



The Security Partnership in urban development is supported by:

8 Network of multipliers

We will create a network of multipliers and contacts for this initiative and its practical implementation, so as to bring specific specialist knowledge to bear on urban development projects and plans at an early stage and in a systematic manner. We want to provide a solid footing for safe and secure design in urban development, architecture and open space planning. For this reason we will endeavour to apply to a still greater extent its underlying principles to all design competitions, urban and local development programmes, as well as action programmes directed at urban renewal.

9 Reinforcement of public participation

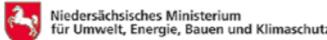
The Security Partnership for urban development is also intended to increase public awareness about the issue of security and crime prevention in urban development. We will therefore look for ways of disseminating findings derived from practical work in preventive spatial and urban design, e.g. in the form of publications, events and exhibitions.

10 Research and evaluation

Research is needed into the effectiveness of "preventive housing design", so that findings in the form of practical recommendations can inform the fields of activity characteristic of spatial and urban planning, architecture, open space planning, traffic planning and housing asset management. We therefore advocate the evaluation of projects that have been planned and designed on the basis of preventive principles, to obtain more detailed knowledge as to how to improve not only public safety, but also cross-disciplinary cooperation.

11 Education and training

To promote the awareness of a joint endeavour, reinforce the readiness to cooperate, deepen individual specialist expertise and communicate basic knowledge relating to public safety, we will campaign to ensure the subject becomes part and parcel of the professional body of knowledge. To this end, we will offer suitable education and training courses in urban planning, architecture, open space planning, traffic planning and housing asset management.

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Sicherheitspartnerschaft
im Städtebau
in Niedersachsen
Impulse für Lebensqualität



SAFETY AND SECURITY IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN LOWER SAXONY

Brief information regarding
the Safe-and-Secure Partnership

www.sicherheit-staedtebau.de





Introduction

The key objective of the -Security Partnership for urban development in the Federal State of Lower Saxony is to improve the quality of life and attractiveness of our towns, cities and local environments. Given that safety and security represent a basic need of the individual, the issue of public safety is of particular significance in residential districts. For only if they feel safe and secure in their own home, neighbourhood, city or local environment will an individual engage in public life.

For this reason, the main thrust of crime prevention in urban development focuses on the planning of public spaces and the architectural design of buildings. If properly combined, urban planning, architecture and crime prevention will ensure increased public safety, thereby promoting peaceful civic interaction in a sustainable manner. This is the objective to which the Security Partnership for urban development in Lower Saxony has committed itself.

Supported by the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony under the auspices of the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice, the Safe-and-Secure Partnership network is assisted by stakeholders from the fields of urban and social planning, housing asset management and crime prevention. The members of the Security Partnership have agreed an 11-point agenda as objectives for their work. Each member has undertaken to work within their own specific area for the purposes of this agreement and to integrate public safety and crime prevention aspects of urban development within their own fields of activity on a task-by-task basis. In addition, the Security Partnership for urban development in Lower Saxony has devised two products that local stakeholders can use to implement crime prevention aspects in urban development.

• **A list of criteria for use when planning new construction projects and for internal assessment of existing housing stock. On the basis of these criteria, housing can be awarded the Lower Saxony Seal of Quality for a Secure Housing in Lower Saxony.**

• **A support tool for use when working on "Security in housing-related infrastructures and public spaces in the municipality". This recommends measures that promote safety and security for ancillary housing facilities and public spaces.**

Security Partnership Agreement

1 Security in public spaces

It is generally known that safety and security in streets and other public spaces can be significantly influenced by open and clear structures that promote communication, and which are clearly visible even when relatively badly lit. The clear, uncluttered routing of thoroughfares and the direct relationship of house entrances to the public space can strengthen the individual feeling of security and can also improve security in objective terms. The windows and doors of houses and buildings should face onto public spaces and not away from them. In the planning and design of new residential areas, the public safety aspects should be addressed early on when determining their layout and constructional design.

2 Mixed-use

The functions of living, work, traffic, services and leisure ("basic functions of existence") must not be fully isolated from one another, but should be integrated in a meaningful way. Spaces that are only used for one purpose, and then for a limited period, serve to promote a sense of insecurity at those periods where they are not in full use. For this reason we are committed to joining with representatives of urban planning, housing asset management and urban and social planning in ensuring there should be plenty of activity in residential areas. Multi-faceted combinations of the above functions must be retained, promoted and refined. A combination of different types of housing and ownership can help create neighbourhoods that thrive on the quality of life they offer. Strategies for public safety should be designed in such a way that they counteract spatial isolation and social disintegration. However, care should also be taken to ensure that measures aimed at enhancing public safety do not reinforce conflicts in terms of use.

3 Safe use of thoroughfares

Safety and security on public thoroughfares between buildings and areas must be a priority. As well as traffic safety in the narrow sense, the sense of security of those using the thoroughfares must be borne in mind. To achieve this, spaces and thoroughfares must be designed so that they are free of obstructions and offer up clear views. They should present opportunities for frequent use, allowing them to be used safely by people of all ages on foot, by bicycle or using public transport. Where traffic safety permits, pedestrian, bike and vehicular traffic should be clustered together to a greater extent, so as to increase the amount of activity and achieve greater social control.

4 Promotion of a sense of neighbourhood

As a result of immigration and high regional mobility, both newly built residential districts and housing stock in need of renovation are often home to sections of the population that are widely different in their individual make-up. Here, the social management of the housing associations and the social services provided by the municipalities should be directed at creating trusting neighbourhoods out of what is often an unsettling coexistence of people and cultures alien to one another. Tenant participation has a particular role to play. Strengthening tenant representation within the housing associations and transferring responsibilities for the housing estate can enhance the sense of ownership on the part of the residents and make neighbourhoods safer, leading to sustained improvements in the social control of the district.

5 Public participation

Whenever planning and development projects are being considered, both citizens and resident initiatives should be included at an early stage. Specific participation processes should be used, including the trialling of new methods of engagement. The aim is to awaken local potential and encourage the creation of social networks.

6 Cooperation and exchange of information

In the interests of achieving greater consideration of aspects that promote public safety, we are committed to extending cooperation between investors in the housing and real estate industry, municipal planning authorities, freelance architects, planners (in urban planning, open space planning and social planning) and the police. This can only be achieved if there is timely exchange of information about problematic areas and neighbourhoods, on the one hand, and about the planning intentions of the authorities on the other, so that measures and strategies relevant to public safety and security can come into effect. In this respect, the police have a duty, in terms of their inside knowledge of criminal activity and the factors that contribute to such activity, to bring information to bear on such matters, if the information in question is relevant to the planning and construction process.

7 Testing new findings

We support local initiatives in which urban planning, housing asset management and the police try out cooperative procedures based on timely and ongoing exchange of knowledge and information; where they regularly examine whether the principles of a secure living environment are respected in both design and realisation; and whether the measures that have been taken actually result in the desired outcome.

