

Province of Limburg

Domestic burglary prevention app

I. Project description

A. Context

Every year, the number of domestic burglaries in the province of Limburg (+/- 4,000), represents a cost of more than 18 million euro for society. This is why, within the framework of a joint prevention plan for the province of Limburg, the province decided, besides the existing techno preventive advice via home visits, to develop an application for smartphones and tablets, with the same goal as the classical visits, but at the same time exponentially increasing the target audience.

B. Functioning

The app starts with the insertion of the user's zip code, after which the contact data of your local domestic burglary prevention consultant will be shown. Furthermore, the app will contain several functions, such as the possibility to execute a risk analysis of your home. Via a simple and clear checklist, the risk analysis allows us to determine to which risk category your home belongs. Next, and taking into account the existing risk for burglary, it can be determined which measures should be taken to ensure an adequate protection against burglary. In a second function, the SOBER security plan, the users can insert the measures they have already taken. The SOBER security plan is subdivided into social measures, organizational measures, construction measures, electronic measures, and registration. Users can tick off what they have already undertaken in the different areas to secure their home (e.g. construction measures per façade element), and then generate an advice of necessary and complementary measures and tips they can still apply to make their home a burglar-proof home.

The 'domestic burglary prevention' app also contains the functionality to register your precious belongings in the registration folder. It is expected that more people than in the past will register their belongings, because this functionality is much more user-friendly on a smartphone or on a tablet. You take a picture of an object, drag this to the registration folder, and add some properties. Security is priority number one for this functionality, but also for the rest of the app. A four-digit entrance code will be used, among others. Finally, we have the 'tips & info' function, where users can find more prevention advice, but can also request holiday monitoring.

C. Objectives

- Lowering the threshold for domestic burglary preventive consulting by offering the possibility to generate yourself a virtual advice.
- Giving a societal signal to citizens and possible burglars
- More interaction with citizens (proactive and preventive), with the goal for them to secure better their homes by taking smart measures (often small, but effective).

- Increasing the objective and subjective (feeling of) security.
- Reach target audiences that are otherwise barely reached, such as youth, elderly persons, low-skilled persons, tenants, and apartment residents.

D. Target audience

Citizens.

II. Means

Partners:

Provincial government (Department Police, Security & Public Order)

Municipalities and police zones in the province of Limburg

Private: the app is developed by the company Appwise, located in Hasselt.

Costs:

The costs for the app development is 24,000 euro.

III. Evaluation

The application is currently in the preparative phase.

IV. Transferability

Points of attention:

The province of Limburg has explicitly chosen to develop and publish a complete prevention campaign, without communicating explicitly using the provincial logo (except for a reference on the backside, so citizens know that this is not a commercial initiative). This ensures that the domestic burglary prevention campaign can be integrally copied by citizens, other provinces, institutions, or governments. This will already happen within the framework of the first national action day against domestic burglaries, '1 day without', which the province of Limburg will coordinate in 2014.

In addition, the 'domestic burglary prevention' app will be perfectly applicable everywhere. The pilot zone for testing is Limburg, but afterwards, the app will be generally available via the App Store and Google Play.

The app will be provided in Dutch in the beginning, but translations can be easily realized.

V. More info?

A. Contact person

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B. Support material

By mid-October, we will dispose of a simple instruction video



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