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Planning Community Policing Together!

A participatory planning approach for building safer neighbourhoods

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Mannheim, 12 June 2023

Crises & Prevention

German Prevention Congress
12/13 June 2023 · Mannheim

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Topics:

1. The context of community policing in Lisbon

2. The Lisbon Community Policing participatory planning approach

3. The results so far & challenges for the future

1. The context of community policing in Lisbon

1. The context of community policing in Lisbon

Law enforcement in **Portugal**:

Security Forces (National Level / Criminal competences)

- National Republican Guard (GNR)
- Public Security Police (PSP)
- Judicial Police

Municipal Polices (Local level / Without criminal competences)

- **Lisbon Municipal Police** (LMP, officers recruited from national police - PSP)
- Porto Municipal Police (officers recruited from national police)
- Other cities with Municipal Polices (officers recruited from civil society)

Lisbon

Approx. **550.000 inhabitants.**

In **Lisbon** officers from **PSP** and **LMP**

1. The context of community policing in Lisbon

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Lisbon Community Policing

Preventive Approach

Source: Center for Problem-Oriented Policing

1. The context of community policing in Lisbon

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Neighbourhoods with Community Policing in 2023

Alta de Lisboa   **Baixa-Chiado-Misericórdia**   **Alvalade-G. Junqueiro**   **Bairro Padre Cruz**   **Mouraria**   **Ameixoeira-Galinheiras**

Bairro Alfredo Bensaúde   **Alto da Ajuda**   **Bairro de Santos ao Rego**   **Bairro do Condado**

● Neighbourhoods with Community Policing
● Neighbourhoods planning Community Policing

Lisbon Community Policing
Preventive Approach

Source: Center for Problem-Oriented Policing

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2. The Lisbon Community Policing participatory planning approach

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**A community-based participatory planning approach
for building safer neighbourhoods**

- It differs from traditional models of policing in Lisbon in that it is **jointly planned and operated by a partnership** established between the Lisbon Municipal Police, local partners and residents.

- **Preventive**, proactive and participative policing model.

- All members of the **partnership recognise** the importance of **cooperation between the Police and the community** in improving both actual security and citizens' feelings of security.

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2. The Lisbon Community Policing Participatory planning approach

Planning actors

Community
- Residents
- Institutions

Security Partnership
- Residents representatives
- Local partners

Police Organization
- Prevention Team (Social Sciences)
- Police Officers

2. The Lisbon Community Policing Participatory planning approach

Planning phase:

① Setting up "security groups"
② Diagnosing problems
③ Defining community policing officers' profile
④ Selecting & Training

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Participatory planning of the Community Policing (CP) by the LMP Prevention Team (Social Sciences) with partners – **4 steps**

Establish local partnerships - Security Groups

①

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(1) Setting up "security groups"

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Step #1 - **Establishing a local partnership - The Security Group**

- Monthly CP planning meetings -

Examples of CP partnership members:

Residents associations

Health Centers

Mediators

Schools

Social Work organizations

Sports organizations

Charities

Municipality services (public space)

Local city councils

NGO's

Shop owners associations

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2. The Lisbon Community Policing Participatory planning approach

Planning phase:

1. Setting up "security groups"
2. Diagnosing problems
3. Defining community policing officers' profile
4. Selecting & Training

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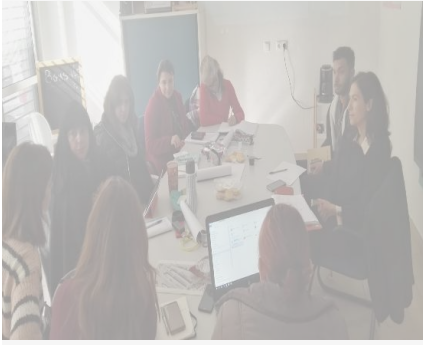COMUNITÁRIO
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Participatory planning of the Community Policing (CP) by the LMP Prevention Team (Social Sciences) with partners – **4 steps**

Establish local partnerships
- Security Groups

1

Undertake a Local
Security Diagnostic

2

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(2) Diagnosing problems

Step #2 - The partnership undertakes a Local Security Diagnostic in the community
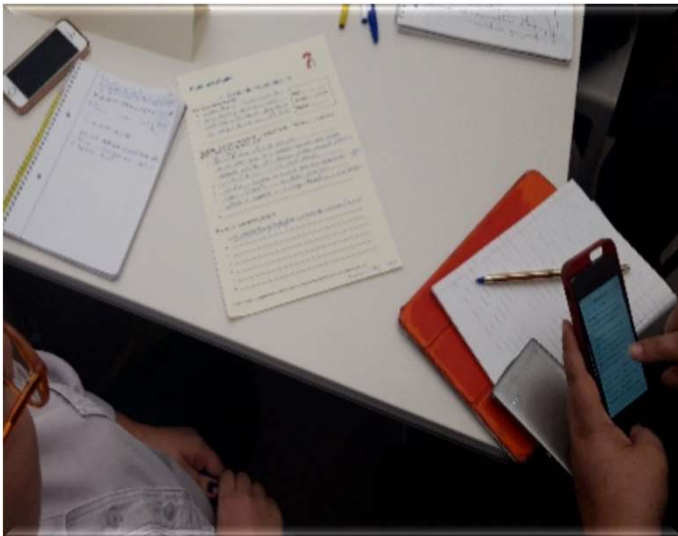
- Collecting & reviewing the literature available

- Focus group discussion to update community security concerns and expectations -

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2. The Lisbon Community Policing Participatory planning approach

Planning phase:
1. Setting up "security groups"
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Participatory planning of the Community Policing (CP) by the LMP Prevention Team (Social Sciences) with partners – **4 steps**
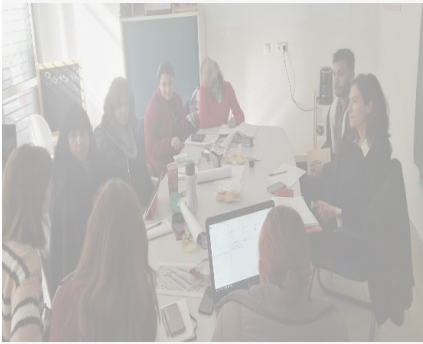
Establish local partnerships
- Security Groups

1

Undertake a Local
Security Diagnostic

2

Identify required profile of
community police officers

3

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(3) Defining community policing officers' profile

Step #3 - **The partnership designs the CP team ideal profile for the neighbourhood**

- Colecting feedback from residents -

- Focus group discussion to identify community policing officers profile -

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③ Defining community policing officers' profile

- **"What's important for residents about the community policing officer?"** -

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Good **knowledge of the territory** main problems

Good image

Motivated

Respect and knowhow to **be respected**

Mediation skills and **able to manage conflict situations**

Capable of establishing a **trustful** relationship

Empathic

Communicative

Unbiased policing

Mature

Be able to **maintain and defend their authority**

To **know** well the **community resources**

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2. The Lisbon Community Policing Participatory planning approach

Planning phase:

① Setting up "security groups"
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Participatory planning of the Community Policing (CP) by the LMP Prevention Team (Social Sciences) with partners – **4 steps**

Establish local partnerships - Security Groups	Undertake a Local Security Diagnostic	Identify required profile of community police officers	Selection and training of the CP team
1	2	3	4

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④ Selecting & Training

Step #4 – The selection process within the Police & training of CP team

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Selecting

Community Policing Officer Profile

Police Officers candidates to Community Policing

Selection of the Community Policing Team to the specific neighbourhood

Training participants:

- ✓ **Community policing officers**
- ✓ Police officers of the Police organization
- ✓ Residents representatives
- ✓ Social workers
- ✓ Professionals of the Municipality
- ✓ Other partners…

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(4) # Selecting & Training

Step #4 – **The selection process within the Police & training of CP team**

Selecting &... ## Training

Community Policing Officer Profile

What's important for residents about the community policing officer?

Good knowledge of the territory main problems · Motivated
Be able to maintain and defend their authority · Good presentation
· Respect and knowhow to be respected
Mediation skills · Establishing a trustful relationship
Able to manage conflict situations
Communicative · Empathic
Mature · Unprejudiced and intercultural sensitive policing
To know well the community resources

Police Officers candidates to Community Policing

Selection of the Community Policing Team to the specific neighbourhood

Objectives:

- **Train strategies and tools** to implement community policing

- Develop **networking capacity building** for security issues

- **Improve technical**, **relational, intercultural and mediation competences**

Training (30h)
- Inclusion of partners and residents as trainees
- Preventive approach
- Problem solving approach (SARA Model)
- CPTED approach
- Study walks in the neighbourhood
- Police-Partners-Citizens cooperation
- Team work

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2. The Lisbon Community Policing Participatory planning approach

Planning phase:
1. Setting up "security groups"
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The planning phase takes around <u>1 year</u> to be completed

Establish local partnerships - Security Groups	**Undertake a Local Security Diagnostic**	**Identify required profile of community police officers**	**Selection and training of the CP team**
1	2	3	4

2. The Lisbon Community Policing Participatory planning approach

Planning phase:
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The planning phase takes around 1 year to be completed

Implementation phase

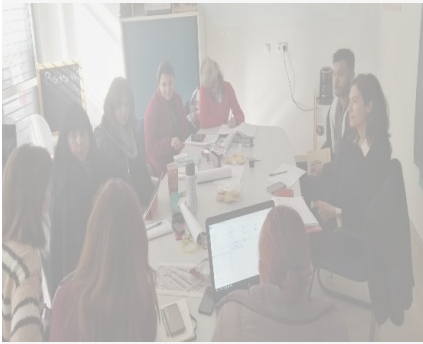| Establish local partnerships - Security Groups	Undertake a Local Security Diagnostic	Identify required profile of community police officers	Selection and training of police team	Begin foot patrols and participation of the police officers in the partnership meetings
1	2	3	4	5

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2. The Lisbon Community Policing Participatory planning approach

Implementation in the field of the Community Policing by the LMP Community Policing Team with support of the social sciences team in the partnership meetings and preventive activities

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Participatory planning

Foot patrolling by the Community Policing Team
- Listening to the needs communicated by the population

Monthly meetings with the partners of the security group

Identification of public space problems
- Sidewalks maintenance
- Litter in the street
- Lack of street lightning
- Vegetation hiding road signs
- Abandoned vehicles
- Nuisance

Preventive awareness activities planned with local partners on crime prevention and safety recommendations

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3. Results & challenges

3. The **results** so far & challenges for the future

Research undertaken in the scope of CCI – Cutting Crime Impact Project (H2020):

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Main results:

■ **Increased sense of 'ownership' by the community and support of community policing** by raising awareness of the unique role of community policing officers in the community;

■ The need to encourage **senior police officers** to value, support and **engage with community policing over the longer term in order to not being diverted onto other policing** tasks;

■ **Just as community involvement** there is a **need to engage key decision-makers** (senior police officers) in the delivery of the Lisbon community policing model.

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3. The **results** so far & challenges for the future

External evaluation of the CP model in Lisbon

Framework:

■ **Cooperation Agreement** betwen CML and University Nova de Lisboa (2020)

■ **Assessment to analyse the development of Public Policies for crime prevention and policing models in close cooperation with citizens**

■ **Assessment to validate the investment in resources to expand the CP model** to other neighbourhoods of the city

3. The **results** so far & challenges for the future

External evaluation of the CP model in Lisbon

Main results:

■ The **Community Policing** effectively **contributes to increase citizens' feelings of security**.

■ The **advantages of each neighborhood always having the same police officers facilitates in-depth knowledge of the social reality** of the neighborhoods and their problems.

■ The continued presence of **dedicated police officers makes it possible to build a relationship of trust between the police and the community** and progressively deconstruct the negative image of the police among the population.

■ Preventive patrolling and the officers' initiatives facilitate a **faster resolution of problems identified by the population**.

3. The results so far & **challenges** for the future

External evaluation of the CP model in Lisbon

Challenges for the future:

■ In the planning phase, the **diagnosis stage is undervalued**, with **pressure to bypass this stage**, to have the officers in the field as quickly as possible;

■ **Difficulty in involving** and mobilizing **some groups of the community** in the planning phase;

■ **Security groups are not representative** of the entire community;

■ The **commitment of the partner entities is very different** within the various partnerships and changes over time;

■ The **difficulty of continued participation** by some partners in security groups;

■ The **trend on reduced police officers** (retirement / not attractive profession) and the consequent ageing on policing, namely the impact on foot patrolling.

External evaluation of the CP model in Lisbon

Challenges for the future:

■ Investment in **multidisciplinary networks involving police forces, academics and partners** (citizens representatives and organizations)

is <u>key</u> to:

❖ facilitate reflections and promote a broader understanding and knowledge about the macro context in which community policing is operationalized

❖ for the **development of effective intervention strategies to be applied** at community level and within the police organizations.

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Thank you!

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Questions?

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