Subjective security as a core problem in security management. The CCI Project

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Security is subjective

► What is risky and negative depends on social subjectivity.

► The reality is perceived though human subjectivity

► Objective indicators don’t exist
Example:

► Is it a security issue to cover the face up?
► Some years ago — yes: burka

► Nowadays - the other way round: what cause alarm are people with uncovered face.
Unsafe people:

► Avoid certain activities — higher isolation = + unsafe

► Take defensive measures:
  ► Necessary ones — functional unsafety
  ► Harmful ones — dysfunctional unsafety

► Is that not objective?
Problem Area
Problem Area – Citizens’ Feelings of Insecurity or Unsafty

- Outbreaks of perceptions of insecurity cause political stress and require rapid response
- Outbreaks of perceptions of insecurity are a response to different causal factors
- In order to be effective, the response should be specific to the causal factor
- Most responses usually rely on police presence and increased visibility
- Generally, the underlying problem is not actually tackled
The Tool
The Tool – Introduction & overview

- Quick manual for practitioners (prevention officers or security managers) (booklet 1)
- Criteria for a quick response (booklet 2)
- Available sources and methodologies (booklet 3)
- Criteria for mid-long term response (booklet 4)
- Communication kit (booklet 5)
The Tool – End users

► Public officials in charge of responding to insecurity outbreaks

► For example, Prevention Services within the municipality of Barcelona and Prevention Officers in other municipalities

► Senior police officers in medium and small municipalities with spare capacity

► The Police are the only organised service with sufficient capacity to respond to citizens’ feelings of insecurity

► They need to identify background problems and take appropriate responses
Section 02 of 05

INITIAL QUESTIONS

What is the general situation in the city?

- Is the perception of safety in the city generally good, but are there other problem areas?
- Have there been outbreaks related to the same issue elsewhere in the previous week/months? How have they evolved?
  - Has any news surfaced in the media recently?

What physical space is the problem in?

- A neighborhood? Part of a neighborhood? A space between two neighborhoods? A space that borders a neighboring municipality?

Did you know the proportion of the population affected by this outbreak of unsafety?

- Does it particularly affect a specific group?
- Is it a general feeling in the area or neighborhood?
- Does the affected group have a particular motivation and level of organization?

Have there been a reduction in residents' usual activities or the activities that they want to do, which they have abandoned because of these feelings of unsafety?

- Which ones?
- In which spaces? (These could be limited to the area that's considered dangerous or across neighboring areas)

Have residents taken any form of protective or defensive action because of perceived unsafety?

- What?
- In what kind of spaces?
Section 1 – Guide to analysing and responding to outbreaks of perceived unsafety

► What is an outbreak of perceptions of insecurity?

► Questions to be considered during an outbreak of insecurity
  ► Where? Who? Why?

► Available data:
  ► Police crime incident data; 112 calls; surveys; complaints; census results; commercial profile; household type; employment; immigration; urban design

► Relevant actors:
  ► Public officials in the problem area
  ► Neighbourhood / residents’ associations
  ► Commercial associations
  ► NGOs

► Identification of the problem
Who and how many are in which phase of the cycle?
Section 2 – Immediate first steps when faced with outbreaks of unsafety: criteria

- Indicators:
  - High levels of risk (threatening groups)
  - Very deteriorated spaces
  - Total lack of communication
  - Targeted spaces
  - Low level of use of public spaces

- Four main sources:
  - Involved people
  - Police officers in the area
  - Crime, incivilities and complaints’ data
  - Data about feelings of unsafety (surveys, estimates...
Section 3 – Useful tools and methodologies

- Mapping the process
- Key actors’ map
- Focal group
- Insta-ethnography
- Interview
- Observation
- Immersion
- Journalism
- Exploratory Walks
Section 4 – Criteria for Response

► Social isolation causes insecurity
► Unknown people cause mistrust
► Peaceful use of public spaces implies social control
► What’s police presence good for
► The core issue of institutional communication
► Neighbour's dialogue
► Degraded spaces (e.g., poor lighting)
► What people do or give up doing?
Supports users in dealing with outbreaks of insecurity

- Highlights that insecurity can be linked to a range of factors, including:
  - Lack of information
  - Absence of public actors (capable guardians)
- Highlights the need for transparent, responsive and direct communication needed
- Identifies the opportunity of social networks (twitter etc.)
- Identifies ‘sensors’ within each community that can detect and report feelings of insecurity before an outbreak occurs
- Identifies possible design responses and interlocution for incidents and crisis
Any questions?