



INNOVATION TRANSFER NETWORK
**QUARTERLY NETWORK
JOURNAL #2**

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CITISENSE

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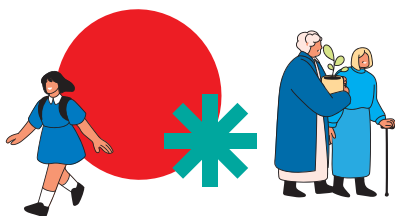


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After the **Understand Phase** and the very intense first quarter of the **Adapt Phase**, the fourth quarter of the CITISENSE Innovation Transfer Network's journey unfolded at a slightly slower pace, allowing for deeper reflection within the Urban Local Groups (ULGs) at local level – and for a well-deserved summer break.

1. Activities at Local Level

Fresh from the **Second Transnational Meeting in Liepaja**, which had primarily focused on the four CITISENSE Transfer Modules and on defining each partner city's transfer priorities, all partners continued their work locally. Throughout June, they also took part in a second round of **bilateral consultations with the Lead Expert**, aimed at supporting the consolidation of the ULGs and identifying next steps.

It is worth noting that local progress advanced at different speeds across the network. Cities with a more consolidated participatory tradition and already active stakeholder groups – notably **Piraeus, Naples, and Manresa** – were able to initiate concrete mapping and planning actions on the ground before the summer break. In contrast, those cities where engagement was still in the making dedicated this period to **broadening the composition of their ULGs**, diversifying participation, and securing the long-term commitment of local stakeholders.

1.1 PIRAEUS



Figure 1: ULG Meeting in Piraeus. Photo: Municipality of Piraeus

In Piraeus, work during the summer months focused on refining the structure and functioning of the Urban Local Group, which continues to evolve around the city's Local Council for Crime Prevention (LCCP). Given the formal nature of the LCCP and the institutional commitments of its members, the team decided to establish a parallel and more flexible working group, while maintaining close coordination with the

LCCP and ensuring its president's continued involvement. This approach allows for greater agility in planning meetings and pursuing specific thematic priorities.

In our bilateral exchange, the discussion centred on how to make the most of the city's existing governance assets – particularly the digital tools and platforms developed under BeSecure-FeelSecure – and on ensuring that these are not only maintained but actively used by relevant departments and stakeholders. The challenge identified lies in bridging the gap between available data and actual decision-making processes. The recommendation was to use upcoming ULG sessions to demonstrate the practical value and usability of these digital tools, identify which actors can contribute and benefit most from them, and build a shared understanding of local safety phenomena across the city's five districts. This step is key to translating the city's strong institutional foundations into actionable, evidence-based interventions for the forthcoming Investment Plan.

1.2 MANRESA



Figure 2: ULG Meeting in Manresa. Photo: Municipality of Manresa

In Manresa, no ULG meetings were held over the summer, but the team used this period to consolidate the results of the previous sessions and prepare the next steps. In our bilateral discussion, we reflected on how the first ULG cycle – which had brought together over twenty stakeholders from social, cultural and sports departments, the police, and local NGOs – already laid a good foundation for the city's local action. Those sessions had highlighted the need to move from listing problems to identifying actions, and above all to improve communication and coordination among local actors working on safety and social issues in public space.

The municipality is now working towards a clearer governance model to connect these different stakeholders and address social issues more coherently. We agreed that a practical next step could be a participatory mapping exercise, engaging residents and vulnerable groups to capture perceptions of (in)security in key areas of the city. This activity will help test new ways of working together and provide evidence for future interventions.

The next phase should focus on formalising the local governance framework and using the mapping results to guide concrete, small-scale actions on the ground.

1.3 NAPLES



Figure 3: ULG Meeting in Naples. Photo: Municipality of Naples

In Naples, the summer period was devoted to consolidating the outcomes of the second ULG meeting held in mid-May and to planning the next steps. In our bilateral discussion, the team reflected on the value of the urban walk and co-sensing exercises carried out around Piazza Carlo III, Corso Garibaldi, and Piazza Garibaldi, which had generated a detailed "map of emotions" and a rich understanding of how safety and insecurity are perceived in different parts of the area. The team highlighted how the process helped strengthen relations among the core stakeholders – from municipal departments to third-sector organisations – and fostered a sense of shared purpose.

Over the summer, work continued on analysing the material collected and translating it into a qualitative questionnaire to be disseminated among residents and local actors. This tool will support the expansion of the ULG to new participants, including schools, associations, and local businesses, while also engaging vulnerable groups through partner organisations already active in the field. My recommendation was to focus the next phase on turning these insights into a concise set of testing actions and on using the questionnaire to anchor broader participation in a structured and ongoing process.



1.4 GEEL



Figure 4: ULG Meeting in Geel. Photo: Municipality of Geel

In Geel, the quarter marked an important turning point, as the city prepared to open its Urban Local Group to external stakeholders. The first extended ULG meeting was scheduled for 30 June and represented the true launch of the participatory process, moving beyond the internal coordination among municipal services. The core team – comprising representatives from the local police, the safety department, social services, and an expert in criminology – worked to broaden the group by inviting schools, local associations, and outreach organisations. This expansion aims to establish a shared understanding of the CITISENSE project and to create a platform for joint reflection on safety and social cohesion.

During our bilateral discussion, we agreed on the need for a flexible but structured approach to the

ULG's composition. While the core coordination remains within the municipality, specific issues – such as youth behaviour, vacant premises in the city centre, or social vulnerability – will require the involvement of targeted partners. The June meeting was also the first opportunity to brainstorm possible testing actions, which will later be refined based on the results of an ongoing citywide survey on perceptions of insecurity.

Geel's next steps will focus on consolidating the ULG as a long-term structure, closely aligned with the city's planned "Security Council." The upcoming months will be crucial to prioritise key themes emerging from the survey and to define small-scale testing actions that link social, behavioural, and physical dimensions of public space.

1.4 LEIPAJA

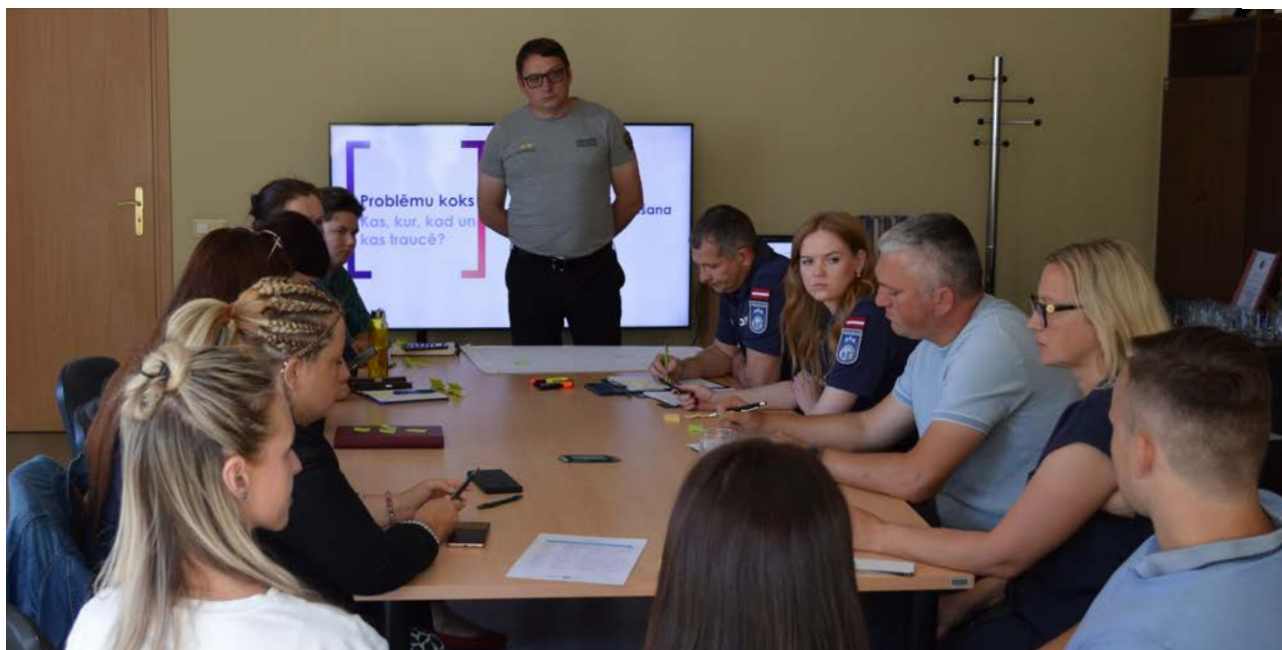
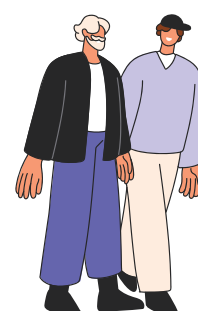


Figure 5: ULG Meeting in Liepaja. Photo: Liepaja Municipal Police

In Liepaja, the summer marked the activation of the Urban Local Group, which held its first meeting on 1 August at the Municipal Police headquarters. The city had experienced a slow start during the first months of the project, but the process has since gained momentum. The meeting gathered representatives from the municipal and state police, social and youth services, and several NGOs working with young people. The session focused on youth safety through the broader lens of the “feeling of insecurity,” using the problem tree method to explore underlying causes and effects. Participants highlighted issues such as weak communication between adults and youth, lack of informal spaces for interaction, and limited opportunities for meaningful activities.

Although still in its early phase, the ULG has shown increasing engagement and ownership among members. A promising sign of this is that some organisations have started hosting meetings in their own premises, strengthening trust and cooperation within the group. In my discussion with the Liepaja team, I encouraged them to build on this dynamic by maintaining regular exchanges with stakeholders and translating the diagnostic work into a short list of feasible testing actions. The focus in the coming months will be on consolidating participation and defining clear, shared goals around youth safety and inclusion.



NEXT STEPS

The fifth quarter (September–November 2025) will be particularly intense for CITISENSE, as the network enters the core of the Adapt phase. The period will be marked by a dense calendar of Exchange and Learning activities and a set of focused workshops dedicated to the development of Testing Actions and the introduction of the Investment and Continuity Plans, all converging around the Transnational Meeting in Manresa.

2.1 EXCHANGE AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

A rich programme of online exchanges will support partners in deepening their knowledge and practical tools for urban security. Thematic workshops will include sessions on digital solutions for urban security and data-driven decision-making by Lead Expert Pietro L. Verga; community outreach and communication with stakeholders, by Ad-Hoc Expert (AHE) Simone D'Antonio; and coping with mental health issues in the street, facilitated by AHE Maite Arrondo. These sessions will combine technical input and peer learning to strengthen partners' operational capacities.

2.2 TESTING ACTIONS

Work on Testing Actions will advance into its design and assessment phase. An online network meeting on 2 September will formally launch this process, focusing on the definition and planning of local Testing Actions through the use of the Testing Action Canvas. Later in the quarter, another online meeting will be devoted to developing tailored assessment strategies for each partner, to guide implementation and monitoring in line with local priorities. All Ad-Hoc Experts (AHEs) supporting partner cities will join this session, encouraging cross-city exchange and ensuring methodological consistency across the network.

2.3 INVESTMENT AND CONTINUITY PLANS

Towards the end of the quarter, partners will begin exploring the long-term dimension of their work. An online network meeting in mid-November will introduce the Investment and Continuity Plan templates and Canvas, and provide a first opportunity to discuss the main building blocks of each partner's plan. All Ad-Hoc Experts (AHEs) will take part, supporting cities in defining the core components and priorities of their forthcoming Investment and Continuity Plans.

2.4 TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN MANRESA

From 3 to 5 November, partners will gather in Manresa for the third Transnational Meeting. The event will feature two key interactive thematic workshops – Revitalising Historic Centres, curated by AHE Pablo Muñoz Unceta, and Resourcing and Financing towards the Investment Plans, facilitated by Lead Expert Pietro L. Verga – together with dedicated peer exchange sessions. The meeting will also host the network's Mid-Term Reflection, a key moment to take stock of progress and shape the next phase of work.

In the same week, the network will contribute to the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona with the session Connecting European Cities Towards Community-Based Urban Security, co-organised with the Diputació de Barcelona and sister Innovation Transfer Network 2Nite.

STAY TUNED!

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