

Hasselt

We do not let strangers in

I. Project description

A. Context

People living on a fourth floor, often think they are safe, far away from the danger of a burglary. However, burglars can get easy access to apartment buildings, often due to negligence of the residents.

B. Functioning

Social control is small in an apartment building. Often, the burglar just walks in through the main entrance. It is simply open, or he just walks in together with another resident or visitor. Randomly ringing at the intercom system also often works. Other common entrances, such as basements and garages, are often not closed. Moreover, the actual apartment doors are often not much more than refined internal doors. An awareness campaign points out the dangers of a burglar to residents of apartment buildings. Local police officers hang posters in the entrance of apartment buildings. In addition, all residents of an apartment building will receive an info card in their mailbox containing tips.

C. Objectives

Prevent, uncover and reduce burglary, and/or the feelings of insecurity regarding burglary. The organisational aspect of protection from burglary in apartment buildings is discussed, i.e. not let just any and every person into the apartment building.

D. Target audience

Citizens: all apartment residents of the municipalities of Hasselt, Zonhoven and Diepenbeek.

II. Means

Partners:

Police zone HAZODI
Municipality of Zonhoven
Municipality of Diepenbeek

Cost:

The project's cost is 1680.06 euros. This includes the layout and printing of 3,000 posters, and printing of 13,600 info cards.

Staffing: every community police officer distributes the material within the apartment buildings in his neighbourhood. This can be spread out in time.

III. Evaluation

No evaluation has been done yet. However, until now, reactions from citizens were positive, and in the first half of 2014, the number of burglaries in apartments went down by more than 45%, compared to the first half of 2013.

Positive points/benefits:

- Simple campaign with a clear goal and low cost.

Recommendations:

- Such a campaign can prove its worth in other police zones and municipalities, and should be recommended.

IV. Transferability

Points of attention: This campaign is easily transferable. However, the labour-intensive character, related to the distribution of the posters by the community police offers, should be taken into account.

V. More info?

Contact person

Ann Claes
Ann.Claes@hasselt.be
Burgemeester Bollenstraat 15
3500 Hasselt
Phone: 003211239465

A. Support material

/



With financial support from the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the
European Union
European Commission – Directorate-General Home Affairs

Legal notice

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the official opinions of any EU Member State or any agency or institution of the European Union or European Communities.