



**KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET**  
Department of Public Health Sciences  
*Division of Social Medicine*



**WHO COLLABORATING  
CENTRE**  
ON  
COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION

## SAFE COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWS

NO. 10  
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\*\*\*\*\* LETTER FROM THE EDITOR\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to the tenth issue of Safe Community Weekly News, the electronic Safe Community Weekly News will be send from Harstad - Norway on behalf of Safe Communities Network.

### WHAT IS NEW AT SAFE COMMUNITIES?

In this issue:

- **AWARD: King Harald awarding Mr. Erik Brekke a golden medal, Norway**
- **CONFERENCE: 12<sup>th</sup> Int. Safe Community Conference, Hong Kong**
- **SITE VISIT: Safe Community in Kromeriz, Czech**
- **MEETING: Information day. Tartu, Estonia**
- **COURSES: 6<sup>th</sup> Int. Ph.D. Course on Safety Promotion Research  
7<sup>th</sup> MPH Course on Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention**

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### AWARD



**His Majesty King Harald king of Norway  
awarding Mr. Erik Brekke a golden medal.**

For his initiative against violence Erik Brekke is awarded a King gold medal.

Erik Broach (58) is awarded a King gold service medal for his solid society engagement and actively advocacy of Night ravens-groups in Norway, for a number of years as well as other initiatives against violence.

Mr. Brekke, a director of Vesta Insurance Company since 1995, has been in charge of a main task of the company's sponsor commitment against violence. One of the initiatives was to support the establishment of new Night raven groups. There are more than 350 Night raven groups over all the country so far, and the effect of work has been expanded to many other countries.

Night raven activities render freshly insight in violence problems and contact with specific arena and authorities working for violence prevention. The direction of Mr. Brekke helped to establish Police Crime Prevention Forum. Beside, he also works in a close cooperation with Justice Ministry and The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities. Because of his remarkable contribution in arranging the annual violence conference in Bergen, the forum became an important meeting event for authorities, researchers, and other violence prevention workers in the communities.

The other successful project was anti-mobbing initiative and mediation in schools, and Mr. Brekke was a motor for arranging the annual violence conference in Kristiansund regionat the foundation Better keep stayed. The Vesta Insurance Company is also engaged in the foundation Neighbour help in Kristiansand.

In addition, Mr. Brekke has been in an active support of numerous activities with Safe Community project in Harstad. The contribution is unquestionable. He has participated in many Safe Community Conferences either in Norway or overseas, for instant, the participation in the 10<sup>th</sup> International Safe Community Conference in Alaska, the United States. By next week, he is going to take a part in the 12<sup>th</sup> International Safe Community Conference in Hong Kong.

***Congratulations to Erik Brekke on receiving this paramount award!***

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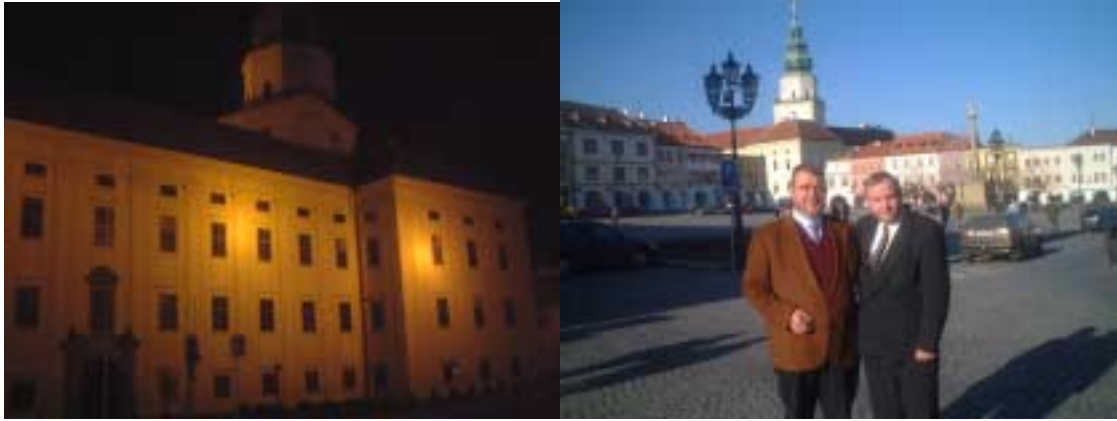


**The 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Safe Communities**  
**March 18-20, 2003, Hong Kong SAR, China**  
[www.safety2003.org.hk](http://www.safety2003.org.hk)

The Occupational Safety and Health Council is hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Safe Communities on March 18-20, 2003. The annual conference will be held concurrently with the 2003 Safety and Health Expo as an worldwide effort to promote awareness and education of injury prevention and control. Two communities in Hong Kong will be designated as the international safe communities on March 18,2003 with the Chief Executive of the HKSAR the Honourable Tung Chee-wah officiating.

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## Official site visit to Kromeríz, Czech Republic



This is a report from the Chairman of the WHO CC on Community Safety Promotion Professor Leif Svanström here together with the Mayor of the beautiful City of Kromeriz:

Kromeriz, Czech Republic- a City of great Heritage—on the UNESCO list, now a population of 30 000.

On the 25-26 February Leif Svanström from the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion together with Dr Michal Grivna, Director of the Center for Childhood Injury at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic and Dr Petr Nencka, expert on playground safety made an official visit to follow up on an application from the Kromeríz Municipality to become designated as a “Safe Community” and a member of the international Safe Communities’ Network. The site visit was lead by the Health Cities co-ordinator –Eng. Marie Pokorná.



Eng. Marie Pokorná, Dr Petr Nencka and Dr Michal Grivna at the “Hub” of the Community actions – the Library.

Dr Jarmila Cíhalova

Dr Martin Sedlak

Kromeriz has since 1994 a well developed Healthy Cities organization, which means that when the City in 1999 adopted the Safe Community idea introduced by Dr Grivna it was well prepared and could go into action immediately. One of the very first initiatives was to establish an injury surveillance system, now involving almost 70 physicians, emergency hospital, and other practitioners. The system is enthusiastically lead by Dr Jarmila Cíhalova – Head of Public Health Department in Kromeriz and also Chairwoman of the Safe Community project.

They have now covered two full years of registration, showing for example an yearly injury incidence of 18% of the children! The so far well functioning surveillance system gives information both for action in the five working groups and for future outcome evaluation. A strong supporter of the surveillance system as well as the program is the local Pediatrician Dr Martin Sedlak.

There are now 5 working groups except the surveillance group:

- Children safety
- Senior safety
- Sports safety
- Work safety
- Transport safety

With many initiatives involving both the local Government officers as well as NGO:s. A couple of very succesful initiatives:

#### Safe Schools initiative

Based on the principles of Healthy Schools the main focus was soon turned into safety promotion incl. injury prevention. That initiative is led by Eng. Zdenek Vopicka, an enthusiastic volunteer and a former officer. To his help he has the teacher Eliska Darebnikova and they have taken many initiatives in now 4 of the 6 Schools in Kromeriz. He has as a principle to visit every classroom at least four times a Year to develop different student-involved safety initiatives.



Eng. Zdenek Vopicka.



Teacher Eliska Darebnikova in the class-room.

#### The Slovan School

A well functioning Safe School program has been initiated in the Slovan School (Princial Mgr.Pavel Urban) under the leadership of the Deputy Principal Hana Kolackova.



Princial Mgr.Pavel Urban of the Slovan School. Deputy Principal Hana Kolackova of the Slovan School.

In the classroom the students demonstrated extremely well their involvement and their safety consciousness, here some students - Olga,Petra and other group leaders:



### Safe Playgrounds

The playgrounds have shown not to be a very safe place for children. Many of them were made on private initiatives and the equipment is not up-to-date. On the initiative of Vice-Mayor Olga Sehnalova the European standard for playground equipment has been adopted and here a newly built playground can be seen:



Vice-Mayor Olga Sehnalova

### Strong political support and leadership

The program is a strong commitment from the political leaders – all mayor decision has been taken unanimously. The Safe Communities policies were adopted 1999 when Mgr Petr Sedlacek was Mayor – now vice-Mayor and is strongly supported by the present Mayor Ing. Petr Dvoracek. The main responsibility fall under the Vice-Mayor MUDr Olga Sehnalova.



Mayor Ing. Petr Dvoracek

Vice-Mayor Mgr Petr Sedlacek

Vice-Mayor MUDr Olga Sehnalova

Most likely Kromeriz will be designated in June this Year in an international seminar. In 2004 the city will be involved in a travelling seminar preceding the XIIIth International Safe Community Conference in Prague.

## *Information day- Tartu, Estonia*

A joint informative meeting took place in the Tartu Police Prefecture on 11 Feb. 2003 organised by NGO Neighbourhood Watch Centre, Project "Safe Community Tartu", and Society AVE (Alcoholisations Free Estonia).



R to L: Prof Atko Viru, chairman of council AVE, Prof. Taie Kaasik, behind her Siina Lepik, Prof. Arvo Tikk, Peeter Rehema, chairman of board NGO Neighbourhood Watch Centre, Prof. Jaan Mikk, behind him Tartu vice mayor Margus Hanson, Dr. Enno Kross.

Information day participants: the leader of youth organisations, of women societies, journalists, family doctors, representatives of day-care kindergartens.



Prof. Atko Viru is presenting his book "Scientific view on alcohol"



Prof. Taie Kaasik is presenting her book "Injuries in Estonia"



**Enno Kross**,  
"Alcohol, severe injuries and injury death rate in Tartu 2002"



**Peeter Rehema**,  
"Neighbourhood watch confirming dangers"



**Aivar Otsalt**, Tartu Police Prefect,  
"Criminality in Tartu 2002, plan of activities 2003"

6<sup>th</sup> International Ph.D. Course on SAFETY PROMOTION RESEARCH  
13-24 October, Stockholm, Sweden

[Course information](#)

[Daily agenda](#)

[Application form](#)

Application deadline: 2 June

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7th MPH Course on SAFETY PROMOTION AND INJURY PREVENTION  
27 October - 14 November. Stockholm, Sweden  
(27 - 31 October pre-distance training)

Application deadline: 15 April 2003

[Course information](#)

[Application form](#)

<http://info.ki.se/education/forms/courses.pdf>

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<http://www.harstad.kommune.no/om-harstad/Safe-Com-eng.htm>

<http://www.safecommunity.net/>  
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