

Cooperation at the administrative level for a supported burglary prevention policy

Dries Wyckmans and Sofie Moons, province of Limburg – Service Police, Security and Public Order

Mr Wyckmans started his presentation with the message that we have to stop domestic burglary. For this, cooperation is needed at different levels: both at the administrative level and with the police.

Cooperation at the administrative level

Provincial level

To push back domestic burglary, one has to cooperate at the administrative level. In the Limburg provincial prevention plan domestic burglary it is included that the citizens need to be given advice to let the risk of burglary decrease. In this respect it is important to cooperate with local security partners.

National level

The citizen needs to be stimulated to take the initiative himself in the fight against domestic burglary. However, for this "a story" is needed. At the security conference domestic burglary in June 2012 the message came that there was a need for a recognizable 'eye-catcher' to incite the citizen to take initiatives. There was a need for an action such as the 'BOB campaign' that everyone knows.

On 11/12/'13 the citizen initiative '1 day not' took place for the first time in the Netherlands. This was a national action day against domestic burglary. The citizens' initiative got the support of the police and the authorities. Because of the media attention the action day got in the Dutch press and the decrease of the number of burglaries, one can call it a successful action.

Given the positive impact in the Netherlands, the province of Limburg took the initiative to organize a similar action day in Belgium. The province of Limburg has taken care of the coordination and has convinced different partners to contribute to the national action day against domestic burglary in Belgium. The provincial governors, the FPS Home Affairs, Bpost, Assuralia, BVBO and media partner Roularta decided to cooperate to support this action day.

The goal is to reach with these partners the most important partners for the action day: the citizens.

The general alertness of the citizen needs to be stimulated. In this respect it is important that citizens and professionals cooperate in the fight against domestic burglary. Often measures against burglary are taken only when someone has become a victim. One needs to ensure that these measures are not only taken after one has become a victim.

The provincial level plays a specific role in the fight against domestic burglary according to Dries Wyckmans. This level has an intermediary role: they have to bring partners together and tune their policies, they can facilitate and support the local levels and they dispose of the possibility to reach the citizens.

Integral and integrated

The administrative level cannot assume all responsibility alone. Cooperation with partners from other sectors and policy levels is needed.

Structural measures are needed to come to a structural decrease. Dries Wyckmans refers in this respect to the enduring renovation rules regarding gas, isolation, etc., but the lack of legislations regarding protection.

The action '1 day not' serves as a platform to increase the social cohesion in society. The aim is to let everyone reflect on how their own house, their street and their neighbourhood can be kept secure. This can be done in various manners.

There is already reflection in order to organize a European action day in the future. Because together we can do more than alone.

Everyone wants a secure neighbourhood to reside, work and live.

'1 day not' – Why? What? How?

Ms Sofie Moons presented the concrete content of the action day and the manner in which the campaign was made public.

The goal of the campaign is to let citizens, neighbours, entrepreneurs, schools, associations, etc., reflect on what they can do themselves to keep their homes, streets or neighbourhoods secure. These are simple measures that can have a big impact.

To make the action day known and to raise awareness, plenty of tools were developed. This announcement and alerting is done through:

- Media: There has been cooperation with Roularta Media Group that publishes a column in *de Weekkrant/Streekkrant* and in *de Zondag*.
On 22 October 2014 a press conference took place to launch the action day. This press conference has gained a lot of attention in the written press, on radio and television and in the online press.
- Social media: The use of social media for the action day in the Netherlands in 2013 was an advantage. For the Belgian action day these channels were used as well. On the Facebook page tips, short films, good initiatives, etc., are posted regularly. This way a lot of citizens and also youngsters are reached. Plenty of local authorities and police zones are active on Twitter. When one gives advice this way, a large number of citizens are reached.
- Website: For the action day a website was launched (www.1dagniet.be / www.1joursans.be). On this website one finds everything: the history, tips, leaflets, initiatives, etc. The aids that were created in the framework of the action day such as posters, flyers, greeting cards, etc., are all available on the site and can be downloaded to be spread.

- Sensitization aids: A short film was made to introduce the citizen to the action day. Also playful films were made to reach a different kind of public.
Partner Bpost engaged to spread flyers in all letterboxes in the country at the beginning of December.
Besides, there is the '1 day not' application for Android and iOS. Through this app a risk assessment can be made of the house by answering a few short questions, a protection plan can be obtained and valuable belongings can be put in a registration file. This file is well protected so that the app is not a useful tool for thieves, but a useful tool for the citizen.
To conclude, flyers, greeting cards, posters, white feet, overviews with tips and a leaflet were created.
- Liveblog: On the action day itself the different initiatives can be followed through a 'Liveblog' thanks to a 24/24h reporting.

Initiatives

On 24 November 2014 already over 150 initiatives have been registered on the site www.1dagniet.be. These initiatives come from neighbourhood information networks, associations, security companies, local authorities, provincial authorities, etc.

If we want to make a huge success of the action day '1 day not', the different security partners need to be mobilized.



With financial support from the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the
European Union

European Commission – Directorate-General Home Affairs

Legal notice

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the official opinions of any EU Member State or any agency or institution of the European Union or European Communities.

