



INNOVATION TRANSFER NETWORK
**QUARTERLY NETWORK
JOURNAL #4**

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CITISENSE

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Q6-7: DECEMBER 2025 – MAY 2026

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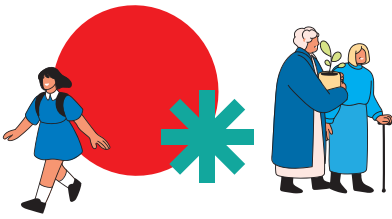


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CITISENSE Innovation Transfer Network

Quarterly Network Journal #4 / Q6-7: December 2025 – May 2026

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The sixth and seventh quarters brought the CITISENSE Innovation Transfer Network into the heart of the Prepare for Re-Use Phase, with a dense and varied programme of activities at both local and transnational levels marking a decisive acceleration towards the network's final outputs.

1. Activities at Local Level

During this period, activities at local level mainly focused on the implementation and assessment of small-scale testing actions, where Network Partners worked in close collaboration with their URBACT Local Groups as well as with tailored support from the Lead and Ad-hoc Experts.

1.1 PIRAEUS

The Testing Action in Piraeus centred on the Tinanios Garden, a centrally located public space in the city's commercial area near the port, which had until recently experienced significant physical degradation and a concentration of vulnerable populations. The city adopted a four-pillar approach – combining digital, spatial, social, and governance dimensions – to test whether integrated interventions could improve both the actual and perceived safety of the space. On the digital side, a safety perception poll was deployed through the existing Piraeus app, generating a baseline dataset and revealing that while the garden is largely perceived as safe during the day, more than half of respondents reported feeling unsafe at night, with lighting, unsupervised behaviour, and the need for stronger oversight emerging as key concerns. For the spatial dimension, the city secured co-funding from municipal and EUI sources to renovate a derelict kiosk into a micro-civic hub and install picnic tables and audio equipment, with works planned for completion by end of June. Socially, a programme of twelve activities – including participatory safety walks, pop-up events, and awareness-raising workshops on topics co-designed with the Local Council for Crime Prevention (LCCP) and the Municipal Youth Council – was developed and is expected to reach approximately one thousand participants. At the governance level, the collaboration between the LCCP and the Municipal Youth Council was formalised and operationalised, with three joint meetings already held. The main challenge encountered was a delay in delivery: most soft and spatial interventions originally planned for April shifted to June owing to lengthy administra-

tive and procurement procedures, meaning that the follow-up survey and the overall assessment of the four-pillar deployment will only be possible in the second half of June. The key operational learning is that lengthy bureaucratic procedures can be anticipated and built into future planning: knowing the lead times involved, the city is now better positioned to front-load due diligence and prepare documentation in advance when designing the implementation timeline for the continuity plan. The testing action will inform the continuity plan by validating the integrated multi-pillar model, strengthening the evidence base for a data-informed approach to public space regeneration, and establishing the governance cooperation structures that the plan foresees deploying at scale across other Piraeus neighbourhoods by 2030.

1.2 NAPLES

In Naples, the Testing Action drew on the idea that experiential, culture-based, and place-specific knowledge can serve as strategic drivers for improving urban safety perception. Under the programme titled City Vibes, the city organised a series of social and cultural activities embedded within the wider Maggio dei Monumenti festival across four Saturdays in May, with a final event on 23 May at Piazza Carlo III and Piazza Garibaldi – the two main squares of the target area. Activities included emotional urban tours through the Borgo San Antonio neighbourhood, a Flash Migrantour exploring migrant community life near the central station, inclusive visits to the San Pietro a Maiella church, a sport event, a music performance by a multicultural youth ensemble, and a photography installation by a

former homeless woman. The guides, facilitators, and performers were themselves drawn from fragile and marginalised groups, many of them trained through partnerships with local charities and social services, thereby making community empowerment an intrinsic part of the methodology rather than a secondary objective. Early results showed 55 participants across the first urban tours and cultural visits, with the majority of those completing the survey reporting a change in their safety perception. What worked well was the cohesion and place attachment of the ULG network, the diversification of activities across different user groups, and the investment in training local actors – all of which contributed to both credibility and longer-term sustainability. The main challenge was that participation in the Maggio dei Monumenti festival, while providing a promotional platform, also risked overshadowing the more alternative and lower-profile activities; additionally, distributing actions across the territory led to some dispersion of energy and resources. A further concern raised during the peer review was the extent to which one-off or festival-framed events can demonstrate a sustained change in daily safety perception, and whether measurement tools are sufficiently calibrated to track this distinction. The findings will feed directly into the investment plan's social and governance module, informing the design of a structured, multi-year programme of social and cultural activities in public spaces – anchored around the concept of activating places where vibrancy already exists – and the development of a stable group of trained guides and facilitators as a durable local asset.

1.3 GEEL

The Testing Action in Geel comprised two distinct pilots addressing respectively the social and public space dimensions of the network's approach. The first was a bystander training programme, developed in partnership with students of the Thomas More College (Social Work department), aimed at equipping participants with practical skills to respond safely and effectively to inappropriate behaviour in public spaces. Four test courses were delivered to a total of more than thirty participants, including

the city's own Safety team, the youth movement organisation Chiro, and two secondary school classes from the ULG. The collaboration with the college was cited as a strong point, as was the use of small-scale group formats that facilitated richer interaction. Challenges included difficulty in securing management buy-in for broader organisational rollout, and the fact that the Hannah Arendt Institute – the Flemish government's mandated provider for this type of training – had no availability, meaning that a place on their waiting list would only become available in 2027 or 2028. The programme will nonetheless be incorporated into the investment plan's social action work package, with a progressive trajectory from internal staff to community organisations and ultimately to citizens, supported by six years of guaranteed Flemish government funding. The second pilot, the Talking Bins concept – interactive waste bins designed to use humour and local dialect to nudge positive behaviour in public spaces – was cancelled following a late-stage policy decision. Despite this outcome, the process triggered a broader municipal discussion that resulted in the development of a citywide bin plan, rationalising the existing stock of nineteen bin types into a single unified model. The plan will be rolled out in accordance with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, with stakeholder involvement, and €120,000 in local and Flemish government funding already secured for 2026, with a future smart-city integration pathway foreseen. This outcome was highlighted during the workshop as an instructive example of a testing action that failed in its immediate objective but generated significant policy leverage – prompting a systemic response to an issue that had previously gone unaddressed.

1.4 LIEPĀJA

Liepāja's Testing Action was still ongoing at the time of the workshop, with final results expected by mid-June. The action was structured around two complementary phases, both implemented through NGO partnerships and centred on youth engagement. The first phase – a youth opinion research exercise – was led by NGO House of Hope and involved at least six focus groups, a needs-based question-

naire, and participatory events designed to understand young people's safety concerns, the obstacles to their sense of security, and their relationship with public space. The second phase was a safety awareness communication campaign on the topic of money mules – a form of financial fraud particularly affecting young people – implemented by NGO U-Plus and chosen by the youth participants themselves. The campaign included social media content, short-form videos including a first-person testimony from an individual who had been caught up in a money mule scheme, outdoor exposure materials, and a simulated scam webpage designed as an educational tool to test and raise awareness of online vulnerability. A public event bringing together youth and the state police promotion service was planned for early June. What worked well was the quality and openness of the NGO partnerships, and notably the genuine involvement of young people in shaping the content of the campaign – the fact that the topic itself was selected by the youth rather than imposed from above was considered a meaningful indicator of authentic participation. The main limitation identified was a sequencing issue: having the research phase and the awareness campaign run in parallel, rather than in succession, meant that data from the focus groups and questionnaire could not fully inform the design of the campaign materials. The testing action will feed directly into the investment plan's work on Investment 2 (Youth Safety Council) and Investment 3 (Youth Centres), providing empirically grounded evidence of youth safety needs and establishing NGO-led participatory models as a validated approach for ongoing engagement.

1.5 MANRESA

The Testing Action in Manresa was structured around two pilots corresponding to the public space and digital dimensions of the city's investment architecture. The public space pilot was a low-cost tactical urbanism intervention at the Arc d'en Botí, a medieval stone arch in the degraded historic centre, comprising professional cleaning, painting, LED lighting integration, and concealment of redundant wiring – a clean-and-bright approach co-designed with

residents and local police at the fourth ULG session. A baseline survey of 105 residents conducted prior to works found that 79% linked insecurity to dirt and graffiti and that 53% avoided the street altogether; execution of works began in May 2026. The digital pilot was the beta release of WardUs, a mobile application developed with a local technology company that allows citizens to report incidents, issue community alerts, and connect directly with local police, including through live audio and video streaming. The app was found to be technically robust, and a benchmarking exercise confirmed its superiority over an alternative platform in terms of verification, alert mechanisms, and multimedia evidence capture; over 7,000 users had registered at the time of the workshop, and more than 200 incident reports had been submitted. The main challenge in the public space dimension was administrative lag: the gap between participatory co-design in January and the start of execution in May was considered excessive, and the budget ceiling of €5,000 was found to be insufficient for standard urban works, pointing to the need for a joint procurement strategy and upscaled funding in the investment plan. On the digital side, the principal difficulty was a political one: the local government decided to halt active promotion of the app on the grounds that publicising a security tool risked re-triggering public anxiety about safety, creating what participants described as a "security calm paradox." The response identified was to reframe the app's positioning away from a security-reporting tool and towards a collaborative civic platform – emphasising co-responsibility and quality-of-life improvements rather than incident response – and to pursue a decentralised, stakeholder-led dissemination strategy rather than an official municipal campaign. Both testing actions will inform the investment plan through an expanded budget for public space interventions, a joint contractual approach, a more realistic administrative timeline, and the integration of app-generated data as a tool for evidence-based prioritisation of future interventions.

2. Activities at Transnational Level

The sixth and seventh quarters of the CITISENSE network’s journey – spanning December 2025 to May 2026 – brought together an exceptionally dense programme of transnational activities, combining three major in-person events with two online Exchange and Learning Activities.

2.1 FOURTH TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN NAPLES AND STUDY VISIT TO ROME

Partners gathered in Naples at the Real Albergo dei Poveri – an 18th-century institution undergoing its own long-term regeneration, and an eloquent backdrop for a network working at the intersection of heritage, public space, and social inclusion – for two full days of activities combining thematic and operational work, before travelling to Rome for a cross-programme encounter with the EUI Innovative Action We-Z.



figure 1: CITISENSE Partners in Naples

> Night-time economy workshop

The first day opened with a thematic workshop on the night-time economy, facilitated by Ad-Hoc Expert Simone D'Antonio. The session built a shared understanding of the night as a strategic policy dimension for urban security and sustainable development – one that extends well beyond traditional nightlife sectors to encompass mobility, logistics, environmental care, and social infrastructure. Drawing on a wide range of European and international examples, including the Cities After Dark URBACT

network, EU-funded projects such as ToNite (Turin) and ENLIGHTENme, and innovative governance models ranging from night mayors in Amsterdam, Mannheim, and Kraków to dedicated municipal offices in New York, Paris, and Vilnius, D'Antonio traced the diversity of approaches cities have developed to manage the complexity of their nocturnal economies. The specific relevance of the night-time economy for urban safety was underlined throughout: the presence of people in public space after dark, improved lighting and mobility, accessible services,

and a diversified and inclusive nocturnal offer all contribute materially to reducing fear and improving the lived experience of the city at night. The introductory presentation was followed by a participatory group exercise in which each partner city applied a Theory of Change framework to its own night-time context, identifying the current situation, desired future outcomes, key actions and stakeholders, and enabling conditions and potential barriers. This exercise served both as a diagnostic tool and as a first step towards integrating night-time considerations into local strategies and investment plans.

➤ Public event: "Life at Night: Urban Night-Time Ecosystems, Economy, Safety and Liveability"

The afternoon of the first day was given over to a public event co-facilitated by Pietro L. Verga and Simone D'Antonio, attended by members of Naples' URBACT Local Group alongside a broader local audience. The session brought the concept of the night-time economy into the city's public policy debate for the first time in a structured form, positioning Naples' experience within a wider European context. The first block, moderated by the Lead Expert, opened with contributions from Naples' political representatives on local challenges and ongoing initiatives, followed by D'Antonio's keynote on European trends and governance models, and a short presentation of the CITISENSE network and the BeSecure–FeelSecure model as a point of reference. The second block, moderated by D'Antonio, took the form of a round table with local stakeholders active in Naples' night sector – cultural operators, venue managers, community representatives, and public authorities – exploring how the city currently manages its night-time challenges, what is already working, and how safety, noise, and coexistence concerns can be balanced with the need to support creativity, economic vitality, and cultural production after dark. Following the social dinner, partners took part in an evening walking tour starting from Porta Capuana and moving through a sequence of contrasting urban contexts – from the outer edges of the ancient city walls through the decumani, the historic street grid of Greek origin – offering an immersive, first-hand experience of Naples' spatial and social dynamics after dark.



figure 2: Life at Night: Urban Night-Time Ecosystems, Economy, Safety and Liveability Panel Discussion. Source: Municipality of Piraeus



figure 3: Life at Night: Urban Night-Time Ecosystems, Economy, Safety and Liveability Panel Discussion. Source: Municipality of Piraeus

➤ Field visit and stakeholder meeting

The second day began with an extensive morning field visit through a sequence of projects illustrating Naples' approach to urban regeneration, social inclusion, and community-based safety. The tour took in the Bella Piazza project and its social concierge service, with meetings involving the Dedalus and Casba social cooperatives and the Senegalesi Napoli Association; the Ex Lanificio urban regeneration project at Porta Capuana and the Officina Keller collective; Spazio Obù, a cultural and community centre managed by Fondazione Terzoluogo offering multimedia, early childhood, and creative services; the historic O'Buvero market in the Sant'Antonio Abate district; and the Centro Nanà intercultural centre, which supports the inclusion and autonomy of unaccompanied foreign minors and young adults through linguistic and cultural mediation. The itinerary concluded at Piazza Carlo III and the Real Albergo dei Poveri. The visit grounded subsequent discussions in the concrete spatial and social realities of the city, and provided direct points of reference for the afternoon's workshop.

➤ Investment and Continuity Plan workshop

The afternoon workshop, facilitated by the Lead Expert, was structured as a peer learning exercise on monitoring and evaluation – a critical competence as cities move from testing actions towards the finalisation of their Investment Plans. A methodological input opened the session, distinguishing cumulative approaches to monitoring – continuous, adaptive, and oriented towards learning during implementation –

from summative approaches, which assess overall impact and demonstrate accountability at the end of a phase or project. A further clarification addressed the distinction between output indicators, which measure the concrete, tangible end-products of activities, and result indicators, which capture the change those activities produce. An interactive quiz, using examples drawn directly from partners' own plans, generated lively discussion and sharpened collective understanding of where the boundary between the two lies in practice. The group exercise that followed organised participants into three thematic groups – digital, governance, and social/spatial – each assigned a strategic objective drawn from the Investment Plans and a set of actions contributed by the partner cities. City representatives briefly introduced their actions, after which each group selected two or three to analyse in depth, working through the expected outputs of each action and then the results the combined strategy was intended to generate: what change was being sought, how it could be realistically measured, and what success would look like in practice. Group presentations and peer feedback in plenary concluded the session.

➤ Study visit to EUI Innovative Action We-Z, Rome

On 29 January, partners travelled to Rome for a study visit to the EUI Innovative Action We-Z, hosted at the Casali di Faonte in the Vigne Nuove neighbourhood. Following mutual presentations of CITISENSE and We-Z, a guided walking tour brought participants into the target neighbourhood, exploring its main insecurity hotspots and the interplay between physical conditions, social dynamics, and governance arrangements on the ground. The afternoon was structured as a world café with local stakeholders across three tables, each addressing a distinct dimension of We-Z's work: physical and spatial transformations in public space, participatory governance and co-creation strategies, and co-design and co-implementation processes with the community. Three rounds of twenty-five minutes per table enabled a rich and sustained exchange between CITISENSE partners and We-Z stakeholders. The visit created a productive dialogue between two networks addressing overlapping challenges through complementary approaches, and reinforced the value of cross-programme learning within the broader EUI and URBACT ecosystem.



figure 4: Field Visit in Vigne Nuove. Source: Municipality of Piraeus



figure 5: Group Photo with CITISENSE and We-Z Partners. Source: We-Z Press Office

2.2 URBACT ITN "PREPARE FOR RE-USE" MEETING, PARIS

On 3–5 February 2026, representatives of the CITISENSE network – including the Lead Expert, the Lead Partner, and project partners – participated in the URBACT ITN "Prepare for Re-Use" meeting in Paris. The three-day event brought together all Innovation Transfer Networks in the 2024 cohort and was structured to support networks in the transition towards the final Re-Use stage of the URBACT journey. The first day combined dedicated sessions for Lead Partners and Lead Experts – covering reporting requirements, reprogramming, project closure procedures, and communication obligations – with a plenary on the preparation of final outputs. The second day, open to all partners, combined a mid-term reflection on progress across the ITN cohort with a cross-network peer review of Investment and Continuity Plans and a workshop on funding readiness, examining how networks can assess and strengthen the financial credibility of their proposals before the end of the programme. The third day was devoted to a storytelling workshop facilitated by Sandra Rainero, which guided networks in identifying the meaningful moments embedded in their investment plans and testing actions and in translating them into narratives and formats that are accessible and reusable by a range of audiences – from funders and policymakers to citizens and community stakeholders. For CITISENSE, the Paris meeting provided both a broader perspective on the shared challenges facing networks in the Re-Use stage and a set of concrete tools and orientations to carry into the final months of the network's work.





figure 6: CITISENSE at work in Paris



figure 7: CITISENSE Delegation in Paris

2.3 FIFTH TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN COPENHAGEN

From 15 to 16 April 2026, partners gathered in Copenhagen for the Fifth Transnational Meeting, structured around two complementary days: a study visit and stakeholder exchange at Freetown Christiania on the first day, and a full day dedicated to the peer review of Investment and Continuity Plans on the second.

› Study visit and exchange: Freetown Christiania and Copenhagen urban security strategies

The first day was hosted at Christiania Operaen, within the boundaries of Freetown Christiania – one of Europe's most long-running and complex experiments in self-governance, communal living, and the negotiation of public space. The morning programme opened with an introduction by Risenga Manghezi of the Freetown Christiania Foundation, followed by a presentation by Ole Lykke tracing the history of the community from its founding in 1971 to the present. The centrepiece of the morning was a detailed session on the transformation of Pusher Street: the history of open drug markets in the area, the goals and tensions that shaped the decision to intervene, the strategy and engagement processes adopted, and the effects and impact observed over time. This was followed by a session on Copenhagen's urban security strategies, delivered by Line Buch Jensen of Sikker By – the city's dedicated safety programme – and Michael Krogslund of Copenhagen Police, covering approaches to gang-related activity, strategic partnership agreements across agencies, and nightlife security management. Both sessions included time for questions and discussion, and the exchange generated a rich set of comparative insights directly relevant to the challenges partner cities are navigating in their own contexts. The afternoon was devoted to a guided tour of Freetown Christiania led by Hulda Mader, offering a direct encounter with the community's spaces, its ongoing internal governance arrangements, and the tensions and achievements that continue to define it.



figure 8: CITISENSE Delegation with Local Stakeholders in Freetown Christiania

➤ Investment Plans peer review

The second day, held at BaneGaarden, was dedicated in its entirety to the peer review of Investment and Continuity Plans – the most operationally significant transnational exchange of the network's journey. Following an introduction to the peer review methodology by the Lead Expert, the day was structured around two sessions, each covering a subset of cities under review and following the same three-part format: an opening plenary of partners' pitches, two parallel table sessions, and a closing plenary for reporting mutual learning results.

In the first session, Geel, Liepāja, and Naples each delivered a ten-minute pitch presenting their plan: the challenge addressed, the BSFS elements and transfer modules in focus, and the planned activities, work plan, and timeline. Peer participants completed a traffic light scoring grid and noted, on a post-it, one element they found inspiring and one bottleneck they anticipated the city would face. In the second session, Manresa and Piraeus followed the same format.

The parallel table sessions were the operational core of the day. In the first round, each city under review posed three open questions on its work plan to the peers seated at its table. The discussion was structured to move from diagnosis to recommendation, closing with the identification of the three most relevant policy or operational suggestions. In the second round, the focus shifted to financial strategy: each city presented its main funding challenges, and peers worked collectively to explore potential funding sources and strategic approaches, again closing with a selection of the most actionable recommendations.

The questions cities brought to the peer review reflected the genuine strategic dilemmas of the final phase of the network. Piraeus asked how to sustain citizen engagement in digital tools over time, how to calibrate the balance between hard spatial investments and soft social and governance measures, and how to institutionalise governance structures such as the Local Council for Crime Preven-

tion beyond project cycles. Liepāja raised questions about balancing youth autonomy with supervision and risk management within youth centres and the Youth Safety Council, about developing perception-of-safety measurement methodologies that are both meaningful and comparable over time, and about ensuring diverse and equitable youth representation without over-relying on already active groups. Geel focused on how to manage the tension between social prevention and citizen demand for stricter enforcement, how to rebuild trust and motivate reporting, and how to generate visible results quickly enough to avoid stakeholder fatigue. Naples posed questions about the long-term operational sustainability of public space co-management models, the governance tools available to improve coordination across siloed municipal departments, and how to communicate honestly when objective crime reporting data improves while subjective safety perception also improves – navigating what the city described as the risk of being accused of masking reality with aesthetics. Manresa raised the strategic dilemma between concentrating the tactical urbanism budget on a small number of high-impact semi-permanent interventions versus distributing it across multiple small-scale pop-up actions, asked how to prevent departments from retreating into administrative silos around the data lake governance structure, and explored how to frame the transition from a thematic project to a structural municipal policy embedded in the city's permanent administrative machinery.



On the financing side, cities surfaced equally concrete challenges: Piraeus addressed the difficulty of engaging the private sector in a domain not naturally amenable to commercial partnership, and the structural tension between capital expenditure and operational expenditure in multi-source funding strategies. Liepāja highlighted the difficulty of matching each investment component to funding sources with compatible eligibility rules, and the risk that delays in securing external funding could disrupt the sequencing between investments. Geel examined the mismatch between the long-term time horizon of its integrated approach and the predominantly short-term or project-based nature of available funding streams. Naples identified the contractual complexity of structuring long-term public-private partnerships for public space management as a core barrier, and raised the potential, and limitations, of citizen-facing mechanisms such as crowdfunding. Manresa addressed the difficulty of securing long-term funding for non-physical operational costs – data scientists, community mediators, coordination staff – which are structurally harder to frame as investments rather than recurrent expenses in municipal budget negotiations, and posed the broader question of how to quantify the avoided costs of insecurity in a way that makes the preventive model financially legible to finance departments.

The closing plenaries of each session brought the recommendations back into a shared space, with each city under review presenting the outcomes of its table discussions. The peer review generated a dense and practically grounded body of mutual learning, and reinforced the value of the network as a space of genuine peer exchange among practitioners navigating structurally similar challenges in markedly different local contexts.



figures 9, 10, and 11: Peer-Review Session in Copenhagen

2.4 ONLINE EXCHANGE AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The period also featured two online Exchange and Learning Activities, which deepened the network's thematic understanding of areas directly relevant to partners' Investment Plans.

The first, held on 18 December 2025, was a webinar facilitated by Ad-Hoc Expert Maite Arrondo on the daily needs of the unhoused and their intersection with urban safety. Structured as a ninety-minute session, it built a shared conceptual language around homelessness using the ETHOS typology – covering rooflessness and rough sleeping, emergency and temporary accommodation, hostels and transitional housing, and discharge into homelessness from institutions – before examining the realities of daily life without housing and the ways in which public space, safety governance, and social services intersect for this population. The session then turned to rights-based and cost-effective approaches to addressing homelessness, with reference to the Homeless Bill of Rights and cost-effectiveness impact analysis as frameworks for making the case for preventive, person-centred investment to local decision-makers.

The second, held on 8 April 2026, was a workshop on social inclusion for urban security facilitated by Ad-Hoc Expert Simone D'Antonio. Building on themes first introduced at the Naples transnational meeting, the session examined the active engagement of residents as both a methodological challenge and a prerequisite for effective, legitimate, and durable urban safety policies. D'Antonio opened by situating the discussion in the available European evidence: 70% of residents report safety concerns

not captured in official crime statistics, 50% of women and girls limit their mobility due to perceived insecurity, and one in three urban residents feel disconnected from local safety governance – figures that underline the structural gap between institutional policy and the lived experience of communities. The session explored the multiple dimensions that shape safety perception – personal experience, the physical environment, social cohesion, identity, and media narratives – before turning to the barriers that typically hinder meaningful participation: lack of trust in institutions, time and resource constraints, language and digital exclusion, and physical access. A substantial part of the discussion was devoted to tailored engagement approaches for groups that are hardest to reach, including young people, ethnic minorities and migrant communities, elderly residents, people with disabilities, women, and those experiencing housing insecurity. Community safety walks, participatory mapping, citizens' assemblies, and digital reporting tools were examined as practical methods, with attention to their respective strengths, limitations, and conditions of use in different local contexts. The session was structured as an open and discursive exchange given the small group size, which enabled a more focused and direct conversation than a standard breakout format would have allowed.

Together, the two online workshops strengthened partners' capacity to design more inclusive and evidence-based Investment Plans, and reinforced the network's commitment to addressing urban security as a matter of social justice as much as public order.

3. Next Steps

The eighth and final quarter of the CITISENSE network's journey – running from June to August 2026 – will mark the culmination of two years of transnational exchange, local experimentation, and strategic planning. The period is structured around three closely related priorities: the finalisation of Investment and Continuity Plans, the Sixth Online Network Meeting, and the network's Final Event in Geel.

At local level, partner cities will devote the coming months to completing and consolidating their Investment and Continuity Plans, drawing on the recommendations received during the Copenhagen peer review, the financing strategy discussions held at the Sixth Online Network Meeting, and the cumulative learning generated across the network's full journey.

At transnational level, the Sixth Online Network Meeting, scheduled for 8 June 2026, will focus on the financing strategies underpinning the Investment and Continuity Plans. Each partner will present their financing approach and key open questions in a short pitch, followed by a collective roundtable discussion aimed at strengthening the financial credibility and realism of each plan before submission.

The network will then gather in Geel on 30 June and 1 July 2026 for the CITISENSE Final Event – a two-day programme combining a public event open to a broader audience with a closed network meeting dedicated to reflection and forward planning. The first day, will open with a presentation of CITISENSE's work and outcomes in Geel, followed by a field visit to the city's target areas and the interventions implemented during the project. The afternoon will feature high-level panel discussions with elected representatives from the partner cities, and an EU-Level Policymakers, situating the network's work within the broader European urban policy landscape. The second day will shift to a more intimate network format, opening with a visit to Geel's Security House and control room before moving to OPZ – the city's renowned public psychiatric hospital, a landmark institution whose century-long model of community-based care for people with mental health conditions has made Geel internationally recognised as a paradigm of inclusive urban governance. The morning will close with a roundtable on network results and final reflections, followed in the afternoon by a workshop on potential synergies and future avenues of collaboration beyond the life of the project.

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