



**Municipality of Horsens
International Safe Community & WHO Healthy City**

Horsens Safe Community - Annual Report 2009

Background

The Municipality of Horsens was nominated as a member of WHO Safe Communities Network in 2003.

Since then, the cross-sectorial Steering Committee has been in charge of coordinating and developing the Safe Community-work and effort, going on in all departments within the Municipality, and at the same time cooperating with the local communities of the Municipality of Horsens.

Horsens Safe Community works thus at the strategic level and at network-level. The following examples are meant to demonstrate this.

Horsens Safe Community involves the citizens

Activities, efforts and processes related to, coordinated with and supported by citizens is a main condition for maintaining and developing A Safe Community: Promotion of volunteer associations' work and cooperation leads to a general strength of local networks, which are important elements in a secure and safe community.

Through the creation of networks and the ongoing dialogue with volunteer organizations and committees, advise and help is given in relation to safety and security – concerning big events, first aid-courses, safety of elderly people in the city, in the villages, at the countryside etc.

Ways of involvement:



Cooperation with the community:

- Advising volunteer groups in general
- Advising regarding the Horsens Kommune-pool, consisting of 1.6 million Danish kroner (ap. 200.000 Euros), to voluntary groups/activities/projects
- Key holder of the dialogue- and cooperation network The Community Forum, consisting of volunteer committees / citizens groups as members – arranging courses, seminars, common public work, development of politics, volunteer exhibitions e.g.
- The Community Forum includes put. 150 associations and projects.



Dr. Bo Henricson, Senior Adviser WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion and Mayor of Horsens, Mr. Jan Trøjborg during the 20. anniversary of Horsens Healthy City, 2008.



Continuously support of networks, e.g.:

- Network for ethnical minorities
- The Village Council
- The Elderly Council
- The Council of Disabled
- The Council of Early Retired and Retires
- The Sonderbro Group

Self-Help Groups for all citizens

Within a broad spectrum of themes, depending on the needs of the citizens, self-help groups are established continuously. The groups are led by volunteer initiators, who are trained and receive supervision.

- Grown-ups with ADHD
- Youngsters with Aspergers Syndrome
- Relatives to persons, having committed suicide
- Lonely youngsters
- Stress
- Benzo – how to get free of addiction to drugs, including tranquilizers
- New network for mentally ill persons
- Widowers
- Network for mothers to soldiers at war
- Network for people, suffering from whip lash
- Network for lonely younger people

Project leadership / member of working groups /cooperation projects:

- The Safe Community Steering Committee
- SSP – the cooperation between School, Social Department and the Police on safety promotion, injury and crime prevention
- Senior Games
- Games for Disabled
- Health Cafés in Villages
- Health Cafés for ethnic minorities



Municipality planning

- Traffic plan/ Policy on safety school roads/ Policy on bicycling
- Healthy Urban Planning/Health Impact Assessment
- Health Policy

Municipality Planning

Overall Traffic Security Plan

The overall Traffic Security Plan for the Municipality of Horsens was adopted 2009 by The City Council. The overall vision for the work within the traffic security area is:

No one should be killed or damaged severely in traffic accidents on the roads in the Municipality of Horsens.

All citizens should be able to go about – safe and sound – on roads and paths in the Municipality of Horsens.

In real life, this is hard to achieve this vision – but it gives the signal that we do not accept that people are killed or damaged severely in traffic accidents.

This also indicates that we will focus on reducing the number of severe damaged persons – and not the number of accidents as such.

The Traffic Security Plan focus areas are:

- Speed
- Alcohol
- Lack of security belts
- Accidents with light road users
- Accidents with young road users (15-24 years old)
- Black spots
- Security and Safety in general

Examples of areas within Safety for Children:

- Safe School Roads
- Safe Net of Paths

Examples of projects securing safety for children:

- Coherent bicycle routes to schools
- Securing areas of conflicts at school roads



- Regulating the traffic areas at schools
- Bicycle parking at schools
- Bicycle routes to and bicycle parking at leisure activities
- Bicycle competitions for children

All pupils have had the possibility to contribute by drawing routes, point at dangerous spots, informing about transport etc.

Safe routes for each school are accessible at the homepages.

Safety and Security – involving the citizens

The Municipality not only focuses at the spots at which there have been accidents. The areas/spots where citizens feel insecure will have a high priority in the years to come. A school route-research and continuous information from citizens are tools in this process. Initiatives to secure safety at the roads and paths are taken on this background as well as initiatives to reduce speed.



Campaigns

The Municipality of Horsens participates in national and regional campaigns concerning:

- Speed
- Alcohol – including medicine and drugs
- Security belts
- Starting at school
- Cyclists (use of cycle lamps, reflexes and cycle helmets)
- Young road users

Barometer of Traffic Security

A barometer of traffic security shows continuously the development of accidents and secures the citizens easy access to follow this.

Positive Stories of Traffic Security

There will be a continuously focus on communicating good stories to the public, promoting traffic security on the public agenda - thus demonstrating that it is important and fruitful to invest in this area.

Arrangements supporting Traffic Security

In the years to come, a list of arrangements will take place, e.g.: arrangements with traffic informers at youth education institutions focus meetings in cooperation with the driving instructors in the municipality, the hospital, the police etc.

Traffic Informers – Prevention of Accidents

Traffic informers are persons, suffering from a visible injury after a severe accident. The informers give lectures for youngsters – about the consequences of the accident – how it happened, the life as a handicapped person etc.

The goals of the traffic security plan cannot be fulfilled by the municipality alone. It is necessary that several players contribute to the work in cooperation with the municipality.

The Local Committee on Traffic Security

A part of the work within this area will be continued in the local committee of traffic security The Department of Children & Youth, the primary schools contact teachers for traffic, The Safe Community Group, the driving instructors, The Police Department, The Hospital and The Department of Traffic & Road.

Healthy Urban Planning and Health Impact Assessment

After conducting a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on a local area plan, the municipality group lead focus on the impact



environmental and architectural priorities can have on safety and injuries locally. New recommendations were made on the background of the HIA. The focus was led to areas such as the green environment – recreation areas, facilities for unorganized sports and leisure, the traffic and road system, the safety of children and the safety of disabled and elderly people.



New Town-Centre Plan

An architect competition has been ended in December 2009. The competition programme asked for an ambitious answer of the possibilities of developing an attractive town plan. The winning team said in their speech, thanking for the prize: “one of the parameters was safety....very uncommon, very difficult to fulfil – and very important!”

Health Vision and Health Policy 2010

Vision steering committee consisting of representatives from the police department, insurance-companies, hospitals, local business and municipality will during 2010 work on a new Health Vision for Horsens. The National Institute of Public Health and the Region of Midtjylland will support the process, and safety promotion and injury prevention will be a vital part of the new Health Policy.



Rock around Horsens – focus on big scale events and safety promotion/injury prevention

The last 15 years, Horsens Municipality has developed into a vibrant cultural city, arranging big scale rock-concerts with as many as 85.000 guests to one concert. International stars such as Rolling Stones, Madonna, Sir Paul McCartney and U2 have been/will visit Horsens City, Every year, the city arranges on of the largest medieval festivals in Northern Europe, and the Europeade has been arranged twice in Horsens. All this big-scale events demand close focus on injury prevention, and the municipality staff and voluntary groups works hard on safety administration.



Events & Festivals

The Municipality has every year many events and arrangements with many foreign guests. At these events, public schools are opened to guests for staying overnight. In 2009, the rules for staying overnight were sharpened. Fire and Rescue – a municipal area of resort – has worked out the new rules:

There must be two escape routes in two opposite directions
Rooms without doors must be having escape openings – two meters above level, overnights at ground floor only. All rooms must have fire alarms. An overview has been made of all schools, fit for guests, regarding safety

European Medieval Festival

The City of Horsens is every year transformed to a medieval centre/city, in which knights, beggars, merchants, whores, pilgrims and travelling performers dominate the streets. There are more than 100 stalls and workshops, 5 stages and 1 large arena-area. This historical, picturesque festival withdraws 100.000 guests every year – from Denmark and abroad. The focus on security and safety has



been sharpened. This is of utter importance, when thousands of people at all ages gather round the stalls and activities. Especially, when the only light comes from fires, oil lamps, candles etc. In cooperation with Fire and Rescue Department and The Police Department, a major synopsis has been worked out; regarding security and safety, e.g. escape routes, electric light to be switched on in case of accidents, loud speakers, alarms, warnings.

Forum Horsens Stadium

At the culture- and leisure centre Forum Horsens there is a stadium, capable of receiving 10.000 people, when football matches are played.

At certain occasions, Stadium has been the frame of concerts with 30.000 guests (the old stadium with the possibility of 85.000 concert-guests). Building this stadium, opened in 2009, a lot of money and resources has been spent on security and safety, during the building process and during the establishment of Forum.

