

European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)

Annex I

Approved by the EUCPN Management Board in 2018

Please complete the template in English in compliance with the ECPA criteria contained in the Rules and procedures for awarding and presenting the European Crime Prevention Award (Par.2 §3).

General information

1. Please specify your country.

Germany

2. Is this your country's ECPA entry or an additional project?

Country's ECPA

3. What is the title of the project?

Walk around your Hood – Interdisciplinary Security Audits to identify Feelings of (In)Security and Hot Spots

4. Who is responsible for the project? Contact details.

State Office for Criminal Investigation of Lower Saxony, Criminological Research and Statistics, Competence Center Urban Security, Dr. Anke Schroeder, Am Waterlooplatz 11, D 30169 Hannover

5. Start date of the project (dd/mm/yyyy)? Is the project still running (Yes/No)? If not, please provide the end date of the project.

Started in 2016, still running

6. Where can we find more information about the project? Please provide links to the project's website or online reports or publications (preferably in English).

www.transit-online.info in German

7. Please give a **one page** description of the project (**Max. 600 words**)

„Walk around your Hood – Interdisciplinary Security Audits to identify Feelings of (In)Security and Hot Spots“ is an instrument which helps to analyze areas in relation to subjectively perceived as or objectively dangerous, as well as the feelings of insecurity concerning the user's awareness . The security audit also enables users to assess spatial security related qualities on a small scale – be it

whether it's a street, a square or a recreation area. Therefore it goes along well with the basic approaches and procedures of community policing.

The instrument is the outcome of the research project „transit“ and has been implemented in daily work ever since.

Public space is a complex construct, many stakeholders are involved in its design and planning. While the structural conditions of public spaces (i.e. streets, places or parks) are long term, social change is more dynamic. That is why sometimes public spaces don't match with the requirements including fear of crime of residents and users over time. Both the structural and spatial design as well as the socio-spatial interactions can have severe impact on people's feelings of insecurity.

„Walk around your Hood“ tries to tackle these feelings by gathering expertise from many institutions and organizations. Starting from a small scale police report on crime and incivilities as well as intensity of social contacts in the neighbourhood in question, the team of stakeholders that need to be involved in the walk is defined (most likely are local police, city council and housing companies, but depending on the problems identified also waste disposal companies or social workers can be consulted). The most effective route through the examined area, the one where all possibly critical spots can be rated, is also determined.

The participants do an on-site inspection. Doing so, they take their own subjective and professional perspective. Moreover they are rather asked to think in assigned scenarios. For instance they could be asked to play the role of a young boy, who just moved to a new neighbourhood with his parents and who wants to visit a friend to play football with him. Could such a boy find the correct house number? Would he know where to best cross the street? Would he find the football pitch or is the pitch occupied by a group? Or: Play the role of a young woman who comes at home by bike late at night. Is the street lightening aligned to the cycle path? Are there dark corners or hiding places? Like a lawyer representing a mandate, the participants represent different groups, ensuring that the group's special needs and conditions concerning public space are met (gender planning).

With the quality and problems of the neighbourhood in question being identified, the participants finally discuss the findings and describe joint measures and clear responsibilities to improve the situation.

The interdisciplinary work in the context of „Walk around your Hood“ creates understanding and appreciation for different perspectives amongst participants and stakeholders, resulting in better and more efficient collaboration on local levels in the future.

I. The project shall focus on prevention and/or reduction of everyday crime and fear of crime within the theme.

8. How does the project contribute to crime prevention and/or the reduction of crime or the fear of crime? Does it focus on raising citizens' awareness or does it apply other mechanisms? (**Max. 200 words**)

The analysis of incivilities and petty crimes in public spaces performed with "Walk around your Hood" affects prevention on a secondary and tertiary level. On both levels specific measures are defined to best meet the challenges of an identified problem.

- The early identification of disorders and problems, before they are manifested, addresses the secondary level of prevention. Disorders or problems can refer to various topics such as conflicts concerning the use of spaces. The extent of existing petty crimes is targeted and contained. The focus lies on purposeful interventions to support and strengthen structural (improvement of the quality of life, attractive design for all user-groups) and / or social aspects (social work).
- Tertiary prevention starts with an existing problem such as an area that has drawn much attention because of - for example - dominating deviant groups, poor lighting or vandalism and associated feelings of insecurity. Also crime (i.e. drug dealing, assault), especially those broadly covered by the media, can cause a problem. „Walk around your Hood“ offers specific measures for tertiary prevention to contain petty crimes.

II. The project shall have been evaluated and have achieved most or all of its objectives.¹

9. What were the reasons for setting up the project? Was this context analysed before the project was initiated and in what way (How, and by whom? Which data were used?)? In what way did this analysis inform the set-up of the project? (**Max. 150 words**)

„Walk around your Hood – Interdisciplinary Security Audits to identify Feelings of (In)Security and Hot Spots“ are based on the guideline „Safe Places and Spaces“ issued by Security Partnership in urban development in Lower Saxony . The guideline (available on the internet in German language: <http://www.sipaniedersachsen.de/nano.cms/sichere-raeume-kriterien>) has not been used to the desired extent in the past due to its scope. That is why the Competence Center for Urban Security tested a more accessible and user-

¹ For more information on evaluation, see Guidelines on the evaluation of crime prevention initiatives (EUCPN Toolbox No.3): <http://www.eucpn.org/library/results.asp?category=32&pubdate>

oriented version, where the stakeholders are accompanied by a skilled person, in the research project transit. The test proved to be successful. After project transit the case studies Braunschweig, Emden and Lüneburg all expressed the will to continuously use the security audit because of the added value to the guideline (see the declarations of intent in German language: <https://www.transit-online.info/ergebnisse.html>).

The analysis in Braunschweig, Emden and Lüneburg was carried out in transit lead to the following promising suggestions:

1. Situation reports on every day crimes and incivilities on a small scale are an excellent basis to identify relevant spots the stakeholders to be involved.
2. Moderation is needed to integrate the stakeholder's interdisciplinary approaches and to minimize the risk of misunderstandings or - interpretations.
3. Accompaniment allows an efficient use of stakeholder's time resources. A binding agreement on further measures and objectives must be concluded after a final discussion.

10. What were the objective(s) of the project? Please, if applicable, distinguish between main and secondary objectives. (**Max. 150 words**)

The main goal of the security audit is to boost the quality of public spaces like streets, squares or parks, so that they are no longer chosen by offenders and are not perceived as insecure.

To achieve this superior goal, it is necessary to also achieve sub-goals:

1. Create awareness among stakeholders that aspects relevant for security and safety are also relevant for quality of life in general. The understanding, that the consideration of security related issues does not necessarily mean additional work or costs. It's not the most expensive measures that help, sometimes also little actions can have huge impact on feelings of (in)security.
2. Joint collaboration of the stakeholder's who are in charge for safety and security in a specific neighbourhood leads to a trustworthy and reliable cooperation.
3. Joint development of aims and strategies to improve public spaces based on existing problems and challenges.

11. Has there been a process evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?) and what were the main results? Which indicators were used to measure the process? Did you make changes accordingly? (**max. 300 words**) - for more information on process evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.9-10 & part 2 - section 2A

A process evaluation was part of the project and had been carried out internally. Following the motto „Learning by doing – making changes in process“. Using a mix of methods means to use a range of analytic methods is needed and often several evaluation steps should be used. During the project transit, each sub-result and indicators had been communicated to the stakeholder, so adjustments could be made. For the adjustments different methods had been used (1) Workshop World Café: To get critical hints and suggestions it is indispensable to bring stakeholders together. (2) Individual visits had been paid to get local information and to discuss the local situation trustful. (3) Based on a quantitative survey concerning the feeling of (in)security, a transmission to the real public space was made in cooperation between researcher and practitioners. (4) The situation reports on every day crimes and incivilities on a small scale were anonymized and discussed by the stakeholder. (5) Due to participation of the stakeholder at the security audits the criteria of secure aspects can be inspected on the levels of places where people feel unsafe and also on real hot spots. (6) At the end of the security audit the stakeholders will be asked by evaluation sheet about the added value of the instrument. All participants received „Walk around your Hood – Interdisciplinary Security Audits to identify Feelings of (In)Security and Hot Spots“ as a significant positive evaluation expressed by the high willingness to invest an appropriate hourly potential for the instrument in the future.

12. Has there been an outcome or impact evaluation? Who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), which data and evaluation method were used and what were the main results? Which indicators were used to measure the impact? (**Max. 300 words**) - for more information on outcome or impact evaluation, see EUCPN Toolbox No.3, p.7-9 & part 2 - section 2A

An outcome evaluation of the guideline „Safe Places and Spaces“ had been carried out externally in 2014. By order of the Ministry of social affairs in cooperation with the SIPA, the contractor Prof. Dr. Herbert Schubert from the Office of Social-Space- management evaluated the guideline in practical test.

(www.sipa-niedersachsen.de/nano.cms/anwendung in German)

Three levels of protection were evaluated: Increase of protection (1) through

urban design and planning as well as architectural design and technical equipment, (2) through management and (3) through the resident's responsibility. On the basis of CIPP-evaluation model by Stufflebeam. The evaluation was distinguished in Context, Input, Process und Product.

As an outcome the main results can be summarized as follows:

- During the application of the guideline and the discussion at local places, the interdisciplinary cooperation within the community has been trained. An overview of existing local boards and approaches will be shown.
- The guideline enables a participation of heterogeneous local stakeholders, for instance neighbourhood management and other local bodies. An added value is the cooperation with the police.
- High level of connectivity within the "Socially Integrative City' program".

Further information revealed that the guideline "Safe Places and Spaces" would be too extensive and would therefore take up too much time resources. The general approach does not allow to take all aspects into account of a specific planning process. A clear structure has been requested. Furthermore an external moderation of the security audit was recommended.

By following these instructions „Walk around your Hood" was adjusted to make the comprehensive guideline manageable.

III. The project shall, as far as possible, be innovative, involving new methods or new approaches.

13. How is the project innovative in its methods and/or approaches? (**Max. 150 words**)

The Security Audit is an innovative interdisciplinary approach at the interface of theory and practice. The Security Audit builds in the knowledge of empirical social research and criminology, as well as application-oriented police- and space science. The project is innovative because different approaches are on one level. The theoretical basis is reflected in practice permanently. This means that the process can adapt to social dynamics continuously.

A further innovation is the change of perspective for the participation stakeholders during the Security Audit. In particular the perception of different roles are closely linked to new, unknown forms of life to be with the basic needs of space usage and feelings of (in)security.

This proceed enables stakeholders to find solution-oriented measures for designing and planning open spaces concerning the complexity of subjective

feelings of (in)security.

IV. The project shall be based on cooperation between partners, where possible.

14. Which partners or stakeholders were involved in the project and what was their involvement? (**Max. 200 words**)

The point of "Walk around your Hood – Interdisciplinary Security Audits to identify Feelings of (In)Security and Hot Spots" is characterized by a continuous and cooperative participation of different stakeholder.

On one hand the local stakeholder should record the qualities. On the other hand they should identify vandalism and social incivilities at local level consensus-oriented. They are asked to find cross-department concepts and solution for a well maintained neighbourhood.

Members of the core team are the local police, municipal responsible persons in the field of planning and public order as well as local housing companies. Depending on the problem, additional stakeholder will be involved. The scope of Stakeholders ranges from Investors, planning groups, neighbourhood management, Public utility and waste management companies, child-welfare, streetwork, equal opportunity commissioner, integration council to city cleaners and to the residents.

V. The project shall be capable of replication in other Member States.

15. How and by whom is the project funded? (**Max. 150 words**)

The Ministry of Research and Education of Germany funded the research project inside the program "Research for the Civil Safety and Security in the Proposal". It was a practice-oriented research project.

16. What were the costs of the project in terms of finances, material and human resources? (**Max. 150 words**)

For the walk, finance and materials can be neglected, personnel resources need to be provided during the walk (around three hours per walk). Costs and resources differ concerning the upcoming measures. It depends on the continuous implementation or status of project. there is no cost for the State.

17. Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? If so, describe the analysis, including how and by whom it was carried out and list the main findings of the analysis. (**Max. 150 words**)

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18. Are there adjustments to be made to the project to ensure a successful replication in another Member State?

For each country the instrument would allow the implementation of the necessary adjustment itself. Practically everybody is involved in the issues because housing is a basic need.

19. How is the project relevant for other Member States? Please explain the European dimension of your project.

The method could be useful for all member states. It is transferable to each specific local situation and stakeholders, whether on discipline or prevention levels. To work with the catalogue is easy to learn and the added value is visible on point. New and innovative cooperation between different stakeholders are guaranteed.

Please provide a short general description of the project (abstract for inclusion in the conference booklet – **max. 150 words**).

The Security Audit „Walk around your Hood – Interdisciplinary Security Audits to identify Feelings of (In)Security and Hot Spots“ is an Instrument to distinguished between places where people feel unsafe (Angsträume) and real crime hot spots (Gefahrenorte) and their link to fear of crime. Systematical security audits in a local context enable the stakeholders to focus on areas with every day crime and incivilities that disturb the living in well maintained neighbourhoods. Through the use of this instrument, crime opportunities could be reduced and the feeling of security is strengthened.

Concerning the community, policing the instrument is suitable for the interdisciplinary cooperation to enhance the objective and subjective security in a local context.

„Walk around your Hood – Interdisciplinary Security Audits to identify Feelings of (In)Security and Hot Spots“ has an added value for the participants. The instrument connects theoretical approaches of the civil security research with practical solutions to reduce every day crime.