



Province of Padova  
Service for Citizens' Security

European Commission  
EuropeAid Office



# URB-AL Project

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

---

Action I-1  
Research Activity

# ACTION REPORT

25 January 2005

---



## ***Foreword***

This report presents the results of the first activity 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 on the 24th of November 2004 and started the following day.

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 will be used for the creation of the instruments foresee in activity 2, *Preparation and delivering of instruments for data collection and for local sensitization*.



**URB-AL Project - The Impact of the Urban Plan on the Prevention of the Crime**

---

***Index***

Foreword .....	i
Index .....	1
Introduction .....	1
Methodological Note .....	2
Creation of the database.....	2
Sources of Documents.....	5
Conclusions.....	7



## ***Introduction***

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.

Nevertheless, this project has been aware since its drafting of the need of partners to learn more on this issue. For this reason, activity one has been foreseen.

By carrying out the activity, though, researchers have become aware that the activity of research and learning cannot 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.

For these reasons, this must be considered now a draft report for this activity, as the final version, with the entire library created, will be available only at the end of the project.

This report contains then the description of the methodology used for the collection of information and a short list of books and papers found.

As already mentioned, a final version of this report will be prepared for the end of the project.



## ***Methodological Note***

This chapter describes how the research of documents has been set up from the beginning. The first paragraph contains the description of how the database has been built, while the second illustrates the main sources for the documents collected by now.

### ***CREATION OF THE DATABASE***

#### **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](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html)) that can be shared among partners. The reference list has been built according to the rules, and where possible contains the following information:

**Sources in Print (Books, reports and non periodical in general):**

Author, L. (Year). Title of work. Location. Publisher.

Example: Felson, M. (1998). *Crime & Everyday Life* – Second Edition. London. Pine Forge Press.

**Sources in Print (papers, report, articles):**

Author, L. (Year). Title of article. *Title of periodical, volume number, (issue number), pp. no-no.*

Example: Sorensen, S. L. (1998). Empowering capable guardians in high crime and low income settings. *Security Journal, vol. 11, (issue 1), pp. 29-35.*

**Article in an Internet Periodical**

Author, L. (Date of publication). Title of article. *Title of journal, volume number (issue number).* Retrieved month day, year, from <http://Web address>.

Example: Ekblom P. (1987), Preventing Robberies at Sub-Post offices. Crime Prevention Unit Paper No. 9, Home Office. Retrieved December, 14, 2004, from [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/prgpdfs/fcpu9.pdf](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/prgpdfs/fcpu9.pdf)

**Non-periodical Internet Document (e.g., a Web page or report)**

Author, L. (Date of publication). Title of article. Retrieved month date, year, from <http://Web address>.

Example: Ekblom P. (2001), *The Conjunction of Criminal Opportunity: a framework for crime reduction toolkits.* Retrieved December, 14, 2004, from <http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/ccofull.pdf>.

**Part of Non-periodical Internet Document**

Author, L. (Date of publication). Title of article. In Title of book or larger document (chapter or section number). Retrieved from <http://Web address>.

Example: Farrington D. P. (2002). Methodological Quality Standards For Evaluation Research. In *Annals Of The American Academy Of Political And Social Science.* Retrieved from <http://ann.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/587/1/49>



### Creation of the database

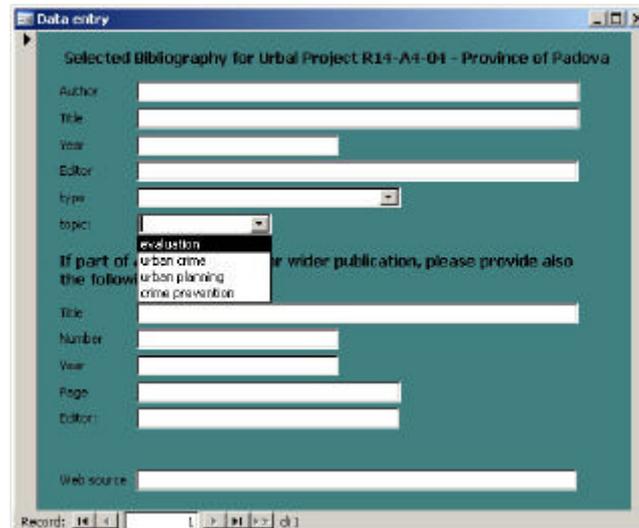
Microsoft Access has been used for the creation of the database. In particular, a mask has been created for data entry (see figure), and tables and reports have been made for the management of the database.

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.

Type - Resource can be classified as book, paper, report, webpage, article or other.



Topic - Resources can be classified according to the main topic as evaluation, urban crime, urban planning and crime prevention. New items both for type and topic classification can be added during the documental research.



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.

Some of the most relevant sources used for this project have been:

Institutions:

- The Australian Institute of Criminology
- The Home Office



## URB-AL Project - The Impact of the Urban Plan on the Prevention of the Crime

---

- The European Forum on Urban Security
- The Italian Forum on Urban Security
- The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime
- The World Bank

### Journals:

- The British journal of criminology
- The European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
- The European Journal of Criminal Policy
- The Journal of Quantitative Criminology
- The Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency
- The Journal of Risk Research
- The Australian Journal of Criminology
- Acta Criminologica Sudafrica



## ***Conclusions***

The constant growing of the database and the possibility to access directly to the resources available via web, already foresee as mainstreaming action, reduce the utility of having a printed list of documents. For this reason, this report of activity 1 of the Urbal Project "The Impact of the Urban Plan on the prevention of the Crime" ends here.

A list of documents will be made available at the end of the project, with the contribution of each partner and with a large database of electronic resources available.

This activity has produced the methodology for the creation of database, the database itself, with the possibility to introduce new records and the possibility to put the database on the web, and a first search of documents necessary for the achievement of next phases of the project.

This activity has bought also the awareness that searching, collecting and analysing information on urban crime and crime prevention cannot be done in two months, but takes longer time.

The Partner responsible for this activity and for the whole project itself is conscious of the relevance of this activity and is willing to extend it for the whole duration of the project, bearing it in mind for future activities.