



URB-AL Project

The Impact of the Urban Plan on the Prevention of the Crime

RED 14 URB-AL VALPARAÍSO

PROGRESS REPORT START UP OF THE PROJECT

FEBRUARY 2005



Introduction

This report describes the start-up of the Urbal Project "The Impact of the Urban Plan on the Prevention of the Crime", awarded by the European Commission to the Province of Padova the 24 November 2004.

The Project is moving its first steps, small problems have yet to be solved and relations with partners are under constructions, though some results have already been achieved and some good friendly relationships have already established across the Ocean. This makes us confident about the possibility of success of this project.

This report is of course quite simple and incomplete, but it shows that the project has started and there are persons working hardly for its development. The first part of the report describes the progress of the activities already in place, according to the timetable approved by the commission, by providing some further detail on what has been done and what is under construction.

The second part contains a first, rough, financial report, not with item details of expenditure but containing what has been done and how financial management is being set up.

In the conclusion there are some simple observations about these first months, with a spotlight on some little problems that have to be managed and by describing the future steps for this project.

We want once again to thank the European Commission and the URB-AL Red 14 of Valparaiso for having believed in this project and for the opportunity they have given us. We won't disappoint you!

Yours sincerely

Nicola Modica
Project Manager



Activities Report

According to the timetable for the action, only three activities have started to date.

One, of course, is the management of the Project. Then only two activities has actually started: activity 1 - research activity, already concluded; and activity 2 - Preparation and delivering of instruments for data collection and for local sensitization. Other activities, even if not yet scheduled, have already started. Please find here a brief description for each of them.

Project Management

The day after the signature of the contract with the European Commission the project has entered into force. From that date (25 November 2004) the Staff of the Province of Padova in charge for managing the problem has been set up.

The staff consists of four persons, with the co-operation of many Province employees when their skills or competences are required.

The persons are:

Mr. Nicola Modica, project manager. He is manager of the Service for the Security of Citizens of the Province of Padova, and has deep knowledge of the topics of the projects.

Mr. Giacomo Michieli, project coordinator. He is the officer in charge of the European Relations Office of the Province of Padova, with experience in EU funding and programs.

Ms. Stefania Pettinà, financial manager. She works in the European Relations Office and is responsible for any administrative and financial matter of the project.

Dr. Lorenzo Segato, co-project manager. He is a criminologist, with deep knowledge of crime and security issues and experience in EU funding and programs as well, working as a consultant for this project.

Since the beginning of the project, and even in the phase of project drafting, this team has worked closely with harmony in order to achieve its goals. The approval of the project has been the first, its successful carrying out is the next...



The activities that have been already carried out for the management of the project are related to the opening of a specific budget heading in the province account for this project, the creation of a general email for the action (urbal@provincia.padova.it), the creation of specific procedures and internal rules for the management of contacts, activities and documents.

Moreover, the team has started to get in touch with the Partners in order to establish a relation for a fruitful cooperation during the project.

Other activities, the team has started to work on the partnership agreement, to be signed between the Province of Padova and each partner, the rules and procedures for financial management, the kept of documents, trying to foresee and to solve any possible problem arising during the Action.

Action 1 - Research Action

According to the project submitted by the Province of Padova, this activity was aimed at knowing the "state of art" of international research on crime prevention policies and on evaluation strategies, and at improving partners capacities on the themes of the project (Objective A).

This is the first step of a macro-phase called "learning phase", which is considered important because the evaluation of crime prevention experiences, in comparative and scientific way, is not part of traditional expertise of Public Administrations, and this phase is then aimed at gaining skills and competences for this purpose.

The activity has been coordinated by the Province of Padova and managed by Dr. Lorenzo Segato, carried out through collection and analysis of information from e.g. Governmental Institutions, Research Centre and Universities. These information, found in books, journals, newspapers, grey literature and through the World Wide Web, has been collected and catalogued in a basic library, and is being used for the creation of the instruments foresee in activity 2, *Preparation and delivering of instruments for data collection and for local sensitization.*



Dealing with urban security and crime prevention is not easy. To date, an effective global strategy to prevent urban crime has not been discovered yet, though many positive experiences can be found all over the world.

One of the major difficulties to deal with this problem, at least for public administrator, is that of being informed on those positive experiences and to know the "state of art" of scientific research in this field.

Main aim, for project partner who has set up many different experiences on urban crime prevention, with different results, is to share own experiences to increase mutual knowledge and to set up a network of cities among Europe and Latin America for the exchange of information and the creation of lasting relations.

By carrying out the activity, though, researchers have become aware that the activity of research and learning couldn't be closed after two months, but must be kept during the entire project and also after its end. From here, the decision to create a virtual library, to be shared among partners overseas and to be enlarged from now on with the contributions from all partners, but also a physical library, by collecting books and papers on urban security and crime prevention. This library will remain for future activities and, hopefully, will constantly grow. What is certain is that this activity, started in the first month of activity of the project, will not stop before the project itself.

Accessibility and sharing - One of the main principles used for the creation of the database is that of accessibility of documents by all partners of the project. This is in line with the spirit of the Urbal Red 14 Programme, as the possibility of exchanging information must be made as easy as possible to strengthen the ties among cities in Europe and America Latina.

According to this principle, the idea has been to set up an electronic database, in which each partner can find or add documents relevant for the project. This principle reflects also on the contents of the database, as priority in data collection has been given to documents that can be made available on the web.



The creation of an electronic database will give also the opportunity to any person interested in urban security and crime prevention to access these documents, increasing the potential dissemination of the project outcomes. **Sustainability** - The second principle for the construction of the database is that of sustainability. The setting up of a virtual library, available from the web, makes this resource available also after the conclusion of this type A project, for a possible type B and even longer, as the web page will remain active on the website of the Province of Padova. The principle of sustainability has been intended also as the possibility to enrich the library as time goes by. The province of Padova and the other partners of the project are aware of the problem of urban security, so the interest on the library will probably never go down, and new documents can be added also after the conclusion of the project.

The construction of the Database

The American Psychological Association (APA) format has been used for the construction of the library, according to the reference list rules. Following the principles stated for this Activity 1, the APA Publication Manual has not been used, but a free resource (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html) that can be shared among partners.

Microsoft Access has been used for the creation of the database. In particular, a mask has been created for data entry (see figure), and tables and reports have been made for the management of the

Data entry

Selected Bibliography for Urbal Project R14-A4-04 - Province of Padova

Author:

Title:

Year:

Editor:

type:

topic:

If part of a journal, review or wider publication, please provide also the following information:

Title:

Number:

Year:

Page:

Editor:

Web source:

Record: 1 of 1



database.

This mask contains information necessary for the creation of a correct reference list, the possibility to insert the web address to access the source, and two different lists of options for the classification of the resources.

The feasibility of making the resource available on the web will be evaluated with IT experts during mainstreaming activities.

Sources of Documents

According to the principles above expressed, the main sources of documents for the database have been searched on the web.

Many public and private institutions have dealt with urban crime and urban security during time, and many resources are then available.

Among these sources, priority for this action has been given to resources in English, for some relevant reasons:

- The official language of the project is English;
- English language ensures the highest possibility to disseminate the documents to any person interested;
- From the point of view of scientific and academic research on the issues of the project, Countries as United Kingdom, the Unites States of America and Australia have a strong tradition, so more English documents are available on the web.

Preparation and delivering of instruments for data collection and for local sensitization

This activity has started in due time, with the support of Mrs. Lisa Gallo, statistician.

At this stage, researchers are building the models of instruments for data collection, by analysing the documents collected for research activity. The construction of the model is important because the same principles will be used also for the evaluation of impact of crime prevention policies. In particular, researchers are defining:

- The field of analysis - according to previous researches, it seems that 4 different "case studies" could be analysed by each partner in its town: two cases of successful crime



prevention strategies (better if holistic approaches, including e.g. urban planning, use of technologies, police control, civil participation) and two cases of unsuccessful prevention. These two last cases could be the field of action for an eventual phase B project, but partners should also find out one or two difficult situations in their cities ("hot spots") apart from those in which some attempt has already been done.

- Socio-economic indicators which could affect crime prevention strategies and are relevant for the impact evaluation
- Crime indicators: it is important to define which indicators can be considered in order to collect homogeneous information and make comparison possible. These indicators are important to define ex-ante and ex-post situation (to assess the impact). It is also very important to have information on "hot spots", in order to be able to assess the efficacy of future interventions.
- Crime prevention strategy indicators: what has been done? How much did it cost? How many people had been involved? For how long? Who managed the process? All these elements can be important to evaluate crime prevention strategies, and the most relevant must be found out to build the instrument for data collection.

The analysis of extant literature on crime prevention strategies will make possible to realize dissemination materials, in order to sensitize the population on what is happening and get more cooperation for the development of project activities and the achievement of its goals.

Other activities already started

According to the monitoring and internal evaluation procedures set out in the project, the staff of the Province, together with Lisa Gallo, statistician, has developed the specific procedures for the evaluation of performance, effectiveness and efficacy of the project. The



The Impact of the Urban Plan on the Prevention of the Crime

following images report examples of the grids for performance, effectiveness, and efficacy evaluation.

Performance:

YEAR 1										
Action	Actor(s)		Date of beginning		Date of end		Duration		Cost	
	Established	real	expected	real	expected	real	expected	real	expected	real
1 - Research Activity	Province of Padova		25/11/04		24/01/05		2 months			
2 - Preparation and delivering of instruments	Province of Padova		25/01/05		24/03/05		2 months			
3 - Focus group - preparation and event	Province of Padova		25/02/05		24/04/05		2 months			

Effectiveness:

Effectiveness indicators				
YEAR 1				
Action	Expected Activities	Executed (Yes or No)	output	
			expected	real
1 - Research Activity	collection and analysis of information catalogue- basic library		internal "training manual" on crime prevention	
2 - Preparation and delivering of instruments	Instrument for the sensitization of local administrators		brochures,articles,research results, book reviews. Number of hard copies of brochures expected : 2000 copies	
	Instrument for the collection of data relevant for the project		a questionnaire to be distributed among local actors	
3 - Focus group - preparation and event	event		Focus Group in Malaga, 8 participants from partnership (minimum)	

Efficacy:

Efficacy Indicators								
YEAR 1								
Action	Budget				Costs			
	Budget Item(s)	Unit	# of units	Unit rate (in €)	estimated in the budget	effective expenditure	balance	
1 - Research Activity	Per diem		0	0	0	0	0	
	Travel		0	0	0	0	0	
	Equipment and supplies		0	0	0	0	0	
	Other costs/ services	publications		0	0	0	0	0
		studies/research		0	0	0	0	0
		translation		0	0	0	0	0
		Interpreters		0	0	0	0	0
conference		0	0	0	0	0		
Total					0	0	0	
2 - Preparation and delivering of instruments	Per diem		0	0	0	0	0	
	Travel		0	0	0	0	0	
	Equipment and supplies		0	0	0	0	0	
	Other costs/ services	publications		0	15	0	0	0
		studies/research		30	250	7.500	0	0
		translation		0	17	0	0	0
		Interpreters		0	1.500	0	0	0
conference		0	3.000	0	0	0		
Total					7.500	0	7.500	
3 - Focus group - preparation and event	Per diem	per diem spain	25	125-141	3.495	0	3.495	
	Travel	flight	9	600-1900	9.700	0	9.700	
	Equipment and supplies				0	0	0	
	Other costs/ services	publications				0	0	0
		studies/research				0	0	0
		translation			17	0	0	0
		Interpreters				0	0	0
conference		1	3.000	3.000	0	0		
Total					16.195	0	16.195	



Another activity already started, earlier than foreseen in the timetable, is the organisation of the kick off meeting in Malaga.

According to the information we have received from travel agency and from Lisa Fernández Karlsson, our contact person in Malaga, we have decided to start the organisation of the meeting because of some difficulties in finding travels to/from Malaga and accommodation in the period foreseen for the meeting.

The meeting will take place the 22-23 April 2005.

Now that the organisation has started, we have noticed some problems in having prompt answers from our Latin American friends, probably because direct contacts still have to be set up.

The last activity realised for this project can be related to mainstreaming action. The 25 November 2004, the day after the signature of the Contract, the President of the Province of Padova, together with the Executive Member (Assessore) of the Cabinet (Giunta) responsible for security issues and the Project Manager, has presented to the media and the city the new project. This action of visibility has brought general knowledge of the existence of this EU funded international Project and of the will of the Administration of Padova to carry out the Project with the highest quality.



Financial Report

As already explained, this part of the report doesn't consist in an anticipation of the periodical financial report, but explains some of the decisions taken for the financial management of the project.

Partnership Agreement

A partnership agreement is under construction. The idea is that each partner signs a specific agreement with the Project Coordinator, which is legally responsible for the project towards the Commission, to ensure its cooperation and to stress the importance of the joint activity for the achievement of Project goals.

The agreement contains three parts: part one is general, recalling the contents of the Contract signed with the Commission; part two contains financial rules for correct expenditure and reporting; part three contains the list of specific actions and budget of the partner that signs the agreement, a copy of the Contract and of timetable for the action.

Financial Management

As a general rule, the Province has decided to centralise the financial management for the whole project. This means that, except for human resources, equipment and supplies and conference costs, everything is paid and the original documentation is collected by the Province of Padova.



Conclusive Remarks

This part contains some critical points already emerged and some positive cues for the development of project activities.

The project has started at the end of November 2004, right before Christmas Holiday and the end of the year.

From the point of view of the project coordinator, the overlapping of the beginning of the project and the end of the financial year of the administration has created some difficulty, which has required extra-work to make the project starting. The lesson learned is that we must be careful, next time, about the date of start of project activities, which could be better one month after the 1st January instead on 1 month before.

The time necessary to organise procedures and rules for this project had not been considered in the timetable, even if many things had been done from the communication of the award to the date of signature of the Contract. Nevertheless, the inertia of public administration must be taken into account in a next project to avoid extra-work.

Third criticism, relations with Latin American partners is not always easy. Sometimes it is difficult to find out the persons in charge for the project, sometimes they have given wrong telephone numbers. From this point of view, the support of Network offices is important, until the project starts its activities and persons know each other.

Positive remarks are related to the great opportunity of working together on crime prevention issues, and to the facility to communicate and to share documents and information via web. This type A project is more a research project, but all the efforts are towards building some positive experience of crime prevention to share, experiment and apply across the Cities partner in this project for the achievement of a better society.