

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.

Sweden

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

ECPA entry

3. What is the title of the project?

Sofielund Approach

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

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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.

09/2014. Yes. The operations are active and underway.

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).

Very limited materials in English. It doesn't illustrate the whole work of the Sofielund Approach.

<https://fastighetsagaresofielund.se/utvecklingen-i-sofielund/> Article I The Local

https://fastighetsagaresofielund.se/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Port2018_BIDding-on-cities.pdf

https://fastighetsagaresofielund.se/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/inta41_report.pdf

(Part 4)

Enclosed materials or could be sent if asked for (as well as links and reports in Swedish):

Property Owner BID Sofielund – a long term process (3 pages).

Some interesting questions Sofielund Approach (2 pages).

Gerell, Manne (2017). *Neighborhoods without community. Collective efficacy and crime in Malmö, Sweden. Malmö University. (Theses)*

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

IN SWEDISH THE DESCRIPTION IS NOT MORE THAN 600 WORDS. IT'S THE SAME FOR OTHER PARTS (THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION IS LONGER THAN THE SWEDISH DESCRIPTION). THE WORK OF SOFIELUND IS VERY EXTENSIVE WHICH MAKES IT HARD TO DESCRIBE IT WITHIN THE MAX WORD LIMITS. THE LINKS AND MATERIALS IN ENGLISH TO ENCLOSE ARE ALSO VERY LIMITED.

Extensive work in Sofielund has reversed a negative trend in the area, which has experienced major problems involving both serious criminality, above all open drug trafficking, and minor criminality, such as graffiti and vandalism, which has created a significant sense of unsafety. In the long-term, these problems pose a risk to the upbringing of children and youth in the area. The difficult problems have been solved by strengthening the collective ability of those who live and work in the area. A broad spectrum of efforts have been carried out by civil society, businesses, and public entities, such as the municipality and police, for example in the form of security cameras and efforts to increase social cohesion. Researchers have followed and evaluated the work. A strong and vigorous local network, where all parties who contributed in different ways, has formed the basis for success. The efforts have led to increased stability in the area and signs of a decline in new recruitment to criminality and drug use, among other things in respect of young people in the risk zone. The work which originates in the local network is described below.

During the autumn of 2010, a process was commenced in Södra Sofielund. A review in order to improve the housing standard and increase the influence of residents in the area was started. A unique cooperation project with the tenants' union was undertaken, which quickly led to success in dealing with irresponsible property management, increasing security in the properties, and involving more parties. In tandem with this, cooperation with the police, the city planning department, the environmental management agency, and property owners increased in order to increase the levels of safety as well as to develop responsible property management. This gave birth to the idea of creating statements of intent with the business community. In September 2014, a local network association was created (Fastighetsägare BID Sofielund). Its activities are inspired by BIDs, Business Improvement Districts, which is a tool for urban development which has been implemented in many countries with good results. In Malmö, the work is based on a partnership between property owners, companies, tenant-owner associations, concerned citizens' committees, associations, and close cooperation with the City of Malmö. At present, the Association has almost 45 members and is open to everyone who owns property in the Sofielund area. The members of the Association pay a membership fee and a service fee. The Association works to increase satisfaction, levels of safety, and cohesion in Sofielund. There are two focus areas which have been identified as most important: "Safe and secure" and "Clean and attractive". This was done on the basis of a survey, conducted by researchers at the Department of Criminology at Malmö University, regarding criminal offences, problems, and perceived unsafety. Crime statistics, questionnaires, and interviews with businesses and residents in the area were included. From the outset, the network was able to focus on intensive work to decrease perceived unsafety, drug trafficking, and criminality in cooperation with, among others, the police. An important part of the work has been implementation of police security cameras in the residential area. In tandem with the security cameras, police presence has increased, efforts have been specifically directed against known criminals, and there has been increased cooperation between the police, the City of Malmö, rescue services, property owners, and others. Thanks to active monitoring of security cameras, stability has been created for other efforts. Residents perceive that youth gangs and open drug trafficking have disappeared. Another part of the work is the comprehensive effort which has been made to deal with the group of youths who often form a "tail" behind criminals – quite young children are used as minions and couriers, and are entrusted with weapons and drugs to take care of when the police come. These efforts have, among other things, included safety walks arranged by the local football team, clean-up patrols, mothers who walk around schools when the children are dismissed for the day, training of local fire marshals in cooperation with insurance companies who, in turn, educate youths in the area, and self-defence courses for young girls and mothers. Evaluations show that the work in Sofielund has had an impact. The sense of unsafety has declined, there has been improvement in respect of criminality, and the area has had a boost and is today one of the cleanest areas in the city. It is likely that the Södra Sofielund area will be removed from the police's list of particularly disadvantaged areas in Sweden in the near future. The research group from the Department of Criminology and the network are applying for new funding to follow the process and the development in the area. One can now see possibilities to work in the same way in nearby areas.

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)**

Throughout, the Sofielund Approach has been based on what is often referred to in research as "Broken Windows". One must quickly remove environments that attract criminal activities, create fertile ground for a black market and create unsafe outdoor environments, and reduce open drug trafficking, reduce the number of criminals, and ensure that residents take pride, and feel safe, in their residential environment.

Another element of the work is the extensive effort which is made in order to deal with the group of youths who often form a "tail" behind individual criminals, where quite young children are used as minions and couriers, and are entrusted with weapons and drugs to take care of when the police come. The efforts entail security cameras, increased efforts on the part of the police, and property owners who secure properties and create environments that increase social cohesion.

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)**

Södra Sofielund was one of the areas in Malmö which, for many years, was characterised by extensive crime problems. For quite some time, residents and businesses had been sounding the alarm about open drug trafficking, serious criminality, shootings, and widespread graffiti and littering, as well as irresponsible property management. The problems escalated at the beginning of 2012, with cars being set on fire, an unsustainable situation where workmen, couriers, residents, and others were threatened and harassed. Residents stated that they could no longer go out into stairwells or courtyards when drug trafficking was going on. Hidden weapons were found in basements, and weapons were also test-fired in basements. Starting in 2012, a number of serious violent crimes and murders were committed. The concern among the residents was, to some extent, confirmed by the 2012 area survey which was conducted in Malmö, where both Norra and Södra Sofielund were among the areas in Malmö with the highest sense of unsafety, and the blocks around Sevedsplan were identified by the residents as particularly unsafe places in the area. In addition, the residents in the area reported high levels of disordered environments and social order problems.

Prior to the formation of the network association (Fastighetsägare BID-Sofielund) in 2014, researchers at the Department of Criminology at Malmö University carried out a survey of the local set of problems in the area. This survey was intended to serve as a point of reference for future follow-ups and evaluations. In addition to this survey, other parties also provided information regarding what residents, property owners, and businesses in the area experience as the greatest problems and what were seen as the most important issues to be addressed.

The area is also included on the Police's list of particularly disadvantaged areas. Open drug activity is not the cause of the problem in disadvantaged areas but is, instead, part of it. On

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>

the other hand, drug trafficking is seldom regarded as the primary problem in these areas since it carries with it the risk of establishment of criminal networks in the area and the exposure of youth to deviating norms and values – which can contribute to new recruitment to these networks – and because the public expressions of violence are, not frequently, specifically tied to open drug activity (the Police, 2017).

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

The vision is for Sofielund to be a safe, comfortable, and functional area that residents and business can take pride in – an attractive part of greater Malmö.

The primary objectives of the Sofielund Approach have been increased safety and security, as well as reduced criminality and occurrence of local problems and social order problems. On this basis, cooperation was commenced with Malmö University in order to gain support from the research. The work was based on the study "*Kartläggning av den lokala problembilden i Norra och Södra Sofielund*" (Survey of the local set of problems in Norra and Södra Sofielund) (2014).

Step 1. Survey and causal analysis

The survey presented a shared scenario of perceived unsafety, problem level, and criminality, based on how residents, property owners, police, and individuals who work or are otherwise active in the area, perceive the Sofielund areas.

In addition to a description of the situation, the aim was to attempt to explain, based on the local set of problems, the factors impacting the level of criminality and perceived unsafety specifically in Norra and Södra Sofielund, and, based on that set of problems, to propose measures which can form the basis for the crime prevention and safety-creating work in Norra and Södra Sofielund.

Step 2. Enhanced survey of criminal activities

During the period 2014–2016, in cooperation with the Police Authority in Malmö, a major survey of criminal activities in the area was conducted, including analysis and descriptions. Based on that, we could be granted authorisation for camera surveillance in the most troubled area of Södra Sofielund. The survey provided results that made it possible for both the County Administrative Board and the Swedish Data Protection Authority to grant authorisation for four surveillance cameras.

One important interim objective of the work is to remove open drug trafficking.

Another interim objective has been to improve satisfaction and raise the standard in the area.

A third interim objective has been to prevent children and youth from being drawn into criminality and drugs.

A fourth interim objective has been for the work to be based on, take place together with, and be followed up by, researchers in the area, with their knowledge and previous experience.

A fifth interim objective has been to strengthen trust and the collective ability in the area.

Step 3. Implementation of measures

- Create a local network with property owners and others.
- Extensive efforts for and with residents, children and youth, and people working in the area.
- Active camera surveillance with police efforts.

Steg 4. Follow-up

- Of safety, criminality, problems, and social order problems, as well as of the network's work and the development of the Sofielund area in general.

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*

As stated above, a group of researchers from Malmö University has followed the process since the start and, to date, this has resulted in three reports. Following the completion of each report, we have made presentations in the form of seminars/lectures. In addition, we have informed the media through press conferences etc. All reports, including working methods, interim reports, and so forth, have been presented to the board of directors of the network, smaller groups, members, and external parties, such as national-level representatives. Attention has also been drawn to the results at larger seminars throughout Sweden. The working process, with its focus on safety, has found solid mooring in the city, which has now decided to use it in nearby areas with problems similar to those in Södra Sofielund. The element of the work involving keeping the area clean and attractive has resulted in six new "safety patrols" in the city.

Result and implementation:

- Created a clean and attractive area with the help of the "Sofielund Patrol" and provided opportunities to individuals with long-term unemployment.
- All members are offered safety certification for their own property portfolio, a systematic working method with very concrete results and where property owners and, in the future, single-family homeowners and tenants, will be offered the opportunity for reduction of insurance excesses and premiums.
- A survey of certain streets has been carried out on a block-by-block basis in order to suggest how private and public actors can jointly finance investments.
- Resident parking has been initiated by the property owner associations, with clear results.
- Vision plans and ideas regarding ways in which key roads in the area can be developed.
- Safety walks, both daytime and night-time, have been instituted in cooperation with local association and nattvandring.nu. Some ten mothers have been organised.
- Created organisation for training of fire safety representatives for youth in the area.
- The work entails that approximately 300-400 new flats will be added to the area.
- Approximately 35 associations/projects currently receive support from the network (Fastighetsägare BID Sofielund).
- Common efforts against graffiti and to create conditions for local artists to create art.
- The local network association has received the Öresund Institute's "Property Partner of the Year" award.
- The camera surveillance and police efforts have been followed up on and working methods have been adjusted on an ongoing basis.
- The sense of safety, problems, criminal offences, and public order problems, as well as other relevant indicators in the area, are tracked on a recurring basis.

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

The problem areas which were identified in the initial survey comprise phenomena where relatively simple efforts can be highly important to the residents' sense of safety and to the property owners' situation (e.g. improved lighting or cleaning/graffiti removal). However, the report also shows more complex problems (criminality and inadequate housing conditions) which require longer-term involvement and long-term investments to improve living conditions for area residents. In order for the safety-creating and crime prevention work to achieve the desired effect, it is central that people understand that it will take time.

The results from the 2017 and 2019 evaluations show improvements in respect of several different indicators. Reported offences against property remain relatively stable, but the number of violent offences in the area has decreased. Drug offences have increased significantly, which is probably more an indication of the police's ability to identify and take steps against these offences than an actual increase in criminality. This is also reflected in the results from interviews with police, residents, and businesspeople who find that drug activity has decreased in the area but that it has also, to a certain extent, moved to more concealed locations or other areas. The sense of safety in the area has been improved, and the occurrence of disordered environments and social order problems has declined over time. The police also perceive that camera surveillance and improved cooperation with property owners has enhanced the possibilities to work proactively to prevent crime in the area. In addition to the police's positive view of the development in the area, one of the evaluations shows that there has been a positive development in terms of improved contacts among the property owners and between property owners and local authorities. In summary, the evaluations find that it is difficult to identify with certainty how the work with Fastighetsägare Sofielund has impacted the development in the Sofielund areas, but the results from the evaluation indicate a change in the area and that it has sparked processes which, in the long-term, can lead to a positive development of the area. Since there have been many different investments made in the area, it is difficult to identify which specific measures have been important or whether the development has been impacted by the aggregate of investments. The evaluation of the camera surveillance shows, however, that this effort has probably had an impact on open drug trafficking and that it has been inhibited, even if certain problems remain in the area. However, a longer follow-up period is required in order to be able to say anything about the long-term implications of this type of overall safety-creating and crime prevention work.

- Micro meetings have been held to see local needs
- No criminal regrowth in the area
- The area became the first in the country with contiguous camera surveillance in the neighbourhood
- Streets have been reclaimed and normalised for various deliveries in the area
- Cooperation with researchers to follow the working process
- Cooperation with BIDs in Gothenburg and Stockholm
- Cooperation regarding a European BID network
- The work process is relatively highly trusted in the area
- The researchers give clear signals of increased sense of safety, confidence, and trust in Sofielund, notwithstanding that this involves short measurement periods and high measurement values
- Södra Sofielund as a particularly disadvantaged area can be removed from the list within one year
- The Sofielund Approach with property owners focused on inhibiting the black market
- The property owners are forming a development company

Consequently, the environment in which children and youth are growing up has probably improved in terms of not becoming involved in this criminality and drugs.

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 Sofielund Approach has made a broad effort in respect of work involving youth and drugs. Suppressive and situational work, as well as social work have been conducted.

The Sofielund Approach builds on partnership with the city, public authorities, civil society, researchers, and business. The city finances coordinators for both urban development in Sofielund and as operational leaders for the Association, which is an entirely new form in Sweden. It has a board of directors with a strong mandate, with co-opted members from all external parties. This makes it possible to take quick decisions and this has been a factor for success in reversing a negative spiral in a disadvantaged and stigmatised area in less than four years. The network is so strong that it can push through efforts and exert pressure on indifferent property management, etc., and this has had a major impact on reducing the criminality in the area.

This is, as far as we are aware, the first study to examine the crime reducing effect of a BID-inspired property owner collaboration implemented in a European residential neighbourhood context. The criminological researchers experience it's seldom they are part of a work like this from the start and it's been a factor for success.

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**)

There are private property owners and the city's municipal housing company, as well as banks, companies, concerned citizens' committees, and a large group of tenant-owner associations. There are approximately 45 members in total. Some of the private property owners and Malmö's municipal housing company started the network process in the area. These, as well as an additional 14 parties, serve as directors and conduct the process with a chairperson from one of the tenant-owner associations.

The board of directors has co-opted members from the city's agencies as well as from the regional waste removal organisation, the police, and rescue services. Members of the Association are active in urban development and Agenda 2030 work, and expend significant energy to contribute to create a safe, secure, and clean and attractive area with reduced criminality and drug activity, in order to create - both in the short and long terms - good environments and conditions for children and youths, as well as for others in the area.

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

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

There are private property owners and the city's municipal housing company, as well as banks, companies, concerned citizens' committees, and a large group of tenant-owner associations. There are approximately 45 members in total. Some of the private property owners and Malmö's municipal housing company started the network process in the area. These, as well as an additional 14 parties, serve as directors and conduct the process with a chairperson from one of the tenant-owner associations.

The board of directors has co-opted members from the city's agencies as well as from the regional waste removal organisation, the police, and rescue services. Members of the Association are active in urban development and Agenda 2030 work, and expend significant energy to contribute to create a safe, secure, and clean and attractive area with reduced criminality and drug activity, in order to create - both in the short and long terms - good environments and conditions for children and youths, as well as for others in the area.

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

Investment of coordination service, researchers, and property owners, residents, and others in conjunction with interviews/questionnaires.

All parties pay a membership fee and service fee for the development work in the area. Private owners and the municipal housing company with rental properties pay a higher service fee per square meter/habitable space and year.

Companies pay a service fee which is based on size/year. Funds are sought from various authorities, e.g. Brå, for research, analysis, etc. At present (through September 2019), the City of Malmö finances a coordination service. The Association bears the cost of premises and some overhead. The Association turns over approximately SEK 800,000/year (equal to approximately EUR 75,000) and funds are used for urban development in the area, to support association and cultural life, and to support cleaning and safety efforts.

The ongoing evaluation which is conducted by researchers from Malmö University was initially financed by the City of Malmö (SEK 200,000) and thereafter by Brå (SEK 250,000+ SEK 250,000).

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**)

We have not conducted a cost-benefit analysis. On the other hand, we now see an increase in value of properties and residences in the area. Previously, many people found it difficult to sell their apartments because they would incur a loss. Now we see a trend like that in the City of Malmö. It is difficult to precisely identify the contributing factor, since there is an upward trend in the country as a whole. However, residents experience that something has started to happen to the value of tenant-owned apartments.

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

The broad attempt in the Sofielund Approach in order to, among other things, impede and prevent drug-related juvenile delinquency and which is knowledge-based and, to a significant extent, based on cooperation, may need to be adjusted since the conditions for this work may differ in both different countries and in different cities and their districts. The conditions in each area are unique in terms of, for example, housing stock structure, homes, and cultural and leisure activities. Property ownership, the parties - and number of parties - at hand, business structures, and retail are particularly important to the network's activities. We look at creating a network surrounding BID's and safety issues, and this requires continued research support and analyses in order to find a model that could work in a European context.

Measures such as active camera surveillance and municipal social investments also need to be adjusted based on national conditions and the area's structure, needs, and conditions in general.

However, the Sofielund Approach provides a very firm foundation and offers many lessons.

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

SEE ABOVE

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

Extensive work in Sofielund has reversed a negative trend in the area, which has experienced major problems involving both serious criminality, above all open drug trafficking, and minor criminality, such as graffiti and vandalism, which has created a significant sense of unsafety. The difficult problems have been solved by strengthening the collective ability of those who live and work in the area. A broad spectrum of efforts have been carried out by civil society, businesses, and public entities, such as the municipality and police, for example in the form of security cameras and efforts to increase social cohesion. Researchers have followed and evaluated the work. A strong and vigorous local network, where all parties who contributed in different ways, has formed the basis for success. The efforts have led to increased stability in the area and signs of a decline in new recruitment to criminality and drug use, among other things in respect of young people in the risk zone.