

PRESS RELEASE / PRESSEAUSENDUNG

Vienna, October 1st, 2015;

EUNWA Second Annual Conference Castel Ritaldi, Umbria – Italy, October 22 - 24, 2015

European neighbourhood watch organisations team up to reduce crime

EUNWA, a major European initiative in the area of safe living and crime prevention was inaugurated last year. The **EU**ropean **N**eighbourhood **W**atch **A**ssociation was founded in Vienna in the presence of 26 European neighbourhood watch and crime prevention organizations from 21 countries uniting to coordinate their efforts to make daily life safer. EUNWA member organizations represent well over 20 million citizens.

Open borders, increasing international mobility and reduction of police forces have all had an impact on the feeling of security across Europe. This is why more and more European citizens are forming neighbourhood watch organisations with the objective to reduce property crime.

On October 22 – 24, 2015 the annual Conference of EUNWA will take place in Castel Ritaldi, a quaint mountain resort in the middle of Umbria, the central Italian province north-east of Rome. Members will meet to discuss matters concerning their common goals: exchanging information, sharing experience, establishing a European network, helping citizens to live in peace and harmony.

Renowned scientists and police experts as well as neighbourhood watch practitioners will gather and discuss the present status of neighbourhood watch in many European countries, the police efforts to improve their relations with the population through concepts like community policing and crime mapping, and scientific approaches to crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). A comprehensive report on EUNWA's proceedings at Castel Ritaldi will be issued to inform all members and stakeholders in public safety.

Karl Brunnbauer, founder and President of the EUNWA said:

"Citizens across Europe are increasingly worried about becoming victims of burglary and property crime. At the same time, organised crime does not respect any national borders and criminal methods are quickly transferred from one country to another."

It is necessary to react to these developments and keep people informed about new tricks and scams. As a consequence, Associazione Controllo del Vicinato, the Italian neighbourhood watch organisation, decided to set up the next conference in Italy.

About the European Neighbourhood Watch Association (EUNWA)

EUNWA was founded in 2014 as an umbrella organization for European neighbourhood watch organizations. 25 neighbourhood watch and crime prevention organizations from 19 European countries are founding members, including large non government organizations such as Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (England and Wales), VoisinsVigilants France and Samverkan mot Brott Sweden. EUNWA embraces the interests of more than 20 million European citizens.

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Gianfrancesco Caccia, President of the ACdV said:

"We are very impressed by the level of interest and participation from across Europe. It confirms that there is a need to cooperate internationally and that our effort has been worth it. We are happy to have the 2nd conference in Italy".

About the “Associazione Controllo del Vicinato” (ACdV) - Italy

The *Associazione Controllo del Vicinato*, founded in July 2013, consists of a network of local volunteers and volunteer specialists who provide advice and free support to municipal administrations, local associations and private citizens who want to develop in their own areas residential security programs and organize groups of Neighbourhood Watch.

Town Councils, local organizations and private citizens, consistent with the presence of the volunteers of the Association in their territories, can ask for support both in the early stages of the program and in the later ones. In the early stages the volunteers are invited to attend information meetings with community leaders, representatives of the police, local associations and business communities to illustrate the “Controllo del Vicinato” program. Volunteers are also available to attend public or private meetings related to residential security.

The *Associazione Controllo del Vicinato* was founded with the purpose of:

- Share experiences and provide visibility to all Neighbourhood Watch activities countrywide.
- Make available to all groups of Controllo del Vicinato the "best practices" that gradually consolidate over the years across the country.
- Create and disseminate standard tools (training, forms, manuals, logos, software, etc.) to support the organizational life of the Controllo del Vicinato groups.
- Assist and support the municipalities that decide to implement the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in their areas.

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