



1. What is th

3. Please describe the objective(s) of the project?

The two projects aimed at testing the CPTED-principles in 'ordinary' Finnish cities. In addition, an outside evaluation of the city centres' safety and the possibilities of development was to be drawn up and the recommendations were to be given to the use of the authorities.
The recommendations aimed at reducing street violence and the fear of crime.
In addition, it was aimed that the recommendations and good practices could be used by other cities.

4. How was the project implemented?

The results of the interviews - information on interventions used - as well as the problems associated with the interventions were considered in the meetings of the experts of Living City Centre Association. In the steering group there were national representatives present from city planning, business and property sector, and city development organisations as well as the Ministries of the Environment and Justice. The programme was overseen by professor Hille Koskela whose own area of expertise includes urban safety politics, control and space.
Based on the research material and CPTED-principles, recommendations were drawn up.

5. Were partners involved in planning and/or development and/or implementation of the project? If so, who were they, and what were their roles?

The safety theme and its connection to questions of pleasantness of urban environment were taken into consideration by the Finnish Food Marketing Association who is the representative of trade in the Living City Centre Association. A grant application was submitted to the National Council for Crime Prevention together with the representative from the Ministry of the Environment.
One of the cities chosen for the research was represented in the steering group. Both cities are involved in the Living City Centre co-operation network.
In addition the Department of Geography from the University of Helsinki offered their academic expertise for the project.

6. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project?

The cities safety agendas were used as a background information and the interviewees' ideas, aims and experiences of co-operation were compared with the aims of the safety agendas.
An independent academic evaluation of the examined city centres as physical-functional environments was built into the project.

7. Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

It was not possible to evaluate the projects' impact on the volume of crime or violence in the city centres or on the prevalence of fear of crime in the cities with such a short agenda. The way in which the recommendations are followed and implemented have not been evaluated. However, the safety of the centres in the project cities and other cities is followed closely. In addition, both research projects were academically evaluated as master's theses for the University of Helsinki.

8. What were the results? How far were the objectives of the project achieved?

The real problems (development areas) of the city centres in Hämeenlinna and Kerava were the unpleasant places like the surroundings of railway stations, some parks along with the fronts of some shops and newsagents.

The co-operation of different actors was working well especially in Hämeenlinna. The safety work groups brought up different issues and kept the safety planning involved in the everyday life. Many basic questions, such as for whom the city centres are planned, where is the line drawn between caring and control and in what ways could organisations take part in the development of safety, were brought up in the considerations. Practices which businesses, property owners, authorities and residents could apply were found.

The visibility of police was considered to increase security and especially the feelings of security. Businesses were eager to invest into joint security patrolling and to cctv cameras. Many of the CPTED based recommendations became concrete during the projects in Hämeenlinna and Kerava. By improving lighting in Hämeenlinna Kirkkopuisto park and clearing up of bushes as well as installing benches in Kerava Aurinkomäki the places became more pleasant and were considered to be more safe than before. Plantations were set so that visibility could be maintained, public toilets were installed in to the centres and joint regulations were created for the city centre area e.g. rules on skating and setting up of posters.

Publication and spreading out of information on the recommendations has been successful. Awareness on safe city planning has increased. An education package is available at the Living City Centre Association's web page: <http://sange.fi/kaupunkikeskustat/ajankohtaista/turvallisuus.html>

The usage of city centres increases the feelings of safety among the residents. This is why organising (supervised) events turned out to be an effective way to increase security among residents.

City centre - a nest of immorality or a safe living room?

Street violence is often concentrated on city centres and city centres are often felt by residents as unsafe areas. City centres as physical-functional spheres can create these problems. In Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) ways to reduce these problems have been created. Actively used, multi-functional city centres are often low crime areas and they are felt to be safe. These kinds of city centres have also been able to combine economical and safety interests.

In the project of the Living City Centre Association (official name Finnish Association of Town Centre Management) safety planning and the working of co-operation in two cities centre development was examined. The actors involved in the co-operation represented citizens, authorities, property owners, businesses as well as members from the cultural sector. More detailed information of the parties involved in the project can be found at the association's home page: <http://sange.fi/kaupunkikeskustat>

In the Living City Centre Association's pilot projects in Kerava and Hämeenlinna a coherent picture of the cities safety strategies was collected during the year 2001. Co-operation between authorities and economic life was of especial interest. Graduate students of planning geography (Suvi Siivola) and cultural geography (Laura Niiranen) from University of Helsinki collected material through phone interviews. This material provided a clear picture of the work aiming at increasing safety and pleasantness of the urban environment in communities.

Two case studies were conducted during the project in Hämeenlinna and Kerava in 2002. Niiranen and Siivola collected interview and photographic material from the cities. The interviews concentrated on examining the city centres current state as well as problem areas from the point of safety and pleasantness of the urban environment. The interviewees, including property owners, authorities, entrepreneurs and users of the city centres, were asked their views on how to develop the centres physicality and functionality. Clear problem areas were identified in the study. Problems with the use of some problem solving models were also found out.

CPTED-principles and the idea of connecting safety and business interests worked as a guiding principles in the evaluation process and when making recommendations in the project cities.

The interventions were considered in the meetings of the experts of Living City Centre Association. In the steering group there were national representatives present from city planning, business and property sector, city development organisations as well as the Ministries of the Environment and Justice. The programme was overseen by senior lecturer Hille Koskela from the University of Helsinki whose own area of expertise include urban safety politics, control and space.

The experiences of safety co-operation in Kerava and Hämeenlinna were discussed in national seminars, conferences and among dozens of local town centre management associations. Safety projects, involving wide range of

actors, have been started in many towns by the Living City Centre Association. In addition to co-operation in planning issues, the city centre's entrepreneurs have invested into security patrolling, and property owners in lighting and cctv.

The role of Living City Centre Association in starting up safety projects continues. At the organisation's web pages <http://sange.fi/kaupunkikeskustat/ajankohtaista/turvallisuus.html> one can for example find an education package for organising safety projects. In addition Suvi Siivola has created a report for the Ministry of Environment on safety aspects on city planning. The projects have also been evaluated as an academic masters thesis at the University of Helsinki.