



# Estonian Neighborhood Watch (ENHW) Association

2019

# Introduction of the Estonian Neighborhood Watch (ENHW) Association



- Supporting theories
- Neighborhood Watch in Estonia

# THEORY



# The nature of neighborhood

The neighborhood is interpreted as an area with psychological boundaries and where people feel comfortable\*. In other words, it is a small and intimate geographical area where face-to-face meetings are held between people, sharing a common public space, and sharing concerns about security in the area. This interpretation of the neighborhood definition will be opened through four approaches as follows \*\*

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\* Milgram, 1977

\*\* Nolan, Conti & McDevitt, 2004, pp. 103-104

# The interpretation of neighborhood:

- "Neighborhood is an area where everyone knows everybody." It is an area where neighbors live close together and know each other face-to-face;
- The 'Protected Neighborhood' is a smaller entity where the neighborhood has its own identity and where residents expect a relatively high level of security on the streets;
- The 'Limited Liability Neighborhood' is an area that has defined itself as an external, either commercial or municipal boundary (ie with institutionalized social characteristics);
- An "extended neighborhood" may consist of the entire city.

# Supporting theories

- The theory of risk society
- Institutional Theory, Criminological everyday life theory, or Activity routine theory
- Broken window theory
- CPTED \* Theory

\* CPTED - kriminaalpreventsiooni läbi keskkonna kujundamise (*Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*)

# The theory of a risk society

The founder of the theory of a risk society were well-known German sociologist Ulrich Beck and British sociologist Anthony Giddens, in which they claimed that the traditional classical structure of modern society is blurred. The risks posed by globalization, such as radioactivity, pollution and unemployment, include people in all classes. Beck pointed out that the risks are socially constructed, among which certain risks, such as terrorism, are perceived as being more dangerous than others because it is more visible in the mass media. (Beck, 1992)

# Institutional Theory

According to institutional theory, those institutions that shape people's attitudes, values, thinking and behavior routines are not visible to the eye. Institutional theory examines why and how, and where they materialize in symbolic systems (such as formulated values, concepts, laws, development plans), relationship dependency systems (authorities, organizational culture, etc.), behavioral routines (occupational roles, work procedures, protocols, habits) and artefacts (conceptual visual objects and shapes). (Scott, 2001)



# Routine activity theory

Criminological Argi-Life Theory, or routine activity theory, focuses on the circumstances of the crime, ie the crime event. As a result of the theory, the theory of action routine can be formulated as follows: generally, the commission of a criminal offense requires the temporal and spatial coincidence of at least three conditions or three elements: first, the existence of a **motivated offender**, secondly a **suitable target** that may exist in the form of an object or person and, third, the **absence of eyewitnesses**. (Felson & Cohen, 1979)

# Broken window theory<sup>(I-II)</sup>

One of the most common principles of crime prevention is criminologists James Q. Wilson and George Kelling's 'broken window' principle, which dates back to 1982. According to the theory - if the house windows are broken and the environment is left unreported, it shows neglect and perception that the legal order is not valid in this environment. This leads to a bigger disorder in society as a whole, which in turn creates ground for serious crimes. According to Professor Kees Keizer of the University of Groningen and colleagues, different studies have shown that Graffiti and rude environments are conducive to crime.

To prove the broken window theory, Professor Keizer, together with Siegward Lindenberg and Linda Steg, organized a vital experiment consisting of six situations. Scientists found the experiment that left a 5-euro banknote envelope visible in a street mailbox. In a clean environment, 13% of the bystanders stole the envelope. The percentage of theft in the middle of the box and the mailbox with graffiti doubled (27%). When the garbage was harvested, but the graffiti remained, the thieves were 25%. Professor Keizer said: "I am surprised that just the waste in environment increases the number of thefts twice." (A. Coghlan, 2008)

# Broken window theory<sup>(II-III)</sup>

The idea behind the so-called "broken window theory" principle is that early attention and intervention to minor offenses stops leading to more serious crimes. It is surely possible to prevent similar cases by early notice and intervention. (O. Staniglavov, p. 9-10)

# The idea of the Neighborhood Watch program

To provide an organized network for involving residents in local crime prevention activities, where the main activity is to increase the share of population monitoring their neighborhood. The idea of action is to induce people to gain knowledge-based social control in the environment in which they live (Garofalo & McLeod, 1989)



# Neighborhood Watch is targeted

Neighborhood Watch is recommended as a meaningful and attractive solution for areas where residents want to reduce crime with community support in their neighborhood. It is a prevention strategy that is conceptualized as a collective defense activity in the public interest, and by its very nature does not focus on the protection of the individual household, but is primarily aimed at increasing the security of the local community.

# Role of the umbrella organization

As a rule, the umbrella organization has a leading role:

- disclosure of topics related to neighborhood watch
- persuading residents to join the neighborhood watch
- to share with residents a working model of how residents should act in a structured way (Garofalo & McLeod, 1989)

# After creating an area

After setting up a neighborhood watch area, the umbrella organization will provide necessary advice and training, and will strive to preserve the activity and interest of the people to act consistently towards secure environment.

(Garofalo & McLeod, 1989)

# A structured program

In some countries, the neighborhood watch is an officially certified sponsored non-profit organization that regularly evaluates the involvement of residents to behave according to agreed criteria for detecting crime - that is to say, the overall neighborhood as a whole is not just a population-based area, but rather predetermined rules, a specific program with activities and a clear structure in which residents can participate actively or contribute passively

(Garofalo & McLeod, 1989)



# Neighbourhood Watch in Estonia

# STAK \* 4 central themes

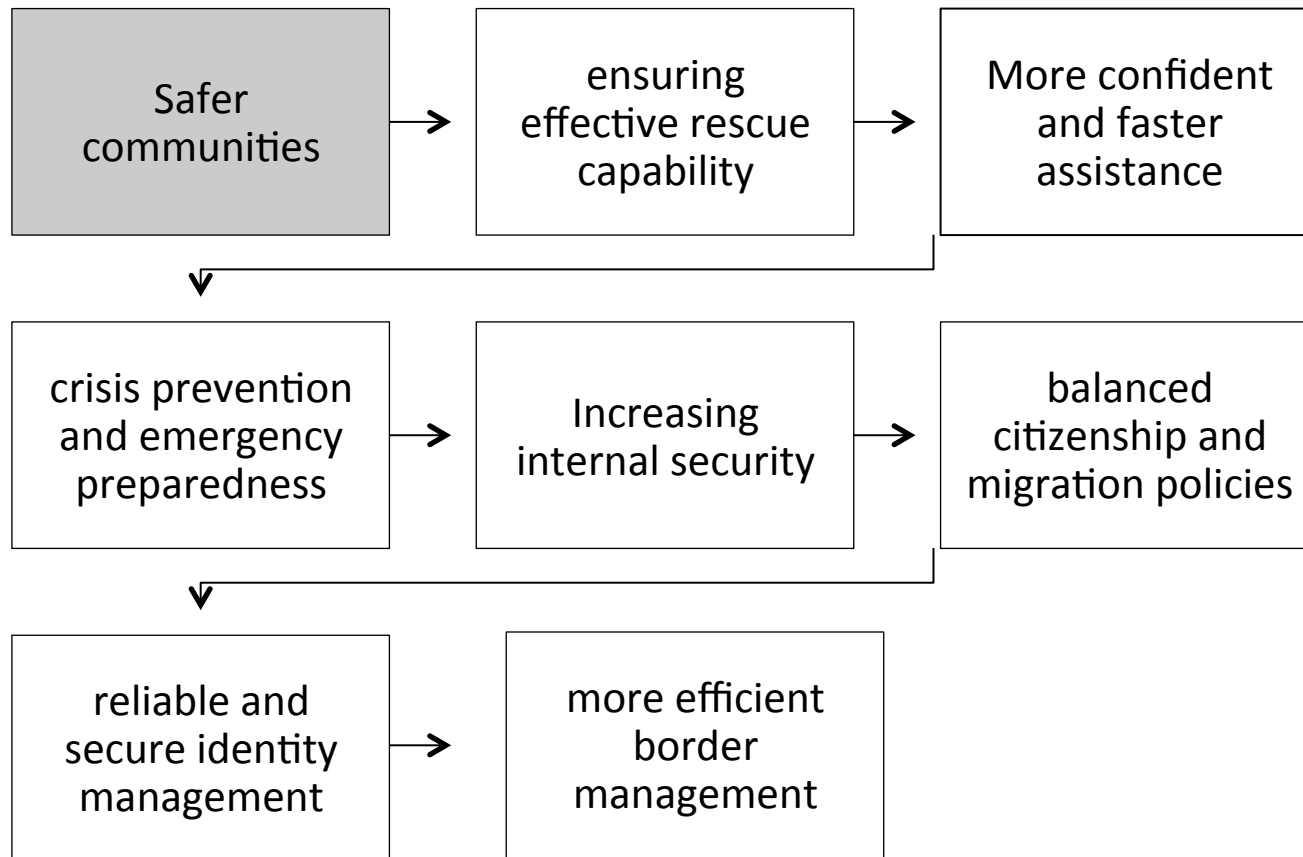
- Security is complete
- Security begins from us
- It is most sensible to prevent accidents
- It is important to know the causes of problems in a knowledge-based way and to solve them in cooperation

\* STAK – siseturvalisuse arengukava

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# 8 programs for implementing STAK

(Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2016)



# Neighbourhood Watch in Estonia

- The Estonian Neighborhood Watch began from the desire of the residents to contribute to their security.
- The goal of the Neighborhood Watch is to support the development of safer communities in Estonia.
- The idea came about on May 5, 2000, when NGO Neighbourhood Watch started its activities.



# The association has been created to:

- to help residents start their neighborhood with their neighbors, perhaps to create a social control model in the neighborhood;
- to support different security enhancing activities;
- to be a partner for police, local authorities and other organizations; inform and train residents in the field of security; to promote civil society.

# The Neighborhood Watch is

A joint action between you and your neighbors to make your home a safer place. The joint action will involve neighbors, the police, the local government and the neighborhood association.

# Why join the neighborhood watch?

- Neighboring Cooperation is the cornerstone of security in the region.

## With Neighborhood Watch:

- it's easier for you to get to know your neighbors, so it's easier to notice the suspicious activity of strangers
- Neighborhood Watch posters and stickers distinguish your area and make your activities visible to others

# Working principle of neighborhood watch<sub>(I-II)</sub>



- To establish a neighborhood watch area, a cooperation agreement will be concluded between the neighborhood watch area, the police, the local government and the NGO Estonian Neighborhood Watch.
- The agreement defines joint operations. You can get neighbors' contact information to quickly contact if necessary.

# Working principle of neighborhood watch<sub>(II-II)</sub>

- In addition, the co-operation agreement specifies a contact person for the police, local government and NGO Estonian Neighborhood Watch.
- When you join a neighborhood watch, you do not have to change your daily rhythm, it is important to be attentive and to intervene as much as possible.
- Good ideas are easier to implement together!



# How to join<sup>(I-V)</sup>

- A prerequisite for starting a neighborhood watch is your interest in improving home security.
- Share your thoughts with your neighbors or contact a neighborhood association to talk to your neighbors.

# How to join<sup>(II-V)</sup>

- The neighborhood watch movement can be introduced, for example, on the summer, at the general meeting of the association, in a newsletter placed in the mailbox, or when the neighbors call their yard. There are several ways we can help you choose the most suitable for your area.

# How to join<sup>(III-V)</sup>

- If you want to join a neighborhood watch, choose a leader in your future neighborhood area.
- The elder/leader of the region represents the members of the neighborhood watch with his/her partners.

# How to join<sup>(IV-V)</sup>

- Fill out a list of people who want to join the neighborhood watch movement and submit a list to the Neighborhood Watch.
- The neighborhood watch area begins with the conclusion of a cooperation agreement prepared by the association.

# How to join<sub>(V-V)</sub>

- Members of the new area will receive contact information from all neighbors and partners in the Important Numbers page, and information material to help improve security.
- You can use the required number of posters and stickers to mark the neighborhood watch area.



# Neighborhood Watch Poster and Sticker



**NAABRIVALVE**  
**PIIRKOND**

[www.naabrivalve.ee](http://www.naabrivalve.ee)

**6 522 522**



# What does it cost?

- Private person joining 1 € / household
  - Annual payment 1 € / household
- Legal person (apartment association) joining 10 €
  - Annual fee 10 €
- Trainings/roundtables are free



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**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR  
ATTENTION!**