



Report on DESURBS Deliverable 6.1: Project website, user database and glossary

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1. Introduction

This document is a report on Deliverable 6.1 of the FP7 Security Program research project 'Designing Safer Urban Spaces' (DESURBS, Grant Agreement no. 261652). The report is chronologically the first deliverable of work package 6 of the DESURBS project. The purpose of the report on Deliverable 6.1 is to describe progress in the creation of the DESURBS website and a DESURBS presence on other relevant social media channels, as well as in the establishment of a user database and glossary of terms.

2. Website and DESURBS presence in other social media

The upgraded DESURBS website (at www.desurbs.eu) has been operational since mid April 2012 and is updated periodically by the Birmingham team. The original website (at www.desurbs.net) is still present on the internet because social media link to some content there that does not appear on the newer site. The website is meant to be a current repository for project news and documents that are for a public (external to the project) audience, and includes a blog. Early on in the project we established a password-protected space on box.net that functions as a repository for internal project documents and is accessible only to members of the consortium.



Figure 2.1a – Original home page of DESURBS website at www.desurbs.net

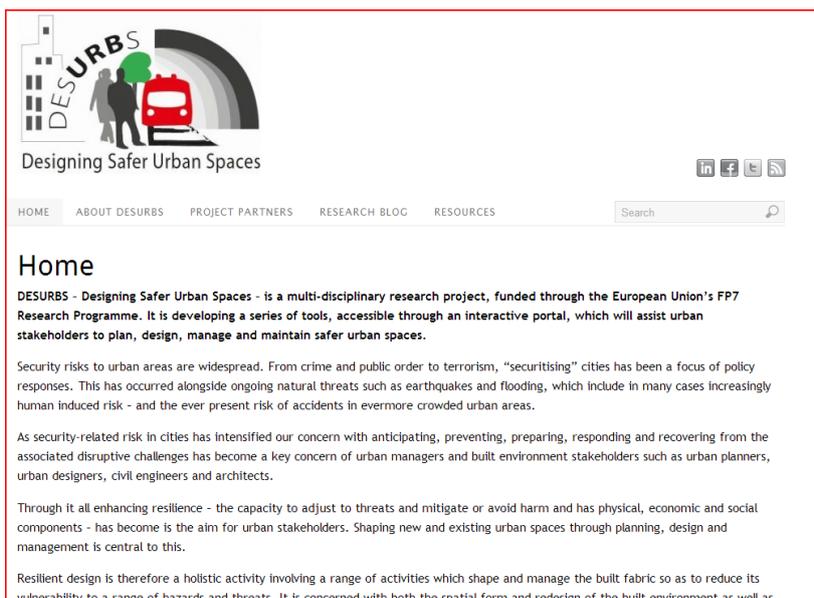


Figure 2.1b – Upgraded DESURBS website at www.desurbs.eu

Additionally, DESURBS has a twitter feed at @DESURBS to inform about breaking events of interest to DESURBS end users. As of December 2013, we have 40 followers on Twitter.



Figure 2.2 – DESURBS Twitter page

DESURBS also has a Facebook page 'Designing Safer Urban Spaces' (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Designing-Safer-Urban-Spaces/154624664594318>) as well as a linkedin group (http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Designing-Safer-Urban-Spaces-3826157?trk=myg_ugrp_ovr) with the same name. As of December 2013, we have 52 followers on Facebook and 400 members in the Linkedin group.



Figure 2.3 – Designing Safer Urban Spaces Facebook community page.

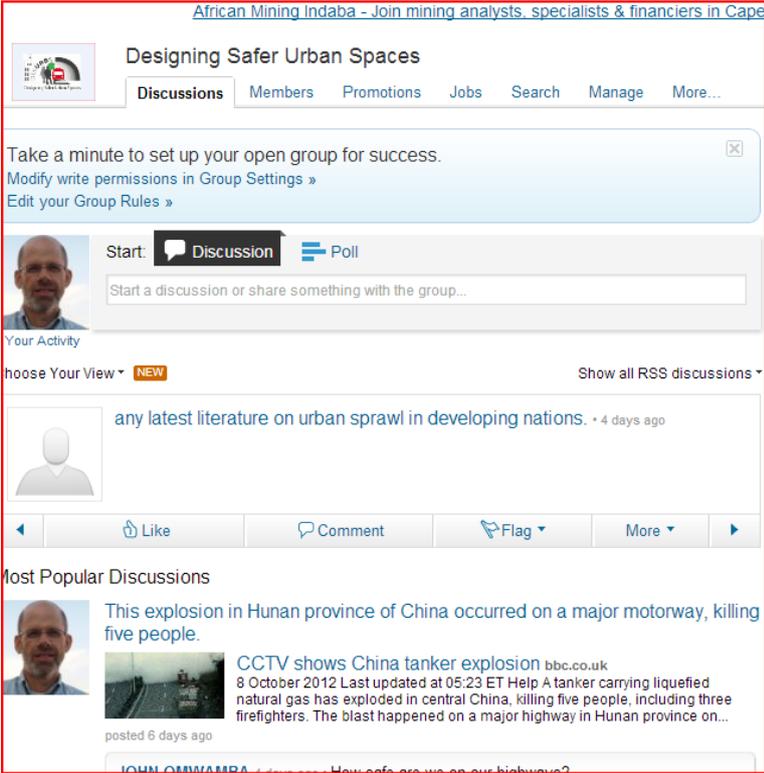


Figure 2.4 – Designing Safer Urban Spaces LinkedIn group, with 400 followers in December 2013.

Additionally, Bezalel Academy (partner 8) created a blog called Bezalel desurbs (<http://bezalel.ning.com/>) that was initially very active with postings and was a good source of information (in both English and Hebrew) for DESURBS-relevant news and updates in the first year of the project. The Bezalel desurbs network currently has 27 members.

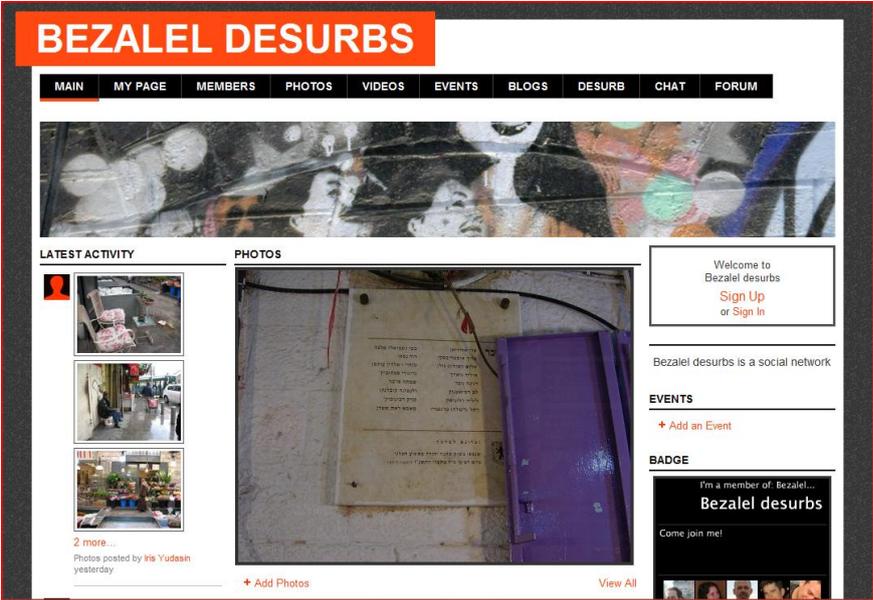


Figure 2.5 Bezalel desurbs blog

3. User database and glossary

At the time the DESURBS proposal was initially written (fall of 2009), we did not foresee the rapid rise of internet social networks as a means of disseminating project information and results. In the past two years, this phenomenon has exploded and we have actively promoted the DESURBS project on Facebook, Twitter and especially LinkedIn where we have more than 400 followers. Discussions are started regularly and content is updated at least once or twice a week. This we have found is an organic way to grow support for the DESURBS project. People that want to do so join the groups and they leave the groups if they are not interested or find them to be intrusive. The concept of a user database as a resource for connecting with professionals about the project, on the other hand, is considered to be less and less viable as an alternative, as people are protective about having their names and e-mail addresses included on dissemination lists. Individual partners, however, do have good contacts with their own local networks, but in general there is a hesitancy to use internet mailing lists to spread information about the project.

The initial project glossary was included as a page on the original DESURBS website (www.desurbs.net). It was focused primarily on specifying important terms in the call text (which was also provided on the initial website) as well as the proposal, so that the scope of the project could be more easily understood. Appendix A lists the DESURBS glossary.

4. Conclusion

In this deliverable we have given an overview of the project website, user database (primarily through social media channels) and glossary of terms. With an upgraded website that includes blog posts, dedicated LinkedIn and Facebook pages, and DESURBS Twitter feed, the project is well-positioned to grow its presence among potential end users to the end of the project period and beyond.

5. Appendix A: Glossary

DESURBS Glossary of terms:

1. **Urban space:** This is broadly defined as any public space where people gather or assemble outside of their own residences. Because of the DESURBS original call text, we have a special focus on public transport terminals, sports venues, and shopping and business centers. We also include schools, museums, city squares, parks and other urban areas or surrounding natural environments that might be affected by a security incident in an urban space or its supporting auxiliary infrastructures.
2. **End user:** In the context of the DESURBS project, an end user is principally a practicing architect, designer, planner or engineer that works with creating or improving old or new urban spaces as defined above, or a person with decision making authority or management responsibility in the process of improving the security resilience and robustness of that urban space.
3. **Security incident:** A terror or crime event, an accident, a natural disaster or catastrophe, or a 'near miss' of one of these.
4. **Natural disaster:** In the DESURBS context, we include floods, earthquakes, landslides and storms, with a particular emphasis on natural disasters that are relevant for Europe.
5. **Supporting auxiliary infrastructures:** The critical services and associated physical structures and objects that are necessary to ensure safe and secure use of an urban space. These may be physically far removed from the urban space in consideration. A dam or levee protecting an urban area from the threat of flood inundation might be one less obvious example.
6. **DESURBS security incidents database:** a continuously updated compilation of security incidents that have occurred in urban spaces in Europe and beyond. These are meant to inform the (re)design of urban spaces in order to make them more robust and resilient to security threats.
7. **DESURBS Decision Support System Portal (DSSP):** A web-portal containing the DESURBS results to provide guidance to end users on the (re)design of urban spaces in old and new cities.
8. **DESURBS integrated security and resilience design assessment framework:** A structured methodology for identifying weak points and improving resilience and robustness of urban spaces with respect to security threats. This is based on engagement of the key public and private stakeholders as well as key informants with respect to a particular city or public space in a city.

9. **Weak points of an urban space:** Places where, if a security incident is realized, damage to an urban space, to people, or to the surrounding natural environment may occur.
10. **More robust and resilient urban space:** An urban space that is less prone to and less affected by security incidents; that is to say, less damage to the space itself, less harm to people in the space and less damage to the surrounding natural environment. A resilient built environment should be designed, located, built, operated and maintained in a way that maximizes the ability of built assets, associated support systems (physical and institutional) and the people that reside or work within the built assets, to withstand, recover from, and mitigate for the impacts of extreme natural and human-induced hazards.
11. **Key stakeholders:** Those responsible for the management of security risks in an urban space.
12. **Key informants:** Those with expert local knowledge about the relevant security risks in an urban space.
13. **Existing security cultures:** Current norms relating to security attitudes or actions in a particular country or culture, especially where these norms might influence the nature or degree of a potential security threat to an urban space. The right (or lack of a right) of ordinary citizens to bear concealed weapons in public is an example of an existing security culture attribute that can impact the nature of security threats to an urban public space.
14. **Urban space design safety scale:** A quantification exercise by which the security resilience and robustness of an urban space design can be assessed as part of an acceptance analysis.
15. **Acceptance analysis:** An assessment process for determining whether a (re)design of an urban space is sufficiently robust and resilient to security threats from extreme natural and human-induced hazards.