Cutting Crime Impact – On the trail of citizens’ feelings of insecurity

Tuesday, 13. July 2021, 16:00 – 17:00 pm

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Cutting Crime Impact

• Duration: October 2018 to December 2021
• Funding: Horizon 2020-Programm of the European Commission
Cutting Crime Impact

• Supporting LEAs in developing a preventive and sustainable approach to tackling high-impact everyday crime.
• Measuring / mitigating citizens' feelings of insecurity
• Development of toolkits in four areas
• Focus is human centered and oriented in “every day life” situations.
Public space …

- as a mirror of society
- is located in the area of tension between long-term design and dynamic social change
- Can be a recreation or transfer area, green space, urban square, but also a traffic area
- has a physical and a social meaning
Public space and fear of crime

Situations that produce feelings of insecurity

Social fear of crime:
- Micro, meso and macro levels

Personal fear of crime:
- Affective dimension, cognitive dimension, conative dimension

(Boers 1991, Gabriel/Greve 2003, Bornewasser/Köhn 2012)

Places generating feelings of insecurity

- Lack of design (lack of clarity, darkness etc.)
- Undefined transitions (private - semi-public - public)
- Anti-social and deviant behaviour (swearing, shouting, etc.)
- Unfamiliar situations or groups that appear threatening
- Undefined areas of responsibility and accountability

Perception of safety and neighbourhood / residential environment

"What influence does neighbourhood intensity and the quality of the residential environment have on the perception of safety?"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Braunschweig-Weststadt</th>
<th>Emden-Barenburg</th>
<th>Lüneburg-Mittelfeld</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perception of safety during the day / neighbourhood intensity</td>
<td>0.272 (N=245)</td>
<td>0.312 (N=212)</td>
<td>0.311 (N=332)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perception of safety during the day / quality of the residential environment</td>
<td>0.405 (N=232)</td>
<td>0.428 (N=200)</td>
<td>0.432 (N=324)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perception of safety in the dark / neighbourhood intensity</td>
<td>0.187 (N=246)</td>
<td>0.233 (N=206)</td>
<td>0.318 (N=329)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perception of safety in the dark / quality of the residential environment</td>
<td>0.473 (N=233)</td>
<td>0.478 (N=197)</td>
<td>0.512 (N=322)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All correlations are significant (p<0,01)

The perception of safety correlates only low with the intensity of the neighbourhood, but higher with the quality of the residential environment.
Problem identification

- Gaining information on perception of unsafety: Data analysis, media analysis and built environment

- Assessing perceptions of safety only from an external perspective
Small-scale police report on crime and incivilities

Initial inventory of neighborhood

Identification of the (crime) problem and those involved

Geo-referenced depiction

Non-participative observation

Geo-referenced depiction

Verification of the (crime) problem and those involved

Interdisciplinary (urban) spatial walk-through

Mapping of unsafe places

Synthesis of the results, summaries and presentation of the findings

Source: LKA Niedersachsen
1 Initial inventory of neighbourhood

- Recording / mapping of the current situation considering safety-relevant criteria such as:
  - Orientation, visibility, routing, lighting, hiding places, activities, cleanliness in the area, vandalism
- Summary of potentials and deficits
- Taking photos or videos of the current situation (day/dark)
  - Assessment of the users' assumption of responsibility, enquiry about participation possibilities
  - Identify areas of fear, situations that trigger fear
2 Small-scale police report on crime & incivilities

- Determining actual crime load and incivilities in a specific local area: Which offences take place where?
- Offender-specific consideration: Which circumstances favour which modus operandi?
- How can crime opportunity structures be recognised and improved? By the police, socially, structurally-spatially, organisationally?
- Space-specific consideration: What characterises the location so that specific offences are possible?
3 Non-participative observation

- Observation of different usage patterns of different groups of people, transit traffic, interactions at different times of the day (Burano Method)
  - Identification of preferred, little used or avoided places and routes
- Mapping gender, age, number of people, direction of walking or driving
  - Detailed analysis of patterns of use in a specific socio-spatial situation
4 Inter-disciplinary (urban) spatial walk-through
(Walk around your Hood)

- On-site inspection with experts / stakeholders on qualities and risks of a space under safety-relevant aspects
- Checklist of key criteria and questions enables systematic consideration of key security-related factors
- Scenarios: Participants adopt the personas of users to try to view the space from their perspective

- Representation of the interests of specific groups of people
- Focus on both professionalism and daily use, discussion at eye level
5 Mapping of unsafe places (Emoji Mapping)

- Recording the lived experience of residents in a small area
- seven emojis (good, safe, happy/comfortable, I don't care/don't know, uncomfortable, unsafe, anxious) on a map
- Accessing target group via stakeholders (retirement homes, youth centers, schools, etc.)
- Digitally walking through the area using photos and videos (day/dark)
- Open discussion about favourite and avoided places and routes using emojis
5  Mapping of unsafe places (Emoji Mapping)

- Pretest of prototype (under Covid-19 restrictions): Readability of the map, handling of the emojis, understanding of the photos and videos, and usability

Results:
- Easy use of emojis and quick understanding of the plan material
- Good overview of the area through pictures and videos
- Quick entry into discussion
- Differences in daytime and darkness!
- Sensitisation for good and avoided places
INSiGHT – Toolbox

Einblicke in subjektive Sicherheit
Thank you for your attention!

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