every country to ensure that inmates can secure employment, sustain themselves, and avoid reoffending upon release, as incarceration imposes a significant burden on national budgets. Therefore, tertiary prevention, which includes resocialization, reintegration, and reoffending prevention, must play a more significant role.

The aim of the 2024 ECPA is to identify and promote European best practices that effectively reduce recidivism rates and enhance successful reintegration. The focus of the Hungarian Presidency includes methods that facilitate employment, lawful behaviour, and the successful reintegration of adults or juveniles into society during imprisonment through training, employment, or other programs. Projects that support inmates' reintegration in halfway houses² fall within the scope of this call for proposals.

¹ The submitted applications may pertain to the resocialization and/or reintegration of inmates. Programs organized for convicts in reintegration custody are not the focus of this call for proposals.

² Halfway houses are established for released convicts, providing a comprehensive range of services where the four pillars of recidivism prevention (housing, personal relationships, labour market services, training/education) are integrated in a complex manner. Psychosocial support, resocialization, reintegration, and assistance work play a significant role in these services. These facilities help in their gradual reintegration into society by providing a structured and supportive environment. In some countries, halfway houses are used for inmates who are still serving their sentences but are nearing the end of their term and have demonstrated good behavior.

However, courses and training organized for ex-inmates after their release are not within the objectives of this call. Three-quarters of the activities must involve work carried out within the correctional institution³, and one-quarter may pertain to activities after release. The focus should be on activities conducted within the correctional institution, with reintegration programs after release serving as supplementary services.

The type of crime committed by the inmates participating in the project is irrelevant. The project can be organized and conducted by the correctional institution itself or involve activities implemented by NGOs that measurably support the reintegration of inmates into society after release.

Each Member State is invited to submit one project addressing the prevention of reoffending to compete in the ECPA contest.

We kindly request that projects for the ECPA be submitted in English to the EUCPN Secretariat (eucpn@ibz.eu), via the National Representatives of the EUCPN. Each EU Member State may submit one entry. The deadline for project submissions is September 30, 2024. The Best Practice Conference, where all national entries will be presented and the winner announced, will be held on December 3-4, 2024, in Budapest. The award ceremony is scheduled for December 4, accompanied by a gala dinner. The event will be followed by the EUCPN ExCom and EUCPN Board Meeting on December 5, 2024.

Please find attached the template for the ECPA projects (Annex I), the evaluation form (Annex II), the rules and procedures for awarding and presenting the ECPA (Annex III), and the guidelines for presenters (Annex IV). Only projects submitted using the provided template will be evaluated by the jury. Additional information related to the projects cannot be considered during the jury evaluation. However, applicants are encouraged to indicate if an introductory video about the project is available on the application form. Experience shows that this can significantly help the evaluation committee better understand the initiative. Member States are invited to bring illustrative materials and creative solutions (DVDs, flyers, posters, apps, links to websites, etc.) to the Best Practice Conference, where there will be an opportunity to present and share these materials with others.

The template for ECPA projects has also been translated into most official EU languages. These documents can help contestants answer the questions in their native language. Please note that the translation is provided by artificial intelligence and is not official. The English template should be used for the final documentation. You can find the translated and original documents at the following link: <https://eucpn.org/document/ecpa-documents>.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the EUCPN Secretariat.

Kind regards

³ An institution responsible for the execution of imprisonment or custodial sentences or juvenile correctional education.