



# Safer cities for women

Metropolis Women's networks Anne CLAES Johannesburg 2013



# **1.** The Brussels Capital Region: brief overview

- > Population in 2012: 1.138.854 inhabitants (10% of the Belgian population)
- Surface area: 161,36 km<sup>2</sup>
- Evolution of the Brussels population



2002 >< 2012 : +16,4% (+160.470 inhabitants) >< +7% for Belgium as a whole (+726.223 inhabitants)



## 2. Crime rate in the BCR (1)

Breakdown of the crime rate – Brussels Capital Region - 2011 Total: 193.818 offences





# 2. Crime rate in the BCR (2)

A few emerging phenomena we have noticed the past years:

- > The insecurity in public transport
- Purse jackings
- > Necklace snatchings
- Internet-related swindling activities
- > Computer fraud connected with bank card theft



# 2. Crime rate in the BCR (3)

Number of murders and violent deaths registered in the BCR			
1999-2002	2003-2006	2007-2009	
100	151	144	

Number of murders and violent deaths registered per 1,000 inhabitants

1999-2002	2003-2006	2007-2009
0.10	0.15	0.14



## 3. Prevention and proximity plan 2011-2014

- > Preventive approach of the insecurity problems
- > 4 priorities:
  - **1.** Ensuring a visible and reassuring presence in public spaces;
  - 2. Fighting premature school drop-out;
  - 3. Fighting anti-social behaviour;
  - 4. Conflict mediation

#### > Main resources:

- **1.** Peacekeepers
- 2. School mediators
- 3. Municipal administrative sanctions
- 4. Street educators
- 5. Mediator



### 4. Brussels Security and Prevention Observatory

- In 2012, an observatory was created to collect data and carry out studies on prevention and security in the Brussels Capital Region.
- > A few of its missions:
  - monitoring and evaluating the regional prevention policy,
  - evaluating the security policy, based on depersonalised data,
  - formulating advice and recommendations,
  - conducting surveys and undertaking thematic studies,
  - elaborating a regional prospective action programme,
  - writing an annual report to the government.



## 5. Asbl Garance: safety audits (1)

**19 safety audits with women in various districts:** 

Safety audit = instrument for a gender analysis of the public space

>At the core of this approach: the intersection between gender, public space and subjective feelings of insecurity

➢Goal: making women's ideas and desires visible and systemising them, so as to make the city accessible and pleasant for everyone



# 5. Asbl Garance: safety audits (2)

**Results:** 

1) General recommandations:

knowing where you are and where you are going, questions about transparency and visibility, street lighting, hearing and being heard, getting help, presence, cleanliness, feeling you belong

- 2) Recommandations per district type: residential, administrative, commercial
- 3) Recommandations on green spaces and mobility



## Thank you for your attention

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