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CUTTING CRIME IMPACT

Cutting — Crime Impact

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PIM Toolkit 4: INT Tool

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REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	REVIEWER	MODIFICATIONS
1.0	21/08/2020	Dr Dagmar P. Heinrich	Version 1
2.0	31/08/2020	A. B. Wootton and Prof C. L. Davey	Formatting and minor edits

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1   Current concept name

La Percepció importa

La seguretat de les persones

English translation

Perception matters – The safety of the people

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2 Concept background (the problem)

- In some areas of the Old City district parents are afraid to allow their children to play in the streets. These are areas affected by the so-called problem of narcopisos (drug dens), which make use of empty apartments.

- These empty apartments are the result of tenants having to leave due to being unable to pay the high rents or the mortgages. This results in empty apartments, owned by banks, which drug dealers then move into. Drug distribution and consumption increases in the area, taking place not just in the narcopisos but also on the local streets.

- As a result, incivilities and disorder increase in the area, and families living in this environment do not allow their children to go out on their own — despite there being no recorded victimisation of children in the area.

- Traditionally, complaints concerning the increase of drug dealers in the area have been addressed by high-profile police raids. However, at best these result in the temporary displacement of criminal activity to other neighbourhoods of the city. A few weeks after a police raid, the local situation reverts back to "normal" again.

- There have been community safety projects and interventions in other neighbourhoods with apparently positive results, such as:

  - Controlling cannabis clubs
  - removing syringes from the street
  - monitoring empty apartments

- In January 2020, people in a particular area (Príncep de Viana street) hit the streets to demonstrate against the increasing insecurity due to new narcopisos (drug dens).

- Local people perceive the risk of victimisation to be higher than the reality and feel unsafe letting their children go outside — this is despite positive results from previous policing projects.

3 Concept description (the solution)

A methodology for diagnosing specific feelings of unsafety, which takes account of citizens' subjective responses. This will identify the basis of the problems and propose effective interventions (taking into account the results of previous action).

The aim is to enable public managers to better identify the underlying causes of situations of insecurity and to develop and articulate an integrated response. It is also important to know the mechanisms by which general changes in feelings of insecurity emerge in local contexts.

The toolkit includes a **process** that will detail:

a. **Problem area identification** — Identification of the different sources available in order to define subjective security outbreaks (both quantitative and qualitative). This might include a checklist to guide public managers, as well as a description of the general causes of subjective insecurity — e.g. the age of the built structures in a neighbourhood, how well equipped they are, social deprivation etc

b. **Contextual review:**

   - *Analysis of previous interventions* – Evaluation of previous interventions and their results (e.g. Did they focus on feelings of insecurity? What methods did they use? Was the local community involved?)

   - *Site Walkabout / Observation* — Identification of social, spatial, economic factors and local crime trends that influence citizens' perceptions of security

   - *Other relevant data (non-security related)* — This may include employment levels, type of buildings, income levels, relevant public service data, etc.

c. **Feelings of unsafety assessment** — Method(s) for the systematic assessment of subjective feelings of unsafety / insecurity in target residents and stakeholders — and how these may be driving relevant behaviours (e.g. avoidance of legitimate activities, exclusion from locations, etc.)

d. **Analysis of results & generation of solutions** — Criteria that link different causes of insecurity with interventions that might be implemented in the short-, mid- and long-term.

e. **Recommendations and priorities** — Including communication of diagnosis to decision-makers and operational actors (e.g. district counsellors, senior civil servants, senior police officers, etc.)

4 Focus of the toolkit concept

- That the Prevention Services Team should be attentive to citizens' feelings of unsafety in the different city areas, rather than only objective indicators of criminality, incivilities, police actions or administrative actions (i.e. incident data).

- That actions the police or the municipality view as 'successful' are not necessarily bound to improve citizens' feelings of unsafety.

- That improvements in public spaces and city reforms may have a positive impact on citizen's feelings of unsafety. However, this should not be assumed and the actual impact on citizens' feelings of unsafety should be assessed.

- That police interventions to prevent criminality and incivilities in public spaces may impact positively on citizens' feelings of unsafety, but the actual impact should be assessed.

5   Who is the toolkit for?

- The Prevention Services Team within the Municipality of Barcelona

- Other relevant local agencies and stakeholders (e.g. police, municipal planners, urban designers, municipal/urban managers, etc.)

6 Components/elements of the toolkit

The Tool consists of three main elements:

1. **Process protocol –** This will detail the steps that should be followed, from the detection of citizens' feelings of unsafety through to the provision of recommendations / priorities for action by relevant partners / stakeholders

2. **Guidance materials –** This will include:

- Research methodologies for assessing citizens' feelings of unsafety — such as short targeted survey; focus groups; observation; etc. (similar to the CCI method cards, but in Catalan)

- Explanatory information, including:
  - Information on the impact of particular issues on feelings of unsafety, such as 'signal crimes' and low-level disorder (e.g. litter, vandalism etc.)
  - Information on the impact of socio-economic, cultural and demographic issues on feelings of unsafety
  - Information on the impact of communication media (social / familial / community / city-wade/national/ international) on feelings of unsafety.

- Collection of exemplar responses to situations where citizen's feelings of unsafety have been addressed (i.e. 'what works'). This may include:
  - Advice on communication measures used by the exemplar responses
  - Advice on timeframe of exemplar responses (i.e. short-, mid- or long-term)

  This collection will build on existing best practice, for example the Canadian *"Guide for Selecting an Effective Crime Prevention Program"*

- Collection of communication techniques and strategies
  - Internally, within the municipality agencies, services and authorities
  - Externally, with citizens, communities, the general public and external stakeholders

3. **Communication templates –** including guidance on the transfer of recommendations and supporting information to the decision-maker

4. **Training** for members of the Prevention Services Team in using the Toolkit.

7   How is the toolkit to be used?

The Prevention Services Team will be trained in toolkit use prior to its adoption. Use of the Toolkit will follow the process below (as defined in the Toolkit Process Protocol):

1. Problem area identification

2. Contextual review:

    i.   *Analysis of previous interventions*

    ii. *Contextual research (research into local context using identified methodologies)*

3. Feelings of unsafety assessment

4. Analysis of results and generation of recommendations / solutions

5. Communication of recommendations / priorities to relevant decision-makers / stakeholders

6. Implementation of recommendations

8   What change will the toolkit create?

- It will enable the Prevention Services Team to better address citizens' feelings of unsafety

- It will support improved consideration of the role of citizens' feelings of unsafety within other interventions to address crime, incivilities and neighbourhood problems

- It will support the development of new (subjective), context-specific datasets around citizens' feelings of unsafety

- It will support the development of further good practice exemplars and an improved understanding of 'what works'

9 What is needed to enable this concept to work?

- Buy-in from the identified Tool users (i.e. Prevention Services Teams — centrally and locally)
- The toolkit is not perceived as merely a "police tool," but instead as something to be used by a broader range of stakeholders
- Support for use of the Tool by decision-makers in the Department and in the Municipality (i.e. that they are convinced of the utility of the Tool)

10 Next steps...

- Develop initial drafts (prototypes) of the different elements of the Tool and identify opportunities for prototype testing — (September – October 2020)

- Demonstrate the Tool with the Prevention Services Team in a specific context — (November 2020)

- Write report on results of demonstration — (December 2020)

- Present Tool to Advisory Board — (January 2021)

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