

Bruges Villa Daily

I. Project description

A. Context

The region Oostkamp / Tielt was plagued by burglaries. The choice was made to react to this by project operation. Earlier, there existed a similar project in the border region of Kortrijk. The work was continued based on this project. The project was expanded to the whole province of West Flanders, as well as to the province of East Flanders.

Quote from Didier Vandecasteele: "With this project, we wish to proceed more goal-oriented, more goal-setting, and more information-directed"

B. Functioning

The concept of the Villa Daily actions consists of taking ostentatious uniformed **control positions** by **regular intervention, day- and traffic teams** on continuously **changing locations, every** day (week and weekend) during **changing time spans of maximum two hours**.

- The AIKs (district information banks) of the cities of Kortrijk, Bruges and Ghent give an overview of the facts that took place on their territories. Special attention is paid to 'hot times'.
- This model needs to be handed over to the strategic analysts of Bruges (Mariska Delafonteyne), and Kortrijk (Peter Devaere) by Monday noon.
- The strategic analysts will process this data. By Wednesday, the time spans and recommended control locations will be sent to the concerned zones for action from the next Monday on.
Besides the time spans, for each police zone regions, neighbourhoods, centres or districts are suggested that were scourged by crime in the past period. These hotspots form a suggestion for the Police Zones and WPR to organize their controls at or near these hotspots.
- The PZs and WPR will finally decide themselves on the exact location where the controls will be held.
The responsible officers within the PZs and WPR will take care of the timely warning and organization of their control teams. Warning: if the intervention team has a more urgent call at the time of the planned action, then this one has priority. It is not the goal to deploy extra teams. The aim is to use the existing resources in a more efficient way.
- The controls usually consist of checking vehicles.

This type of actions has the following advantages:

- No extra capacity needs to be deployed.
- The existing regular capacity is optimised.
- The controls are directed towards several criminal phenomena.
- There will be daily, visible controls in all PZs and on the WPR territory, at changing times and at changing locations.
- The controls are visible for citizens and for criminals.
- In case of incidents, general coordination will be provided by the CIC (Communication and Information Centre of the Belgian Federal Police).
- The controls will happen in a directed information-oriented way, based on the data provided by the AIKs (Kortrijk-Bruges-Ghent) to the strategic analysts of Kortrijk and Bruges.
- The controls will take place at the same time per judicial district, and during the time spans suggested by the strategic analysts.

In the beginning, the goal was to carry out these actions only within the zones bordering the provincial border, i.e.:

For West Flanders: Het Houtsche, regions Tielt and Bruges

For East Flanders: Aalter, Deinze-Zulte, Lowa zone

However, the concept was a big success. As a result, several other zones joined the project.

The project started on 1 February 2014, and runs until 1 May 2014. After this, a stop during the summer is planned for evaluation of the project, but also to break the routine of the actions. From 15 September 2014 on, the project will be started again. On 21 May, an evaluation of the first period will be done.

C. Objectives

1. Reduction of the number of burglaries in the region.
2. Increase the chance of being caught for travelling offender groups.
3. Announcing these directed actions also ensures a higher awareness with the population.

D. Target audience

- Directly: the travelling offender groups
- Indirectly: the citizen, increase of the feeling of security

II. Means

Partners:

- CSD Bruges: responsible for overall coordination.
- Strategic analysts Bruges, Kortrijk and Ghent: evaluation of burglaries and proposal of time spans.
- CIWES and CICOV: follow-up of teams on the terrain.
- AIKs: proving crime figures to the strategic analysts.
- PZ: execution on the terrain
- CIK: support to PZ

Costs: Minimal. It is avoided to work with extra teams. In principle, it is the regular teams that are being deployed in a targeted way (ILP). The resources present are used more efficiently.

III. Evaluation

Positive points / benefits:

- A joint approach pays off.
- Cost-saving.
- Goal-oriented and goal-setting.
- The concept of information-directed police care is clearly being implemented here.

Currently, a reduction in the number of domestic burglaries is not yet noted, but neither is there an increase. The stability of the numbers should still be compared at the national level.

Recommendations: the cooperation between the partners needs to be pursued further. Care must be taken to avoid routine. However, this is already anticipated by putting the action on hold during the summer months.

(On 21 May, there will be an evaluation)

IV. Transferability

Points of attention: Providing there is a good understanding between the various partners, this action can be applied everywhere.

Attention needs to be paid to the extra workload the project causes at the CICs.

V. More info?

A. Contact person

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B. Support material

There is support from the CIK teams for the police zones that request it. There is no real material support.



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