

URBAN MANAGER FOR SECURITY SAFETY AND MANAGER

Acronym: URBIS

Project number: 518620-LLP-1-2011-1-IT-
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ABSTRACT

The Urbis Project has an overall objective to create a European new professional profile for security, safety and crisis management of urban areas, investigating and responding to the perceived need at the EU level for education and training in urban security management.

The project examines therefore the possibilities for urban security management given the increasing freedom of movement of people, goods and services across national borders, an increasingly austere economic climate and consequent pressures on governing capacity in European cities.

In the light of these challenges, the project questions the capacity that public authorities have to respond to problems of public safety.

Existing research suggests this capacity is unevenly distributed across Europe. Therefore, a key aim of the URBIS project is to recognise the current 'state of the art' in municipal responses to public safety and how exchanges of experience and expertise amongst European cities can be facilitated through programmes of lifelong learning. The project will then design and trial a postgraduate-level programme of teaching and learning emphasising a comparative understanding of urban security in Europe and questioning the possibilities for exchanging expertise and experience amongst public authorities.

AIMS OF THE PROJECT

- Recognise the 'state of the art' in managing urban security;
- Identify any need for the further professionalization of this role, specifically through higher educational qualifications;
- Design a higher educational programme of teaching and learning about managing urban security;
- Test out this programme amongst current and prospective urban security managers.

Duration

1 November 2011 - 30 April 2014

Contacts

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PARTNERS

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URBAN MANAGER FOR SECURITY SAFETY AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Eurocrim 2013 Panel Sessions II

05 September 2013

Room 603-A - 12.00-13.30

Administration, politics and science in

urban security: findings from project URBIS.



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES

THE STATE OF ART RECOGNITION

The works in this phase were led by the Cardiff University (UK) and were specifically concerned with **the state of the art recognition**.

In particular the aim was to describe the current national and EU legislative frameworks empowering municipal authorities to manage urban security, to report on the emerging needs, existing profiles and training courses for urban security management across Europe and to provide a checklist comparing these statutory powers, needs, profiles and training courses.

METHODOLOGY

Besides a desktop research, of all the available documentary evidence on the current national and EU legislative and policy frameworks alongside any training courses (where applicable), a mixed method, deliberative research design called **the Delphi Panel methodology**, was employed to explore the knowledge base of **three expert communities** (national-level policy makers, local practitioner-managers and scientific experts from the academy) with regard to the following four questions:

- What can 'urban security management' mean? (**PROBLEMS**)
- Which authorities are, or ought to be, empowered and legally obliged to manage urban security? (**RESPONSIBLE ACTORS**)
- What skills and competencies do they have, or could they have, to undertake this responsibility? (**EXPERTISE**)
- What educational and training provision currently exists, or should exist, in support of their work? (**TRAINING**)

KEY FINDINGS

The research undertaken showed that most member countries of the EU now have formal, legally-constituted crime prevention strategies and that a

legal framework for EU-level crime prevention exists and within it several European-wide policy networks have been established to facilitate the accumulation of knowledge and best practice. However the provenance of 'urban security management' as both a policy term and set of institutional practices remains unevenly developed across Europe.

Crime prevention rather than urban security remains in fact the more commonly used term in policy discourses in Europe. Nevertheless, despite the difficulties of translating urban security across the regions and countries of Europe, **evidence of common referents** came out through the Delphi Panel in relation to 1) **problems** and types of **response**; 2) types of **actors** responsible; 3) the types of **expertise** and future **training** required to undertake such work.

STRATEGIES FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The works in this phase are led by the University of Maribor (Slovenia) and will be completed by the end of September 2013. Three are the expected results:

- Analysis of **working expectations** for the new profile of Urban Security Manager;
- Improvement of strategies for local actors through a **collection of best practices** on urban security management in partner countries;
- Initial definition of a regulation and common criteria for the **recruitment of Urban Security Managers**.

COLLECTION OF BEST PRACTICES

The main aim of the analysis was to identify some **cases of projects/programmes** of providing security in urban settlements as an example for each of the possible combinations emerging from the union of the typology of response and the targeted problems highlighted by the state of the art recognition.

The research of **best practices** in Italy, Slovenia, Turkey, and UK was made on the basis of partner's knowledge and on the recognisability of a

What is next in the project

Training framework (December 2013)

Organisation of focus groups for identification of training needs;
Definition of a training programme and a model for evaluation;
Identification of knowledge, competences and skills;
Identification of job opportunities.

Pilot course and traineeships (April 2014)

Definition of access criteria for the course;
Organisation of subjects, schedules and materials;
Implementation of the pilot course and traineeship.

project/programme in their national environment. Beside this, a research on the web was made, browsing both institutional websites of local communities, and official websites of agencies and associations that are carrying on programmes or actions against specific problems.

As result of this research, beside a deep reflection on transfer of crime control ideas and on the possible role of the urban security manager in the local governments, **a booklet of 92 best practices** has been created as a tool for the improvement of strategies for present and futures urban security managers.

RECRUITMENT OF URBAN SECURITY MANAGERS (USM)

Developed by Sinergie (Italy) with the support of the other partners with the aim to define a **structure of a sample form** for the **recruitment** of the USM that could be used by local authorities in all the different Member States.

The form will contain job description, main responsibilities, qualification and experience required, further skills and knowledge, desirable personal characteristic, selection criteria and procedure. The analysis on the recruitment criteria started from the results previously achieved and has been completed with information collected from different job announcements used in different Member States.

The form will be finally submitted for validation to different communities of experts.