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Sustainable Accessible Future Environments

T 5.6

Surveying experiences
of stakeholders during the project



SAFE

SUSTAINABLE, ACCESSIBLE FUTURE ENVIRONMENTS

The course is a collaboration between five European Universities

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SURVEYING EXPERIENCES OF STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE PROJECT

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SUMMARY REPORT

As part of Work Package 5, which explores the potential transferability of the impactful training materials developed by the SAFE project, stakeholders from the five European partner cities – Vantaa (Finland), Kranj (Slovenia), Bydgoszcz (Poland), Granada (Spain) and Kiel (Germany) – presented case studies highlighting their everyday experiences in various urban areas. Surveying the experiences of stakeholders through case studies allows for an in-depth understanding of the practical impacts and challenges faced within different contexts. The case studies, which were based on interviews conducted during the Intensive Study Programmes (ISPs) between 2023 and 2024, focused on migrant women, elderly people, people with disabilities, individuals on the autism spectrum and families with children. A total of 35 interviews were conducted, offering valuable insights into the real-life challenges these individuals face in their urban environments. Several guiding questions were developed to structure the interviews, offering optional guidance for participants who required it.

- How do you feel about safety in your area?
- Are there strategies or tools that help make the environment more accessible for you?
- What are some “dangers” on the streets for those with walking disabilities or in wheelchairs?

- What are your thoughts on the current parking and pedestrian infrastructure?
- What makes the area special to you?
- How do you interact with neighbours from different cultural backgrounds?
- What changes do you hope to see in the coming years?

The interviews reveal a serious need for urban spaces that are more accessible, safer and more community-oriented. Common challenges identified by the stakeholders include insufficient lighting, inadequate infrastructure, inaccessible transport systems and a lack of safe recreational areas. The case studies emphasise the importance of social and physical environments in fostering a sense of belonging and security and highlight the need for urban spaces to evolve into more inclusive environments that reflect the diversity of their populations. The sharing of personal life experiences in these interviews enables urban planners and policymakers to design urban spaces that are more inclusive, effectively serving the needs of all citizens.

Keywords:

Accessibility, urban planning, inclusivity, stakeholder insights, diversity, life experiences



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