

Vilnius

City Municipality



Alcohol Abuse in Public Places & Graffiti Prevention

The 3rd Local Safety & Public Order Working Group Meeting



Liabilities

Article 178 of the Administrative Law Offences Code of the Republic of Lithuania lays down a prohibition of using alcoholic beverages and other spirit containing liquors in public places.





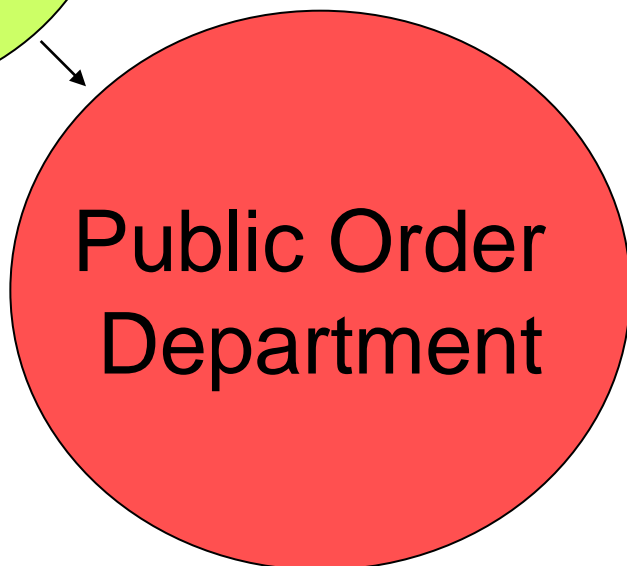
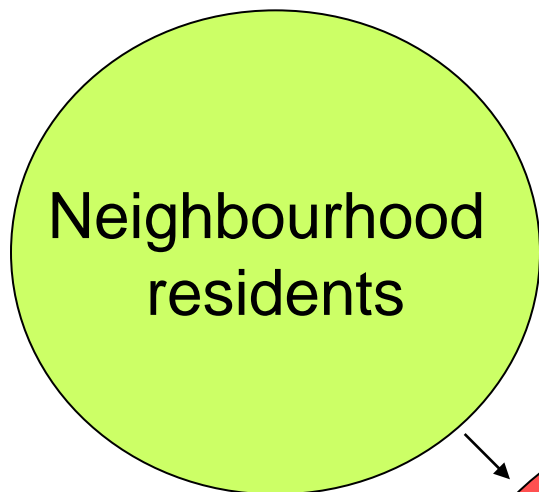
Current Situation

- ✓ The burning issue includes young people and marginal people
- ✓ Most offences are committed at young people's hang out places and next to small retail shops
- ✓ The most intense period of activities is observed between April and September





Problem Solving



Checks

Traffic Road Signs
Giving Orders

Information Billboards



Challenges We Are Facing

- ✓ Frequent disagreements between drunk persons and a public order officer
- ✓ Limited powers of Public Order Department's officers
- ✓ Shortage of legal information databases
- ✓ Light penalties



Draft Measures

- ✓ Raising public awareness
- ✓ Social advertising
- ✓ Equipment of display stands for preventive posters





Jelgava City, Latvia

- ✓ Latvian Administrative Violations Code for the use of alcohol in a not allowed areas foresee the giving the warning or a penalty fee up to 100 lats
- ✓ If the infringement is repeated within a year, the Code sets the penalty fee from 25 to 250 lats or the administrative arrest from three to five days.
- ✓ Important role in preventive work is in lectures in schools, informing young people about the existing legislation and the responsibility for failure to comply with this law.



Tallinn City, Estonia

- ✓ When the police is approaching, the alcohol is being hidden and they can not detect the consumption of alcohol.
- ✓ Tallinn Municipal Police Department has no jurisdiction to control or identify persons, then it is also difficult to ascertain if the person is drunk or not
- ✓ There is a possibility to cooperate with the state police, but such organised events are rare.
- ✓ Since January 2010 until the end of February 2011 Tallinn Municipal Police Department has started 55 proceedings



Gdańsk City, Poland

- ✓ According to the criminal provisions of the Act (Article 431), the penalty shall be not only for drinkers who consume alcohol in banned places but also for people who try to consume it.
- ✓ 2010, the Municipal Guard in Gdansk took 20 516 such interventions.
- ✓ In the last year they obtained 2513 reports from the residents.
- ✓ They give the opinion about issuing the license for selling alcohol and also when they find repeated irregularities related to the trade of alcohol they apply to the relevant authorities to initiate proceedings for the withdrawal of concessions



PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL GRAFFITTI



Public initiative measure *Vilnius is my home*



Damage to buildings and structures in Vilnius city

✓ Around **LTL 0.5m** (approximately EUR145,000) annually for meeting the costs of cleaning up illegal graffiti



✓ > **LTL 105,000** (approximately EUR 30,000) in damages incurred on bridges, overpasses or underground crossings



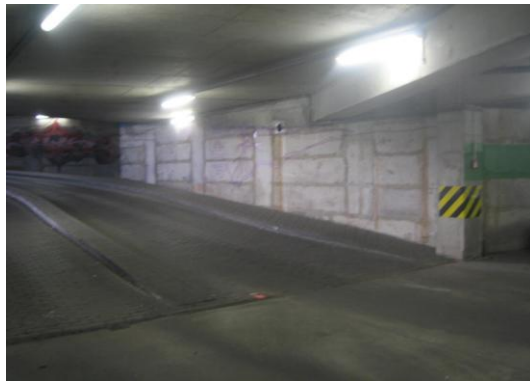
✓ **LTL 15.17** (approximately EUR 4) for cleaning up one square metre





Ongoing measures for preventing illegal graffiti

- ✓ Legal graffiti areas
- ✓ Offence monitoring
- ✓ Encouragement
- ✓ Involving and informing the public
- ✓ Prevention campaigns





Offence Monitoring (Administrative Liabilities)

Administrative Law Offences Code of the Republic of Lithuania includes the following:

- **Article 161.** - Violation of rules for management and cleanliness.

Possible penalties include a warning or a fine amounting to LTL2000 (approximately EUR580).

- **Article 181.** - Failure to use parental power or use of it against interests of a child.

Possible penalties include a warning and a fine amounting to LTL400 (approximately EUR116) for repeated offences.



Offence Monitoring (Criminal Responsibility)

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania includes

- Article 187. - Destruction of or Damage to Property

Thus far all pre-trial investigations regarding illegal graffiti have been closed since the action is qualified as an administrative law offence.



Encouragement of Officers and Residents in 2010

Encouragement of police officers

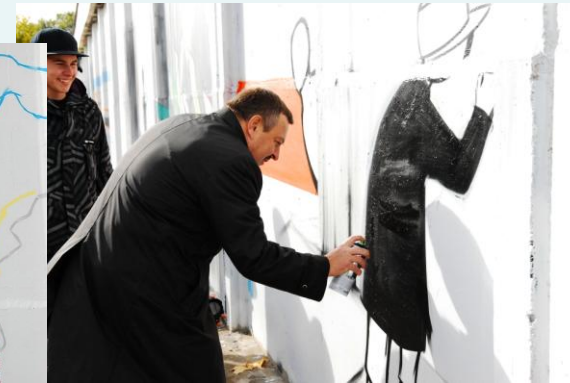
A financial reward has been provided for a person who catches the most notorious city graffiti vandal Solomon





Involving and Informing the Public

- ✓ Solomon search campaign
- ✓ Catalogue of illegal graffiti photographs
- ✓ Anti-graffiti campaigns
- ✓ Memos on graffiti topic
- ✓ City posters





Conclusions

- ✓ Lack of funding for graffiti removal
- ✓ Failure to remove graffiti urgently
- ✓ Substantial material damage



Possible ways of addressing the issue

- ✓ More spaces for doing legal graffiti
- ✓ Simplified procedure for doing legal graffiti
- ✓ Further encouragement of officers
- ✓ Digital system of authorisation to do legal graffiti
- ✓ Support for prevention campaigns
- ✓ Production of graffiti prevention clips
- ✓ Further informing of the public
- ✓ Urgent removal of graffiti



Municipality of Nacka, Sweden

- ✓ Graffiti stands, both nationally and in Nacka municipality, for more than **50% of all police reported vandalism**
 - ✓ Nacka produces **yearly report** that provides a description of the graffiti developments in Nacka. The highlighted issues are:
 - How extensive the graffiti is in the Municipality of Nacka
 - Distribution of sex and age of those who produce illegal graffiti
 - How graffiti has evolved in Nacka during the recent years
 - How graffiti is distributed geographically in the various districts within the Municipality of Nacka
- A working group** of local actors who owns the problem of graffiti in Nacka. This group makes decisions, mainly regarding the following three main issues:
- Quick removal of illegal graffiti in the municipality
 - Effective police action against those who produce illegal graffiti in the municipality
 - Dialogue with young people who produce illegal graffiti to discuss their needs and interests



Municipality of Gdansk, Poland

- ✓ Illegal graffiti is seen as an action of vandalism and inappropriate way of self-expression and, therefore, it should not be overlooked

Activities of the Gdańsk Municipal Guard are focused on:

- ✓ **Timely and heavy punishment** of perpetrators (a criminal case may be forwarded to the police authorities where there is a heavy damage inflicted)
- ✓ **Information** about graffiti whereabouts **is being collected and** competent authorities are informed
- ✓ Prevention programmes such as *I KNOW - I do not destroy, I create*, promoting the art of graffiti are being carried out
- ✓ **Education** of secondary schools' **students**
- ✓ **Informing the residents** and encouraging them to report graffiti daubing cases

The Gdańsk Municipal Guard made 134 interventions while tackling this issue last year.



Municipality of Gdansk, Poland





Municipality of Tallinn, Estonia

- ✓ Natural persons may be imposed with fines amounting to EUR 400 while legal persons may face a fine of EUR 1300
- ✓ Identifying the act of offence poses a problem as the offender has to be detained on the spot or evidence to show an offence are necessary
- ✓ 22 procedures were started between 2010 and 2011 and only 2 court decisions were passed
- ✓ Cooperation involves other departments, organisations and the residents



Municipality of Jelgava, Latvia

The issue of graffiti was critical in 1990.

✓ Today Jelgava has resolved the issue of illegal graffiti

The issue has been settled by employing the following measures:

- ✓ Adoption of rules banning illegal graffiti
- ✓ Certain spaces such as abandoned municipality buildings, the walls of petroleum warehouse have been opened for doing graffiti in order to improve their aesthetic look
- ✓ The International Graffiti Art Festivals were held between 2005 and 2008
- ✓ Graffiti artists are provided with possibilities of doing graffiti during other festivals and in unusual spaces e.g., on particular ice walls or plant pots later to be displayed in the parks and squares



Municipality of Jelgava, Latvia





Thank You!

