

Action plan qualified domestic burglaries

Project "Tupperware"

Police zone Orneau-Mehaigne

I. Project description

A. Context

Concerning the statistical data of qualified domestic burglaries (GDW in Dutch), after a clear reduction during a couple of years, the statistics showed a big increase since 2011. This increase can be partially explained by the phenomenon of 'itinerant criminal groups'.

*Police corps chief
Bottamedi:
"The citizen as actor
of his own security"*

The balance of 2013 of the police zone shows that the number of GDW increases with about twenty percent to 394 GDW and 112 attempts. The number of attempts must be considered with care. Nevertheless, in relation to the GWD, the propensity to file a complaint is relatively high – especially because of the contractual obligation that is made mandatory by insurance companies – so the proposed numbers are relatively close to the truth. Next to the possible financial consequences, these facts nurture a sense of insecurity, as indicated by the statements of the victims.

- Vols dans habitation (tentatives incluses)

ANNEE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
AISCHE-EN-REFAIL	3	2	5	3	7	1	4
BEUZET	5	11	10	5	14	5	16
BOLINNE	2	6	1	6	5	3	1
BONEFFE	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
BOSSIÈRE	6	4	2	1	4	4	2
BOTHEY	0	4	3	1	2	3	1
BOVESSE	5	8	15	9	13	8	8
BRANCHON	3	2	0	0	2	2	4
CORROY-LE-CHATEAU	6	9	10	4	8	8	14
DHUY	4	9	4	7	7	8	18
EGHEZEE	10	12	19	6	10	16	20
EMINES	11	3	13	7	9	8	20
ERNAGE	8	6	7	2	16	11	9
GEMBLoux	57	41	78	51	52	53	62
GRAND-LEEZ	7	11	10	9	9	22	6
GRAND-MANIL	5	13	10	13	11	18	12
HANKET	6	13	6	9	14	2	9
ISNES	15	6	15	4	7	17	11
LEUZE	8	20	14	20	14	12	10
LIERNU	7	2	8	3	8	7	12
LONGCHAMPS	4	2	2	4	6	8	5
LONZEE	8	6	18	7	9	6	17
MAZY	10	7	7	7	15	11	10
MEHAIGNE	1	7	5	0	6	7	6
MEUX	12	15	13	26	15	12	12
NOVILLE-SUR-MEHAIGNE	4	4	3	1	6	5	9
RHISNES	6	15	14	22	24	9	19
SAINT-DENIS	11	16	10	5	7	8	22
SAINT-GERMAIN	6	4	11	15	11	15	11
SAUVENIÈRE	4	12	11	4	9	6	7
TAVIERS	4	0	5	1	5	3	0
UPIGNY	3	0	2	4	4	6	6
VILLERS-LEZ-HEEST	0	0	1	5	6	4	8
WARET-LA-CHAUSSEE	3	3	4	4	10	6	13
WARISOULX	4	3	4	5	1	10	10
TOTAL	248	277	341	270	347	324	394
Inclus les tentatives	59	91	105	85	114	98	112

B. Functioning

The police zone has implemented an integral and integrated GDW action plan. It connects its action plan to the logic of 'fighting against crime', as well to a dimension 'victim support' and prevention. In this respect, the cooperation of the citizens appears to be essential.

The different actions can be subdivided as follows:

For the burglary...

The police zone does not spare preventive advice to the citizens allowing them to prevent becoming the victim of a GDW, or to limit at least the consequences thereof.

For this purpose, the zone takes the following **initiatives**:

- Information via the newsletter, local press, distribution of brochures and community newspapers, inspired on the advices of the FOD (Federal Government Service) of Internal Affairs;
- Realisation of a broadcast on local TV (channel Zoom);
- Information to candidate-builders based upon the lists drafted by the municipalities, even though this action is not very successful;
- Information to new residents during the 'change of residence' surveys;
- Information to self-employed persons (little demand despite the invitations);
- Etching of objects (mainly bicycles) making use of a portable etching device;
- **Techno-preventive visits** done by five domestic burglary prevention consultants (A personalized report is made of the visits, presenting several (organizational, architectural, technical, and electronic) measures allowing increasing the building's security. This is completed with pictures and documentation. Each visit takes three to four hours on average. If the residents do not want a consultant to pass by, a letter is sent. This contains a standard diagnosis and documentation. In 2013, the domestic burglary prevention consultants helped secure 183 homes.
- Training of police officers who are not consultants: the police zone's police officers have followed a basic training (eight hours) in techno prevention. Some of them had followed an internal training delivered by a consultant of the zone before;
- Distribution of lists that need to be completed to simplify the later description of a stolen object;
- Monitoring the homes of people on holiday, depending upon the possibilities;
- There was an awareness-raising of the CIC operators regarding the calls for suspicious behaviour;

- Participation of a to the provincial round table talks. The DPA has been able to present several initiatives of the police zone. In 2013, a poster was made during these round table talks to stimulate the intervention of the DPAs;



The “Tupperware” project: Conferences – information sessions – information to the public.

In 2013, the police zone organised the ‘Tupperware meetings’ with a certain success, especially in the town of Gembloux. During such a meeting, people who wish to receive information (group of 4 to 12 persons) are visited so that they and their guests can benefit from the advices given. Sometimes these meetings are organized with associations, residents of apartment buildings, professional organisations, etc. The zone also proposed participants to motivate their acquaintances to invite the burglary prevention advisors.

Out of practical considerations, we often propose the police office as the meeting place.

During these meetings, the police officers encourage the citizens to signal suspicious behaviour or suspicious vehicles in real-time, making it clear that they do not wish to encourage snitching. The importance of making an inventory of precious objects is also stressed. The forms ‘Save your pictures’ and ‘Save your number’ become widely distributed this way.

This type of meeting, with a limited audience, is a great success, and thanks to word-of-mouth, there is a snowball effect. Between January and April 2014, more than 129 persons have participated in these meetings.

Usually, the session goes as follows:

- The police inspectors provide lots of advice regarding techno prevention (presentation based on a self-made PowerPoint presentation);
- They ask the citizens to cooperate with the PZ: awareness-raising of the population;
- The DPAs inform the citizens about suspicious behaviour/suspicious vehicles, and encourage them to alarm the police in real-time;
- Following the meetings, the police inspectors make proposals for visits at home;
- The profile of the persons who attend the meetings, is mostly that of the ‘victim’;

- At the end of the meeting, the advisor asks for participants who could receive other acquaintances at home.

In 2014, at the initiative of the police corps chief, the accent was laid on the critical points that were determined based on the statistics of the police zone's functional manager, and of the 'dynamical' criminal cartography that was made base on an internal project. It concerns locations where the most burglaries in homes happened during the last ten years.

This initiative really forms the project's starting point and leads to an analysis of the phenomenon that ended in expected conclusions. The most targeted sites are those that are located near major traffic axes, the houses where burglaries happen are vulnerable because of their environment, etc.

The police officers of the zone, who are well aware of the above, can focus the patrols on the 'critical' areas.

By taking care not to instigate the feeling of insecurity, the DPAs direct their actions in function of the priorities that come forth from the analysis of the phenomenon described above.

A burglary has happened...

- All police officers of the police zone have followed the 'Crimis' training (inventory of traces/finger prints), and the new employees will receive the training;
- The zone uses a standard template of the police report regarding the GDW. Next to the standardized character at the level of the district, it is also a reminder of the procedure that needs to be followed regarding the establishment of facts and the investigation. The police reports are also double-checked on quality (officer and functional manager);
- The LOD – investigation service – is charged with the first investigations, and with the possible connection between facts and/or offenders with the help of the AIK;
- The FGP will be informed in short term if the facts seem to be related to travelling offender groups, and when cooperation is or can be considered;
- The lab of the technical and scientific police is requested;
- Emphasis is placed upon the description of the stolen items;
- The neighbourhood inspector pays a new visit to the victims;
- The DSB – victims support – informs the victim that the service is as his or her disposal;
- During the contacts, the intervention inspectors promote techno prevention.

On top of all these elaborated initiatives, the police zone invested in numerous **partnerships**, such as:

- Federal Government Service of Internal Affairs: Directorate Local Security (documentation, website, etc.);
- Governor: organization of the provincial security consultations;

- Municipalities of the police zone: distribution and advices to the residents via the municipal newspapers, cooperation of the urban planning authorities in actions for candidate builders, etc.;
- Press: prevention campaigns (etching of objects, visits regarding techno prevention, conferences, etc.);
- Prosecutor: determination of a criminal policy and procedures, leading the investigations;
- Federal Police: coordination of certain actions, investigations, etc.;
- Citizens: informing the police, preventive measures, etc. (note: the police zone emphasizes this point because the police's efficiency depends upon the cooperation of the population). The majority of the arrests in flagrante happens on the basis of quick information passed to the police by a vigilant neighbour;
- Police schools: training of personnel;
- Etc.

C. Objectives

The police zone contemplates its actions in a diachronic manner by considering the police action before and after a theft.

The objectives of this action plan are the following:

- Preventing thefts to happen by stimulating the partnership with the population, in a spirit of 'community policing', especially by asking them to inform us in real-time about suspicious situations;
- Lend help to citizens who have become the victim of qualified thefts by systematically mobilizing the 'DSB';
- Hinder the thieves' actions by developing techno prevention, and as such limit the adverse effects on citizens;
- Discourage possible offenders by executing targeted checks based on the cartography developed within the police zone;
- Stimulate the identification of offenders by establishing facts very accurately, and by respecting the investigation procedure.

D. Target audience

The target audience of this action plan and of the 'Tupperware' project is all citizens of the police zone Orneau-Mehaigne. Nevertheless, certain companies and professionals will also receive advice.

II. Budget

Own resources, by using the available resources.

III. Evaluation

Positive points/benefits:

The 'Tupperware' project is a recent project that has not been evaluated yet.

Nevertheless, thanks to the introduction of the GDW action plan, the following results were established:

- Visit number after burglary higher than 50%;
- More and more requests for 'Tupperware meetings';
- After the techno preventive visits, there sometimes is a request to provide advice on the preventive measures for the concerned citizen;
- The police receives more and more information (in real time) from citizens regarding suspicious behaviour or suspicious vehicles;
- Success was noted thanks to the calls of the population, which in most cases allows to check suspects (prevention), and sometimes to arrest offenders.

Recommendations: /

IV. Transferability

The 'Tupperware' project is part of a set of initiatives and of a **global strategy** to fight thefts. When the project would be transferred to another zone by itself, as is, it might not be that successful. The key for success lies in the **number of initiatives** that are developed simultaneously, and in the **numerous partnerships** the police zone has established.

V. More information?

A. Contact person

For the project: CP Hougardy

For the part techno prevention: HINP Alvarez

B. Support material

The police zone uses the following instruments:

- A cartography system that was fine-tuned internally by making use of free computer products;
- Use of brochures and leaflets of the Federal Government Service of Internal Affairs (brochure Safe Living, leaflets Save Your Numbers/Pictures, etc.);
- Techno trolleys with demonstration material;
- The zone puts together small techno cases that can be easily carried by the police officers for the home visits;
- A laptop, a beamer and a screen for the presentations (conferences, Tupperware meetings);
- Etc.



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