

ECPA/BPC 2010

Please answer the following questions in English.

1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project? (Only one ECPA entry per country plus up to two other projects.)

This is Germany's ECPA ENTRY

2. What is the title of the project?

Security Partnership for Urban Development in the federal state Lower Saxony (Sicherheitspartnerschaft im Staedtebau in Niedersachsen) and "Quality Certificate of Secure Housing in Lower Saxony (Niedersaechsisches Qualitaetssiegel für sicheres Wohnen)"

3. Please give a short general description of the project.

The regional security partnership brings together all the main agencies of urban development working in conjunction to make rural communities and urban areas of the federal state Lower Saxony safer. It has the aim to achieve an early and networked action of all the responsible stakeholders of the communal city planning, of the architectures, of the police, of the building industry and even of the building companies.

In this way parameters which reduce the crime rate can be taken into account to generally increase the living standard and the attractiveness of the Lower Saxony communities and cities.

The idea of establishing a Quality Certificate of Secure Housing in Lower Saxony (Niedersaechsisches Qualitaetssiegel für sicheres Wohnen) was developed by the Security Partnership with the aim to award housing areas and buildings with a high living standard and with an active social environment with a certificate.

4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project.

The Security Partnership for Urban Development was established for the reason of increasing attractiveness of the communities and cities in Lower Saxony. The reduction of crime and the reduction of fear of crime are key objectives of the partnership. For that reason special principles, aims and procedures, especially concentrated on the planning and development of urban projects, which should improve the factual safety and reduce the fear of crime, were agreed upon.

The so called "Agreement on more urban security and crime prevention for the planning and restoration of living areas" was signed by institutions and unions which are able to take influence on the town planning and town construction in the federal state. They committed to contribute to increase the security in the neighbourhoods and the public areas in their fields of activity. Thus there will be an enhancement of the living standard of Lower Saxony's citizens in the long run.

For that purpose a quality certificate focussed on home security and safe environments was developed. Aspects as for example technical and objective security precautions but also aspects which concern the subjective perception of security affect the award of the certificate.

To list some of these aspects you could name for example the policy of promoting a safeguard of neighbourhood, the organization and cleanness of indoor and outdoor facilities and last but not least the integration and availability of utility services and local public transport.

5. How was the project implemented?

Security Partnership for Urban Development in the federal state Lower Saxony was founded in the year 2005 as an interdisciplinary network of experts and associations whose main activity is the crime prevention through environmental design. It was the Lower Saxony Ministry of Social, Women's and Family Affairs, of Health, and of Integration that initiated the partnership to encourage urban planners, architects, and the building industry to adapt crime prevention criteria in the development planning to reduce the opportunity for crime and avoid the fear of crime, creating a safer and more secure environment.

The members of this partnership developed the "Quality Certificate of Secure Housing" in Lower Saxony during workshops in 2008 and 2009. The certificate was established in 2010 firstly. The initiation of the project supports safe and secure living qualities and makes safety recognizable.

6. 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 network contains of 18 organisations and institutions acting in all parts of the federal state. Working together they connect their professional knowledge and bring it into long term projects, like for example creating secure urban environments.

The 18 partners are:

1-Lower Saxony Ministry of Social, Women's and Family Affairs, of Health, and of Integration (Niedersaechsisches Ministerium für Soziales, Frauen, Familie, Gesundheit und Integration), short version / kurz: Niedersaechsisches Sozialministerium)

2-Architectural Association of Lower Saxony (Architektenkammer Niedersachsen)

3-Confederation of Housing and Real Estate Industry in Lower Saxony and Bremen (vdw Verband der Wohnungs- und Immobilienwirtschaft in Niedersachsen und Bremen)

4-Confederation of Private Building Companies and Real Estate Industry (BFW Bundesverband Freier Immobilien- und Wohnungsunternehmen e.V.)

5-Association Proprietary Lower Saxony (Verband Wohneigentum Niedersachsen e.V.)

6-German Union of Tenants in Lower Saxony and Bremen (Deutscher Mieterbund Niedersachsen-Bremen e.V.)

7-Regional Confederation of the House-, Residential Apartments and Real Property Owners' Associations in Lower Saxony (Haus und Grund Niedersachsen – Landesverband Niedersaechsischer Haus-, Wohnungs- und Grundeigentueemer-Vereine e.V.)

8-Confederation of German Transportation Companies (Verband Deutscher Verkehrsunternehmen e. V. VDV)

9-Leibniz University Hannover, Faculty of Architecture and Landscape Sciences

10-German Academy for Urban and Regional Spatial Planning (Deutsche Akademie für Staedtebau und Landesplanung)

11-Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL – Akademie für Raumforschung und Landesplanung)

12-Association for Urban, Regional and Land Use Planning (SRL – Vereinigung für Stadt-, Regional- und Landesplanung e.V.)

13-Federation of German Landscape Architects (Bund Deutscher Landschaftsarchitekten bdla)

14-German Union for Child Protection (DKSB Deutscher Kinderschutzbund – Landesverband Niedersachsen e.V.)

15-Regional Working Group for the Development of Deprived Areas in Lower Saxony (Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft [LAG] Soziale Brennpunkte Niedersachsen e.V.)

16-State Office of Criminal Investigation of Lower Saxony (Landeskriminalamt Niedersachsen)

17-Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony (Landespraeventionsrat Niedersachsen)

18-Bank for Investment and Business Development in Lower Saxony (Investitions- und Foerderbank Niedersachsen – NBank)

Within the Security Partnership for Urban Development, Lower Saxony's government – represented by the Lower Saxon Ministry for Social Affairs, which is also responsible for building – has the following role: it provides the framework and platform for the Security Partnership and as such gives impetus to enhancing the interdisciplinary approach to crime prevention in urban development. The *Land* government places great emphasis on prevention and therefore seeks to establish and develop the Security Partnership as an expert network on crime prevention.

In detail:

The partners' executive and operational levels meet once a year at the invitation and under the lead of the Ministry for Social Affairs (annual meeting). The agenda includes research input, presentations by experts from our European neighbours and an intensive exchange of experience. In addition, the partners agree on projects and activities as well as on the admission of new members. For your information, please find enclosed a press release from the Ministry for Social Affairs of 16 October 2007.

Throughout the year, the security partners organise workshops at working level to develop specific projects and if needed. The results of each meeting are recorded in minutes and distributed to all security partners. In 2008/2009 nine workshops were held to develop the Quality Certificate of Secure Housing as well as the logo and the motto of the Security Partnership ("Impetus for quality of life"). This process is documented in the enclosed PowerPoint presentation on the annual meeting of 19 October 2009.

By signing the agreement (cf. nos. 4 and 10), all participants in Lower Saxony's Security Partnership for Urban Development undertook to implement the concept of secure design in urban development, architecture and spatial planning and to raise public awareness of security in urban development. This includes the commitment of all associations and institutions to take appropriate action within their field of activity. The enclosed announcement of the Lower Saxon Architectural Association of a panel discussion on 5 May 2008 on "Secure Urban Development – Security in Urban Development" (*Städtebau in Sicherheit – Sicherheit im Städtebau*) is an example of how this can be realised.

Local security partnerships have formed on the model of the Security Partnership agreement at state level. For example, the Lower Saxon police participate in several local partnerships on urban development and partner with local building authorities to ensure greater security when new housing areas are planned or existing housing areas are restructured. Cooperation is not always based on a formal agreement. For example, there are local partnerships in Hanover, Hemmingen, Langenhagen, Seelze, Lingen/southern Emsland region, Grafschaft Bentheim, Altkreis Meppen, Osnabrück, Göttingen, Hameln-Pyrmont/Holzwinden, Hildesheim, Nienburg, Papenburg, Stadthagen, and Wolfsburg. More will follow.

The NBank, the Bank for Investment and Business Development in Lower Saxony, has agreed to serve as the office for the Quality Certificate.

7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project? Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

There is a scientific expert monitoring and supporting the process since 2005. The responsibility for this work was given to the Research and Development Centre "SOCIAL AREA MANAGEMENT" (SRM) of the Cologne University of Applied Sciences. This research group will be evaluating the impact of the Quality Certificate of Secure Housing after its implementation in Lower Saxony in the beginning of 2011.

Peers evaluate the activities of the Security Partnership for Urban Development during annual en-

counters. The outcome of the cooperation can be explained as a development of collective ideas of the creation of secure habitation. The interaction between the many partners resulted into a number of concepts of creating secure residential areas – for example:

- The Lower Saxon Association of Architects presented an exhibition to dispense the criteria and quality standards of secure living among the professionals of communal city planning and architectural design.
- The Confederation of Housing and Real Estate Industry in Lower Saxony and Bremen disseminated the principles and patterns of planning and development secure homes and safe environments to the building companies.
- The State Office of Criminal Investigation of Lower Saxony initiated the international research project "Planning urban Security – PluS" analyzing the importance of crime prevention measures for urban development in Germany, Great Britain, Austria and Poland.
- The Association for Urban, Regional and Land Use Planning arranged a symposium on the national level to discuss how urban planners and architects can integrate the core principles of crime prevention and the guidelines of quality design, planning and layout.

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

Improving the quality of life and crime prevention in urban development is our constant goal and challenge and is therefore never completed. Results are reflected in the "products" of the Security Partnership that are made public, including a public expert meeting entitled "The secure city as an interdisciplinary task – German and European perspectives" (*Die sichere Stadt als interdisziplinäre Aufgabe – Deutsche und europäische Perspektiven*) which took place in Lingen in 2006. The brochure is available online and can be downloaded at www.ms.niedersachsen.de/Service/Publikationen.

Another product is the Quality Certificate. The Quality Certificate of Secure Housing in Lower Saxony shows that the specialist expertise of architecture, city planning, housing industry, social planning and the police was combined successfully by the Security Partnership. It is the first transdisciplinary Certificate in Europe which has led the criteria of crime prevention through environmental design onto a new professional level. On the one hand it follows up the British label "Secured by Design" or the Dutch label "Veilig Wonen" but on the other hand it even goes beyond the prevention of burglary and focuses on the entire perception of security as well as integrating social aspects. The initiative of Security Partnership of Urban Development in the federal State of Lower Saxony represents the highest level of the urban crime prevention in Germany.

Interested parties have been able to apply for the Quality Certificate since August 2010. So far, applications have been filed by Hanover, Nienburg/Weser and Osnabrück. They are currently being examined, and the initial audits have been completed. The first Quality Certificates will be awarded in late 2010 or early 2011.

9. Are there reports or documents available on the project? In print or on the web? Please, give references to the most relevant ones.

A brief summary of the Security Partnership for Urban Development in Lower Saxony and the agreement on improving security and crime prevention in urban development can be found in the enclosed leaflet.

Information about Security Partnership for Urban Development in the federal state Lower Saxony: <http://www.sicherheit-staedtebau.de/web/ueber-sipa.html>

Information about Quality Certificate of Secure Housing in Lower Saxony: <http://www.sicherheit-staedtebau.de/web/bedeutung.html>

Documents: <http://www.sicherheit-staedtebau.de/web/downloads.html>

10. Please, write a *one page* description of the project:

The Security Partnership for Urban Development in the federal state Lower Saxony brings together all the main agencies of urban development working to make rural communities and urban areas of the federal state Lower Saxony more secure. Networking of the responsible stakeholders (the architects, the police, city planning, the housing industry, social planning) should be achieved at an early stage. In that way issues that reduce the risk of crime can be included into the process of planning the community development.

The initiative "Security partnership for Urban Development" was started in 2005 by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Social, Women's and Family Affairs, of Health, and of Integration. To increase the living standard and especially the security in the cities and communities in Lower Saxony, procedures, aims, and methods for new building projects were agreed upon.

The jointly signed declaration contains the following eleven points:

- 1 – Security in public areas
- 2 – Combined land use
- 3 – Security in traffic circulation areas
- 4 – Encouragement of neighbourhood activities
- 5 – Public participation
- 6 – Cooperation and exchange of information between the different disciplines
- 7 – Testing and comparing new techniques
- 8 – Building networks of multipliers
- 9 – Enhancement of the public relations
- 10 – Research and evaluation
- 11 – Education and advanced training

This Agreement was signed by several organizations and institutions which have influence on planning and building in the federal state. They committed to contribute to increase security of neighbourhoods and public areas in their fields of activity. Thus there will be an enhancement of the living standard of Lower Saxony's citizens in the long run.

The idea of establishing a Quality Certificate of Secure Housing in Lower Saxony (Niedersaechsisches Qualitaetssiegel für sicheres Wohnen) was developed by the Security Partnership with the aim to award housing areas and buildings with a high living standard and an active social environment with a certificate. Aspects that affect the subjective security situation are next to objective security measures included in the evaluation process. Those could be for example the promotion of functioning neighbourhoods, the organization and cleanness of indoor and outdoor facilities and last but not least the integration and availability of utility services and local public transport. The underlying criteria is to be the quality standard for secure living in Lower Saxony. The checklist provides advice to local authorities and developers on the main planning considerations to be taken into account creating sustainable and well-designed residential areas. The criteria underline the importance of natural surveillance. Traffic opportunities can be overlooked. Furthermore the exact planning of house formation adds to local security, prevention of crime and reduction of the fear of crime.

The Lower Saxony Quality Certificate of Secure Housing is awarded naming the year of the nomination. The application runs through a formal and official advanced test. Subsequently the quality audit takes place based on defined standards: every object is inspected and valued by a team of competent auditors. The assessment is divided into the following sectors:

- Spatial arrangement of buildings
- Security-oriented design
- Secure routes

Electric lighting and technical standards
Cleanness, maintenance, and repairs
Secured car and bicycle parking
Responsibility and neighbourhood
Participation and activation of the tenants
Cooperation

After the audit the security partnership judges the certification criteria and the quality classification (There are three levels: excellent, high, good quality).