



MEASURING SAFETY IN PUBLIC SPACES AND URBAN LIFE

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INTRO

Who are we?

Emilia Hallin (architect, Sweco)

Shimeng Zhou (geographer, Sweco)

Petra Bäckman (ethnologist, Sweco)

The theme of this workshop

How can we measure safety *as a perceived and subjective experience?*

INTRO

Agenda

Introduction & inspiration - The Case of Helsingborg

Workshop





Our assignment

CASE STUDY: HELSINGBORG

Our evaluation assignment for The City of Helsingborg

Sweco was assigned by the City
Planning Department in Helsingborg
to:

... analyse and evaluate the results of
their public safety design measures
(based on the Action Plan for Safety
in Public Places) so far

... **suggest a methodological**
approach for future analysis and
evaluation



In English: Action Plan for Safety in Public Places 2018-2023

Our method



METHOD

Action Plan

Seven aspects that affect perceptions and experiences of safety in urban environments:

- Cared-for environments
- Populated places
- “Overviewability” – the ability to gain an overview of a place
- Lighting
- Security measures
- Sense of community
- Identity

METHOD

Questions

Are the public safety design measures put in place in line with the Action Plan for Safety in Public Places?

What kinds of organizational conditions (e.g. resources, political mandate) have been available?

Did the public safety design measures lead to an increase in perceived safety?

METHOD

Combined qualitative methods

- Walkshops with a citizen group and a stakeholder group
- Interviews
- Observations

Highlighting the importance of democratizing knowledge and expertise in urban planning processes





Key findings

Drömmarnas
promenad

KEY FINDINGS

Working on both physical and social environments = success!

Doing so improves *conditions* for increased safety in the long term

Drumstamps



KEY FINDINGS

Some organizational ingredients are necessary

- Political will, leadership and mandate
- Resources
- Dedicated, proactive and sustained work

... which still requires collaboration across the City and with other actors and stakeholders.



KEY FINDINGS

Why should we measure safety in the first place?

- To learn and improve current working methods and strategies
- To communicate actions and results to citizens
- To communicate actions and results to political leadership

Diagrams



KEY FINDINGS

The limits of the physical and the built environment

- What can and should we expect from a City Planning Department?
- Public spaces and urban life are complex!

Public safety design has the potential to provide the necessary physical conditions for long-term safety – but it may not be able to create overall safety on its own.



The way forward

YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL ♡
DON'T FORGET THAT YOU ARE UNIQUE!!!

HAPPINESS IS YOUR DECISION

THE WAY FORWARD

Mixing methods: seeing the trees as well as the forest

Combining quantitative *and* qualitative approaches when analysing perceptions of safety

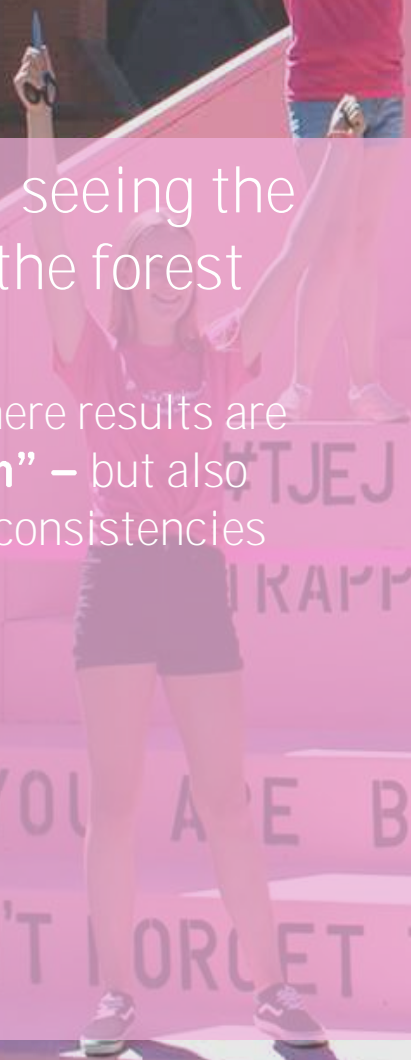
- Maps, statistics, aerial photos, people flow measurements, etc.
- Walkshops, in-depth interviews, participatory observation, focus groups, etc.




THE WAY FORWARD

Mixing methods: seeing the trees as well as the forest


Analysing not only where results are consistent **and "match"** – but also silences, gaps, and inconsistencies



A photograph of a tunnel entrance. The tunnel walls are decorated with colorful murals in shades of blue, light blue, and white. The murals include abstract shapes, a large blue wave-like form on the right, and repeating geometric patterns. Above the entrance, a yellow circular sign with a black triangle is mounted. A white rectangular sign with the text "Hälsovägen" is positioned above the tunnel opening. The tunnel floor is dark asphalt with a white line and a tactile paving strip. A semi-transparent teal box with the word "Workshop" is overlaid in the center.

Hälsovägen

Workshop




Hälsovägen

DISCUSSION

HOW CAN/SHOULD WE CAPTURE AND MEASURE SAFETY?

- Have you tried other methods and approaches?
- What were the advantages and challenges of these methods and approaches?

A photograph of a pedestrian tunnel entrance. The tunnel is decorated with vibrant, abstract murals in shades of blue, teal, and white. A yellow circular sign with a black triangle is mounted above the entrance. A white sign with the text "Hälsovägen" is positioned above the tunnel opening. The ground in front of the tunnel has a white line and a tactile paving strip.

Hälsovägen

IS IT POSSIBLE TO MEASURE SAFETY?

IS IT NECESSARY TO MEASURE SAFETY?

A group of people is walking through a modern architectural space. The ceiling is made of corrugated metal, and the walls are a mix of brick and reflective panels. The scene is brightly lit, and the people are dressed in casual, contemporary clothing. A pink rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing three email addresses.

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emilia.hallin@sweco.se

SWECO

