

Intercultural Competence courses

29.05.2023 – 23.06.2023

Intercultural competence courses - spring 2023

In the period from **May 29, 2023 to June 23, 2023**, **four runs of the Intercultural Competence course for police officers** took place in the Central Bohemian Region as part of the PDP1 project "Increasing police competence in preventing and combating crime, strengthening communication skills with the public and awareness of human rights". This course is a part of project activity No. 19 "Self-experienced interactive trainings focused on minority issues, hate crime, personal development, training of trainers".

As part of these courses, **20 police lecturers** of intercultural competences and **3 external lecturers** trained almost **60 police officers** from all over the country, who come into contact with members of minorities during the performance of their duties.

The course program has a theoretical-practical character. Its graduates will deepen the knowledge and skills necessary for effective work with minorities. This leads, among other things, to increasing professional competence, obtaining practically oriented information and desirable skills that can be used in the performance of services in contact with minorities. Among the information obtained are new trends and knowledge in the mentioned area, minority specifics or a deepening of the overview in the field of human rights. In the line of acquiring new skills, it is, among other things, effective communication with minorities, deepening the understanding of certain attitudes, perception of value differences, understanding and breaking down prejudices or working with empathy.

Most of the topics are discussed in the form of practical exercises, guided discussions, staged teaching methods, individual and group work of the participants and above all the method of experiential pedagogy (experiential learning). Experiential pedagogy is an approach that uses the experience of trained persons in education. The method consists in the deliberate creation of situations that bring intense experiences, and subsequent pedagogical work with these experiences.

Courses for police officers focused on intercultural competence were implemented in accordance with the requirements contained in the Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for the years 2022 – 2027 (these are specified in detail in the implementation plan, which is an annex to the Strategy - measures D.2.4 and D.2.5).

Intercultural competence courses for police officers were visited during the mentioned period by guests and senior staff of the Ministry of the Interior (Administration of Refugee Facilities, Crime Prevention Department) and the Police of the Czech Republic (**Police Education and Service Training Unit** - hereinafter referred to as ÚPVSP). Some of them personally participated in selected educational activities.

As part of the courses, **listening activities** were also provided for future lecturers of intercultural competences from the Police of the Czech Republic, who will complete the relevant course (educational program "Intercultural competences - lecturer") in September of this year.

During the implementation of the 5th - 8th run of the course, **motivational videos** of intercultural competences (sub-activity KA no. 19 PDP1) were filmed, which were provided by police officers from the Department for Science, Research and Innovation of the Police Presidium and the Department of Education of the ÚPVSP.

On the initiative of the Department of Education in cooperation with the Department of Professional Training and Police Sports of the ÚPVSP, **two first aid courses** were implemented in the spring of 2023. As part of these courses, **14 intercultural competence lecturers** of the Police of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic **were trained**.

This is a new two-day **medical training program "TECC - Active bystander - Providing first aid to persons in a life-threatening condition"**. The courses took place on **April 4-5, 2023** and **May 2 - 3, 2023** in Prague.

The main impetus for the implementation of these courses is the fact that the Intercultural Competence course for police officers includes daily outdoor and sports activities and demanding self-experiential training with intensive social interaction. This demandingness is manifested in all participants both psychologically and emotionally, as well as in the physical sphere. Their subsequent performance of the service can be similarly demanding in practice if it is an intercultural environment.

Graduates of the course acquired knowledge and skills in providing first aid and first aid with elements of tactical medicine in a civilian environment. The course prepared them for the application of the mentioned knowledge and skills even in a risky environment and in accordance with the tactical procedures of the Police of the Czech Republic.

During September 2023, further educational activities on intercultural competences will take place. The plan includes an **Intercultural Competence course for lecturers** and a **Workshop for lecturers on intercultural competence**, which will be attended by external lecturers cooperating with the Police of the Czech Republic from 2014.

Processed:

Lt. Col. Renata Šanderová

Department of education of ÚPVSP

Coordinator of the project activity No. 19, PDP1 Norway Grants