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Urban security is a complex multi-dimensional process that results from the interaction of an increasingly diverse collection of stakeholders. Many factors influence urban security, from the physical layout to the social and economic makeup of urban zones, from the political and economic landscape on a national level to the daily practices of public services that are active in the area. Seemingly unrelated events may trigger sudden escalation of unrest in neighbourhoods that have been under social tension for a prolonged period of time.

A better understanding of urban security throughout Europe, and more sensible policy development to create safer urban environments, and prevent undesirable security scenarios is required.

There is a need to identify and tackle the underlying symptoms that impinge upon urban security as soon as possible to prevent an escalation in instability and instances of undesirable security scenarios arising.

A failure by policy makers to recognise and mitigate such threats and perceptions may allow unrest and distress in urban zones that in essence affect the prosperity and functionality of the area. Policy makers need to become aware of the interdependency of factors, and define policy based on that comprehension.

The BESECURE project has 4 key objectives:

**KNOWLEDGE**
- Develop a knowledge base on the state of the art in urban security enhancement, identify problems and examine best practice.

**UNDERSTAND**
- Facilitate an understanding of key indicators

**DEVELOP**
- Develop a suite of tools and methods to aid policy makers.

**TRANSFER**
- Transfer knowledge on different methods to assist policy makers in enhancing urban security

The BESECURE project will deliver a suite of tools to support and inspire policy makers in making decisions on urban security:

**Library:** The BESECURE toolbox contains structured practices from various urban areas across Europe, and links to related background information, such as scientific publications and event reports.

**Guide:** The BESECURE toolbox guides the user to insights and information that give a better evidence-base for policy designs.

**Compass:** The BESECURE toolbox tool contains a working environment in which the user obtains a better understanding of his own environment, using data visualisation and issue/option analysis.

**Navigational aid:** The BESECURE toolbox leads the user through a structured policy design process for his own environment. It provides data visualisation means and issue/option analysis, inspirational cues from other urban areas, and options to monitor the effects of a policy.