

**ANNEX I:
EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET**

PROJECT	
Participant:	101252945 – Uit de Marge vzw - UdM
PIC number:	892268469
Project name and acronym:	CERV-2025-CITIZENS-CIV - COSY

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP10
Event name:	Local community safety signals of outreach youth workers in district Deurne (city of Antwerp)
Type:	Training
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Belgium 1. KRAS Berchem, Patriottenstraat 62, 2600 Berchem 2. JES, De Branderij, Borgerhoutsestraat 34, 2018 Antwerpen 3. KRAS Deurne, Sint-Rochusstraat 48, 2100 Deurne 4. KRAS Deurne, Sint-Rochusstraat 48, 2100 Deurne 5. Betonne Jeugd, Ten Eekhovalei 73, 2100 Deurne 6. JES Deurne, Tweemontstraat 288, 2100 Deurne 7. Betonne Jeugd, Ten Eekhovalei 73, 2100 Deurne
Date(s):	1. 24/06/2026 2. 25/06/2026 3. 30/06/2026 4. 22/07/2026 5. 23/07/2026 6. 28/07/2026 7. 05/08/2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.uitdemarge.be/cosy/
Participants	
Female:	1. 2 2. 2 3. 1 4. 5 5. 1 6. 0 7. 0
Male:	1. 2 2. 3 3. 2 4. 1 5. 1 6. 1

	7. 3
Non-binary:	1. 1 2. 0 3. 0 4. 0 5. 0 6. 0 7. 0
From country 1 [name]:	Belgium
...	
Total number of participants:	25

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

1. Introduction and objective of this report

This report accounts for the implementation of Work Package 10 (WP10) of the COSY project — "Local community safety signals of outreach youth workers in district Deurne (city of Antwerp)" — in fulfilment of specific objective SO1 ("Gaining insight into local community safety signals behind the societal safety symptoms") and, more specifically, operational objective OO1.2 ("Discovering and determining local community safety signals from and with youth workers").

Where WP2 gathered signals directly from young people in Deurne, WP10 turns to the outreach youth workers who support them, in order to capture both (a) the safety signals these professionals observe among the youngsters they work with, and (b) the safety signals and structural challenges youth workers experience in their own role. Seven activities were organized across youth work organizations covering Deurne North and Deurne South — including a specialized organization supporting homeless youth with multiple challenges — to build as complete a picture as possible of the Deurne youth work ecosystem. This report:

- presents the process toolkit that was used, across the whole COSY project, to determine what qualifies as a local community safety signal;
- documents the seven activities organized for WP10 (context, approach, participants), each separately numbered on the same template;
- presents, for each activity, the signals identified — distinguishing signals about youngsters' unsafety (as observed by youth workers) from signals about youth workers' own unsafety and structural working conditions, and, where raised, challenges specific to the Deurne ecosystem;
- provides a consolidated overview of the signals captured across all seven activities, and the local context in which they occur.

This report constitutes the underlying material for WP10 deliverable D9-16.2 ("Method(s) to determine what a local community signal is", shared with WP9-16) and for the WP10 monitoring & evaluation report (D9-16.3).

2. Process toolkit: determining and assessing a local community safety signal

To ensure that all eight COSY ecosystems apply a consistent, transparent and comparable method for identifying local community safety signals — while still allowing tailor-made facilitation per ecosystem and target group — the COSY partnership developed a shared process toolkit. This toolkit was applied by the activity organizer during the preparation, facilitation and post-processing of all seven WP10 activities in Deurne. It consists of four complementary instruments, described below.

2.1 Working definition of a local community safety signal

Per the COSY Facilitator Notes, a local community safety signal is defined as:

"A recurring or emerging condition in a specific neighborhood that affects the safety, well-being or inclusion of young people, and which the local community recognizes as deserving attention or action."

A safety signal can relate to physical safety, psychological safety, social exclusion, unsafe public spaces, societal barriers, or (digital) side-effects of community conflicts. Importantly, signals are not individual

incidents, but patterns or indicators shared across several participants. To structure the exploration of these signals, the toolkit works with a fixed list of 13–14 life domains, including education, police, justice, wellbeing, mobility, social media, gender, leisure, housing, health, information and public space, among others. In WP10, this same domain structure was applied to two connected but distinct sets of signals: those youth workers observe among youngsters, and those youth workers experience themselves.

Four working principles apply throughout: voluntary participation, a safe conversational environment, confidentiality, and the leadership of youth voice — in WP10, interpreted as the leadership of youth workers' professional voice and frontline expertise.

2.2 Decision tree “Is it a local community safety signal?”

Every observation raised by youth workers is tested against a five-step decision tree before it is treated as a validated local community safety signal:

- 1. Has a safety concern been observed by youth or youth workers? (if no → not a signal: unrelated to safety)
- 2. Does it affect more than one young person? (if no → not a signal: not associated with the community)
- 3. Is the issue linked to a specific local environment? (if no → not a signal: not associated with local circumstances)
- 4. Is there a pattern or repeated experience? (if no → not a signal: not structurally embedded in the community)
- 5. Could community actors influence the situation? (if no → not a signal: not generated or moderated by the community)

Only observations that pass all five checks (yes/yes/yes/yes/yes) qualify as a confirmed local community safety signal. The WP10 signals presented per activity below already reflect an initial level of this filtering: within each session, individual post-its and statements were discussed as a group and checked for shared recognition before being written down as a signal.

2.3 Facilitator notes and signal-capturing template

During each activity, the facilitator bundles raw observations per life domain in a structured overview (signal observation → signal exploration on frequency, impact, spread, urgency and change potential → signal validation yes/no), so that no observation is overlooked before validation against the decision tree.

2.4 Safety Signal Assessment Framework

Once an observation has passed the decision tree, it can be scored using the COSY Safety Signal Assessment Framework, which rates each candidate signal on five dimensions (1 = lowest, 5 = highest): Frequency, Impact, Spread, Urgency, and Change potential. The combined score (range 5–25) is interpreted as: 5–10 Observation, 11–17 Emerging Signal, 18–25 Confirmed Safety Signal.

2.5 Signal Prioritization Matrix

Finally, validated and scored signals will be plotted on the Signal Prioritization Matrix, which crosses "impact on youth safety" (low/high) against "ability of the community to act" (low/high), yielding four response strategies: Monitor, Advocacy or policy dialogue, Quick community improvements, and Immediate pilot

action. This matrix will guide the prioritization of WP10 signals for Phase 2 (bonding and bridging with policy-makers and representatives of government institutions) and Phase 3 (co-production) of COSY.

3. Activities organized for WP10 with youth workers connected to Deurne

Seven activities were organized with outreach youth workers connected to the Deurne ecosystem to realize OO1.2, covering organizations active in Deurne North (JES Deurne, KRAS Deurne) and Deurne South (KRAS Berchem), as well as Betonne Jeugd, the only youth center in this sample focused specifically on homeless youth facing multiple challenges. Several activities (WP10.2, WP10.4) ran out of time before completing the planned reflection on youth workers' own safety and are reported below exactly as captured — with only the sections covered. They are reported separately, numbered WP10.1 through WP10.7.

Event	Date	Organization	Format	Participants
WP10.1	24/06/2026	KRAS Berchem	Facilitated group discussion (see/hear/feel prompts), free-form notes	5 (2 M, 2 F, 1 prefer not to say)
WP10.2	25/06/2026	JES Deurne	2-phase workshop: individual reflection (A6) + group discussion; Phase 2 (youth workers' own safety) not reached	5 (3 M, 2 F)
WP10.3	30/06/2026	KRAS Deurne	3-phase workshop: individual reflection → neighborhood-map hotspot exercise → youth workers' own safety	3 (2 M, 1 F)
WP10.4	22/07/2026	KRAS Deurne	3-phase workshop: individual reflection → neighborhood-map hotspot exercise; Phase 3 (youth workers' own safety) not reached	6 (1 M, 5 F)
WP10.5	23/07/2026	Betonne Jeugd	Semi-structured interview (studio tour + open prompts)	2 (1 M, 1 F)

WP10.6	28/07/2026	JES Deurne II	Semi-structured interview (studio tour + open prompts)	1 (1 M)
WP10.7	05/08/2026	Betonne Jeugd II	Semi-structured interview (studio tour + open prompts)	3 (3 M)

WP10.1: KRAS Berchem — youth worker signal-gathering session

Description

After a brief reminder of the COSY project's purpose, the activity was split into two parts, each guided by three open prompts (What do you hear? What do you see? What do you feel?) first on unsafety with youngsters, then on unsafety with youth workers.

At participants' request, the facilitator took notes of everything said, making the session somewhat less structured than initially planned: after the introductory presentation, the slides were used only to show the life domains and, at the end, the QR codes to the evaluation forms.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youngsters (as observed by youth workers)

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
Punitive and exclusionary education system	Education	A child arriving at school without a school bag is simply punished; from the outset the system engages with children through pointing and judgement rather than care. Participants drew a parallel with the police's preference for "silent authority" over dialogue and trusting youngsters' common sense.
Poverty	Housing/ Sport/ Leisure	Some families live on €1,000/month; poverty excludes youngsters from many activities, with sports club membership fees a major hurdle. Poverty is not new, but its effects are amplified by shrinking job opportunities. During summer break, lack of money means less access to activities and more boredom; on hot days, water sources are often further away, pushing some youngsters to sneak into swimming pools (e.g. Ostend, Blaarmeersen), which over time increases stigmatization.
Poverty exacerbates the temptation of the streets	Public space/ Other: social dynamics	Financial need makes youngsters susceptible to schemes like "1-on-1 money" Snapchat accounts promising to multiply money ("give €50, get €500"), and in other cases draws them toward criminal

		activity. Example: a former firework offender now in the Mol youth institution explained to his former youth worker that at 12, starting secondary school, everyone else had food, nice clothes and could go to the snack bar — he could not, so he ran a package for someone to earn money for snacks and clothes for family and friends.	
A saturated (student) job market	Work	Most youngsters want to work to support their family financially and feel capable; flexijobs have made it harder for low-skilled youngsters to find work, as they now compete with cheaper, more qualified profiles — leaving desire to work but no availability, further damaging their outlook on the future.	
Targeted and chased away	Wellbeing / Leisure / Gender / Police / Other: race	In cultural centers and libraries, non-white youngsters face ID checks as an easy way of signaling they are not welcome.	
Stigmatization of the word "youngster"	Other: social dynamics	The word "youngster" has become another word for "immigrant", a reputation carried especially by boys, affecting the youth center and its activities. Example 1: all KRAS youth centers were banned from swimming in Beveren after an incident caused by a different KRAS center. Example 2: a youth worker taking the tram with youngsters on an excursion draws complaints about noise that Scouts groups, despite similar behavior, do not receive.	
Boredom and nothing to do	Leisure	Budget constraints mean KRAS Berchem cannot offer activities to youngsters older than 15, a choice justified by the assumption that this age group generally needs less leisure due to other responsibilities at home.	
Bad maintenance of the football field	Public space/ Leisure/ Sport	The football field in the park near KRAS Berchem is full of holes and poorly maintained, making it effectively unusable.	
Excessive ID checks	Police	Frequent and prolonged enough to become normalized; conflict tends to arise from how youngsters perceive the manner of the police's conduct — feeling denigrated raises tension.	

Police reliance on "silent authority"	Police	Police act quickly without explaining why, relying on intimidating authority rather than dialogue, prompting participants to question whether the police function as an institution of security or of control.
Abandoned by the system	Education	Example: a suspended youngster's parents, unfamiliar with the system, could not find a new school even with CLB or youth-worker support. To avoid being labelled a drop-out (which can also affect parents' child benefits), youngsters must collect three rejection letters from three different schools — described by participants as itself a violent signal that erodes long-term perspective.
Social media as an amplifier	Social media/ Other: social dynamics	The pressure to stand out ("you gotta be rougher") drives youngsters to film themselves, enjoying social media's anonymity; participants stressed social media amplifies existing dynamics rather than starting them (example: New Year's Eve).
The violence of comment sections	Social media	Public accounts attract trolling and hateful comments, often from adults; witnessing this as a youngster normalizes dangerous and anti-social behavior.
The violence and absurdity of the world	Social media/ Wellbeing	Wide access to distressing information — no money for youth work but billions for Ukraine; the situation in Gaza; double standards in media portrayal of non-white versus white youngsters (the former quickly framed as "youngsters" in aggravating language, the latter, e.g. a Brasschaat car-crash case, described with compassion) — confirms to youngsters that they are treated as second-class citizens in an unfair world, feeling "three steps behind" from the start. This can foster a wish to make as much money as possible and "leave this racist country"; in adulthood, coping mechanisms can shift toward joblessness, drugs and depression.
Situation at home	Housing/ Other: social dynamics	Home can itself be a source of unrest: stressful, too hot in summer, too loud, or too small in winter when everyone is inside, pushing youngsters back out into the cold — also a contributing factor around New Year's Eve.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youth workers themselves

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
Unclear and unrealistic expectations	Police/ Social media /Other: social dynamics	External actors do not take youth work's long-term approach seriously; expectations are numerous but uncoordinated and undiscussed with youth workers.
"Caught between two fires"	n/a	Youth workers are expected to simply "solve the problem", especially amid police–youngster tension, with external actors increasingly framing youth work as a "wall" between the two.
Condemned to be an accomplice	n/a	Example: during COVID-19, youth workers were expected to "patrol" and inform youngsters about square-based conflict; refusing risks being seen by police as having a double agenda. During one such patrol, police arrived with batons to disperse youngsters, leading them to conclude "the youth workers are with the police".
Rigid police	n/a	Police are seen as closed to other approaches ("that's for softies"), repressive and procedural, clashing with youth workers' relational approach. Example: police vans arriving at the youth center trigger trauma from prior (direct or indirect) negative experiences with law enforcement. Example: at a police-organized conference, an officer stated, "I can only trust youth workers if they tell me everything."
Rigid youth	n/a	Some youngsters find it hard to see police officers as human beings again, and police likewise do not engage with them; shifting this mentality is especially difficult for 15–16-year-olds shaped by social media algorithms.
Short-term thinking	n/a	Youth work's preventive role — identifying and working on harmful long-term dynamics — is undermined when it is instead perceived mainly as a mediating barrier between police and youngsters.

Pressure to "keep youngsters calm"	n/a	External expectations (police or average citizens) pressure youth workers to pre-emptively keep youngsters calm and adapt to those expectations; failing to do so invites comments such as "educate your children!"
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Photo



WP10.2: JES Deurne — youth worker signal-gathering workshop

Description

The activity was framed as a dialogue on the role of youth workers in creating and preserving community safety for youngsters. No participant expressed concerns about data collection and management.

Phase 1 (youth workers' perspective on community safety): three open prompts were used (What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?), with the 13 life domains shown as inspiration. Participants wrote responses on an A6 sheet within five minutes before group discussion of each answer to gather detail and verify shared recognition.

Phase 2 (youth workers' own safety), identical in structure but centered on youth workers themselves, could not be covered due to a lack of time.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youngsters (as observed by youth workers)

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
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Drug-related criminal activity linked to organized crime	Public space/ Education/ Work/ Other: social dynamics	Very present in Deurne Noord, described as the area with the most drug-related attacks, drug millionaires, and complaints. Youngsters not attending school are particularly vulnerable to recruitment; some are tempted, others coerced through threats and fear of being seen as a "snitch" (shkem).	
Limited prospects linked to education and employment	Education/ Work/ Other: social dynamics	Opportunities exist but are fewer than elsewhere, compounded by discrimination; not all youngsters are prepared for the transition, and participants noted a missing "bridge".	
Unrealistic worldview and expectations toward work	Work/ Other: social dynamics	Many youngsters expect opportunities to come to them and expect to earn a lot quickly ("I want at least €4,000 per month"); the mismatch with reality leaves them labelled (by some) as "lazy donkeys".	
Social media addiction	Social media/ Wellbeing	Constant TikTok use is described as damaging the dopamine system.	
Harmful influencers and unrealistic lifestyles on social media	Social media/ Wellbeing/ Leisure/ Other: social dynamics	Influencers project unattainable lifestyles combined with anti-social behavior (example: Enjoymiljoen), confronting youngsters with what participants called "the absurdity of the system".	
Pressure to perform the "perfection" of social media	Social media/ Wellbeing/ Gender/ Other: social dynamics	Particularly affects girls, damaging self-image and self-worth while pushing unconstructive goals — e.g. cosmetic dental work abroad, Ozempic use, excessive skincare routines, food hype-chasing. To sustain such lifestyles, some girls go on paid dates or sell foot-fetish pictures, an income stream participants compared to the "temptation of the streets".	
Clan formation and groupthink	Wellbeing/ Other: social dynamics	Territorial behavior makes youngsters agitated near an "out-group"; in Deurne Noord, each neighborhood (e.g. Tweemontstraat, Tweezusters, Bisthoven) forms its own "clan", a dynamic that only appears when youngsters are in a group.	
Suspicion toward novelty	Wellbeing/ Other: social dynamics	Introducing youngsters into new experiences requires active effort; youth workers play an important role in "breaking their world open".	

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youth workers themselves

This phase of the activity was not reached due to time constraints; no signals on youth workers' own safety were captured during this specific session.

WP10.3: KRAS Deurne — youth worker signal-gathering workshop

Description

The activity was framed as a dialogue on the role of youth workers in creating and preserving community safety for youngsters. No participant expressed concerns about data collection and management.

Phase 1 (youth workers' perspective on community safety): three open prompts were used (What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?), with the 13 life domains shown as inspiration; participants wrote responses on an A6 sheet before group discussion of each answer.

Phase 2 (mapping the unsafety): using an A2-sized map of Deurne, participants marked "hotspots" of unsafety and described the type of unsafety occurring there for youngsters.

Phase 3 (youth workers' own safety): identical structure to Phase 1, this time focused on youth workers' own sense of safety.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youngsters (as observed by youth workers)

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
Police presence with mixed gendered effect	Police/ Gender	Can create a sense of unrest among boys hanging out, while creating a sense of safety for girls.
Cyberbullying	Social media/ Other: social dynamics	Insults, humiliation via stickers, extreme language; appears to serve as an outlet for frustration among peers, starting as young as 11–12. Examples: "I got a bullet ready for you!", "I'm going to destroy you."
Skincare pressure	Social media/ Gender/ Health	Girls as young as 11 use often useless or even damaging skincare products, a consequence of pressure to perform social media "perfection".
The manosphere	Social media/ Gender	Boys wanting to be an "exaggerated man", following influencers like Andrew Tate, want everything fast — increasing susceptibility to the temptation of the streets.
Steps and fatbikes	Health/ Leisure/	A source of stigma (some youngsters avoid buying one for that reason) and genuine physical risk — 13–14-year-olds riding vehicles up to 50km/h, with many broken bones reported; participants noted this is a

	Other: social dynamics	systemic issue, since critics would likely do the same in that position.
Unhealthy diet	Health/ Social media/ Information	Some children eat a bag of chips for lunch; some parents prioritize low-effort convenience over cooking. Considerable confusion and misinformation about healthy eating, with some focusing on aesthetics over health and conflating opinion with expertise.
Stigma around being overweight	Health/ Social media/ Other: social dynamics	Can lead to cyberbullying, particularly body-shaming; social media's "perfection" pressure and algorithms are seen as reversing a previously more positive trend in classic advertising, worsening eating-disorder risk.
Temptation of the streets	Public space/ Other: social dynamics	Boys seek the fast track, aspiring to a "Tony Montana" lifestyle.
Predatory men in the street	Gender/ Public space	Girls are sometimes followed; example given of a youngster knocking on the youth center door outside opening hours to seek safety from a man following her.
Racist and sexist teachers	Gender/ Education/ Other: race	Confirmed to exist; girls face discrimination and racism occurs, often accompanied by talk of "not getting a second chance".
Scapegoating education and "ruina" kids	Education	Not all setbacks can be blamed solely on school or teachers; some youngsters ("ruina kids") lack attention and face heavy pressure/responsibility at home or are simply seeking identity through group dynamics — meaning racism accusations can sometimes serve as an excuse or tell only part of the story.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youth workers themselves

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
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High expectations but insufficient support from grant providers	Wellbeing	Expectation of 24/7 drop-in availability; realistically, serving 15–20 youngsters safely require at least 3 youth workers around the clock, enforcing rules with confidence — but not enough youth workers are hired, leaving staff overworked and overstimulated ("it's too much").
Aggression from youngsters	Health	Occasionally verbal violence occurs, a "push-punch", or chairs thrown, rarely threats. Over time this affects mental wellbeing; reacting firmly to set a boundary, risks being perceived by youngsters as "unprofessional".
Transgressive behavior between youth workers and volunteers	Gender	Example 1: a volunteer repeatedly and insistently asked a youth worker on a date in a professional context. Example 2: a male volunteer spoke differently to girls than boys, exerting control ("that's haram!", "you aren't dressed properly") — though participants noted this can also become an opening for conversation, which good youth workers use as a reflex.

Challenges for youth workers unique to this part of the Deurne ecosystem

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
Deurne South is relatively calmer	n/a	Compared with Antwerp North or Borgerhout, Deurne South is considered relatively fine; drugs are present but "not in your face".

WP10.4: KRAS Deurne — second youth worker signal-gathering workshop

Description

The activity was framed as a dialogue on the role of youth workers in creating and preserving community safety for youngsters. No participant expressed concerns about data collection and management.

Phase 1 (youth workers' perspective on community safety): three open prompts were used (What do you see? What do you hear? What do you feel?), with the 13 life domains shown as inspiration; participants wrote responses on an A6 sheet before group discussion.

Phase 2 (mapping the unsafety): using an A2-sized map of Deurne, participants marked "hotspots" of unsafety and described the type of unsafety occurring there for youngsters.

Phase 3 (youth workers' own safety), identical in structure but focused on youth workers themselves, could not be covered due to a lack of time.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youngsters (as observed by youth workers)

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
Racism as a pervasive, cross-domain experience	Other: race	Named directly as an overarching signal, illustrated across several life domains below.
"Always illegitimate"	Other: race / Other: social dynamics	Example: a participant, a Taekwondo referee, was accused by a losing competitor's parents of favoritism ("She's a bad Moroccan coach. It's always the Moroccans.").
Racist hairdressers	Other: race / Other: social dynamics	Salons claim to be full or unable to "deal with your hair type", structurally excluding customers; almost none offer curtained/private areas needed by women with alopecia, cancer, other hair-related medical conditions, or wearing a hijab.
Racism within the police	Other: race/ Police	Example: a participant driving behind two trucks that took a wrong turn was the only one stopped, ID-checked and fined €550 (versus a possible €100), while the trucks were not stopped ("it's more difficult with trucks"); a complaint filed had no effect ("the police officers are always right").
Racism while shopping	Leisure/ Other: race	Example: at C&A, a participant leaving empty-handed was stopped by a security guard at the same time as a white customer who had purchased items and was allowed to continue; no apology was given after being searched.
Racism in student jobs	Work/ Other: race	Example: at the Hilton Hotel, "Diamond member" guests expecting a 5-star experience in a 3-star hotel direct disrespectful frustration disproportionately at non-white staff.
An extremely competitive job market	Work	Employers demand experience even for entry-level roles, creating a vicious circle; even offers to work for free for a first week are refused. Experience is seen as valued more highly than a degree today.
Injustice in the justice system	Justice	Whether fact-based or perceived, this fuels a broader sense that "the world is absurd".

Unequal severity of punishment across offence types	Justice	In Deurne, thieves and drug dealers are often referred to appropriate youth organizations and, notably, their names are shared in the media — unlike rapists or child predators, despite the latter posing a comparable neighborhood safety hazard; participants see the system as incomplete.	
Rape culture	Justice/ Gender	Many victims do not feel safe enough to speak out, and when they do, face minimization, disbelief, or victim-blaming ("what was she wearing"); most sexual assault falls outside the justice system's reach, which itself operates within a culture normalizing the objectification of women.	
Power abuse on the streets	Public space/ Other: social dynamics	Both adults over youngsters, and some youngsters over others; those with a reputation for danger or criminality hold informal control over public space as others actively avoid provoking them.	
Power abuse by police	Police	Example: police searched a family home due to a son's criminal record; a sister subsequently lost €5,000 during the search but felt unable to speak up, given it would be "word against word" and "the police are always right".	
Boys claiming public squares	Public space/ Gender	Boys claim football fields as "theirs" even when girls simply want to play; despite Deurne South's squares being close together, boys also claim other hang-out spots (laundrette, bakery front, bus stop), forcing girls to avoid streets to escape demeaning remarks or predatory looks.	
Dysfunctional public transport	Mobility/ Other: race	Overcrowded, dirty, unreliable trams/buses (example: Tram 5 so overcrowded riders can't board, causing lateness penalized at school); a dysfunctional card-scanning control system fines riders even when unable to scan due to overcrowding (unlike the old paper pass); foreign-speaking passengers report being treated worse by ticket inspectors.	
Unpleasant and sometimes racist doctors	Health/ Other: race	Some doctors are dismissive or rushed (example: sloppy blood testing); racist remarks occur ("it's always you Moroccans that come with these problems"); colds are not taken seriously, with	

		assumptions of faking illness to skip work, and distrust delays referral to specialists.	
Pressure to perform social media "perfection"	Social media/ Other: social dynamics	Constant exposure to idealized bodies and appearance creates unrealistic pressure on youngsters.	
Predatory looks from men	Gender	Rented cars driving by to impress girls, or married men doing the same (sometimes visibly with a child's car seat in the back).	
Demeaning remarks from boys to girls	Gender	"Go home! Don't you have a father?", "Wear your hijab!" often from boys who simultaneously preach religious rigor. Most women cope by taking detours; one participant disagreed with this coping strategy, refusing to alter her route for men who "got nothing to do".	
Sober men perceived as more unsafe than drunk men	Gender	Drunk men, while erratic, are seen as easier to push away and eventually leave; sober men making similar remarks or looks are seen as fully, consciously intentional.	
Manosphere content targeting Muslim women	Gender/ Social media/ Other: social dynamics	Podcasts (e.g. "The Dawah Brothers", broader "red pill" content; participants also referenced the series 'Adolescence') discuss Muslim women as objects, judging clothing, hijab style and curfews; boys — especially those with absent or poor father figures — repeat this rhetoric in real life, with podcasters becoming negative role models.	
Overstimulation in crowded areas	Public space/ Wellbeing	Named locations include Action and Primark, alongside crowded public space generally.	
Pressure to perform at school	Education/ Wellbeing/ Other: social dynamics	Heightened by the "threshold decree" introduced by Minister Zuhail Demir, with unrealistic deadlines and support conditional on study choice. Family pressure compounds this, especially in migration-background households ("We sacrificed a lot. If you don't want to study, start working, buy a house. But do something"), creating performance pressure and fear of disappointing.	

Ineffective public support systems	Wellbeing	Long waiting times for social services support, and high costs for therapy.
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Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youth workers themselves

This phase of the activity was not reached due to time constraints; no signals on youth workers' own safety were captured during this specific session.

Photo



WP10.5: Betonne Jeugd — youth worker signal-gathering interview

Description

Betonne Jeugd (BJ) was introduced via the project coordinator, contacted directly by youth center coordinator Zeno Nols to express enthusiasm for COSY. As the only youth center in this sample focused on homeless youth facing multiple challenges, its insights — from both youngsters and youth workers — were considered highly valuable.

The activity was framed as a dialogue on the role of youth workers in creating and preserving community safety for youngsters. The first ten minutes served as a tour of the center and an introduction to the activity's modalities; the participants expressed no concerns about data collection and management.

As there were only two participants, the activity took the form of a semi-structured interview: the planned two-phase structure (youngsters' safety, then youth workers' own safety) served as a loose reference point but was set aside once the conversation moved into unplanned directions.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youngsters (as observed by youth workers)

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
Disengagement from societal challenges	Wellbeing/ Information/ Social media/ Other: social dynamics	Youngsters show little concern for society's broader challenges and do not seek ways to help or contribute. Participants trace a shift to the COVID-19 pandemic, with "deep effects" on the younger generation; the rise of AI is seen as worsening this. Example: an internship applicant's AI-written CV felt flagrant and empty — "the person isn't in it."
A precarious job market	Work/ Other: macrotrends	Flexijobs and student-job models have been made fiscally attractive, while formal solidarity systems (welfare, public healthcare, pensions) face austerity and long-term uncertainty; this changes how youngsters enter work, with less time to bond with a workplace or internalize the value of a working life, as the conditions that once supported this erode.
Education as the first fault line with conventional society	Education/ Leisure/ Information	School norms (sit silently, do homework after school) reflect middle-class assumptions poorly suited to precarious youngsters, whose freedom of movement is already limited at home; being asked to also give up at school is described as a call to abandon a fundamental need, compounded by reduced homework support at home.
A punitive education system	Education	Falling outside school expectations triggers accumulating negative feedback (punishment, CLB referral, closer scrutiny, stricter compliance rules), eroding trust in an institution shaping their future and relationship with society.
Individualisation of poor school performance	Education / Wellbeing / Other: social dynamics	Framing that locates challenges primarily in the individual rather than socio-economic context leads to primary-school children being diagnosed with "burnout" and medicated, adding a further barrier for precarious children while overlooking known structural interventions.
Neighbourhood stigma and stereotyping	Housing/ Public space/ Other: social dynamics	Where you live shapes how you are perceived and how many opportunities and guidance you receive.

Neighborhood-based unequal treatment within education	Education/ Housing	Example: official secondary-school stream guidelines (A-stream above 75% average, B-stream below) are, in practice, also influenced by parents' education level, surname and neighborhood — youngsters from a "bad" environment are more readily sent to the B-stream regardless of grades, on the assumption they will feel "more at home" there, while grades matter less for those from a "good" environment. A participant who grew up in the UK described a comparably discriminatory attitude there, but without it directly determining official results and treatment as it does locally.
Youngsters in public space are disproportionately targeted	Public space/ Other: social dynamics	Minor incidents (e.g. two youngsters smoking a joint on a square) escalate into police involvement, intimidation and fines. Participants link this to structural change: the disappearance of community policing and outreach/street-corner work, and state-enabled societal atomization eroding the informal social control once exercised by parents and grandparents occupying public squares. "If the state feels that the individualistic lifestyle is being sold, the state must also provide and pay for the infrastructure to make that possible."
Help arrives only once it's too late	Housing/ Wellbeing	BJ warned as early as 2017 about a rising number of homeless children, well before today's acute housing shortage ("children in vulnerable situations are the canary in the coal mine"). Example: a 19-year-old (in 2017) with little structure at home ended up in an Antwerp homeless shelter and still struggles today, continuing to visit BJ. The shelter system itself is described as brutal — most residents reportedly psychologically "crack" after 6–12 months, shifting to day-to-day survival strategies including drug use — illustrating both under-investment in youth welfare and the natural limits of what a center like BJ can offer.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youth workers themselves

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
Setting boundaries	Wellbeing	As a small youth center, BJ cannot resolve all the issues youngsters face; while aiming to create

		moments of appeasement and humanity, its work alone is not enough to change their situation. Maintaining clear boundaries and expectations is critical to avoid generating avoidable disappointment and to keep BJ's work sustainable long-term — though holding this line is emotionally heavy when youngsters face very difficult situations.	
Powerlessness	Wellbeing	It is frustrating to see children born already destined for a difficult path; BJ's work is described as "mopping with the tap running", with the gap widening as youngsters remain marginalized and ignored in societal discourse.	

Photo



WP10.6: JES Deurne II — youth worker signal-gathering interview

Description

The activity was framed as a dialogue on the role of youth workers in creating and preserving community safety for youngsters. The first ten minutes served as a tour and introduction to the activity's modalities; the participant expressed no concerns about data collection and management.

As the activity had only one participant, it took the form of a semi-structured interview: the planned two-phase structure served as a loose reference point via the presentation slides but was set aside once the conversation moved into unplanned directions.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youngsters (as observed by youth workers)

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
Dark streets and alleys	Public space/ Gender	Savings on lighting leave some streets/squares dark in the evening, creating insecurity for some young people (girls and younger children in particular), to the point some avoid going outside or take detours around unlit areas — even though measurably more incidents do not actually occur in these designated "dark spots".
Not enough public space	Public space/ Gender	The neighborhood around JES Deurne (Tweemontstraat) has only one square, hidden behind the premises; recent construction of two social housing blocks was not matched by investment in restoring or expanding public space. As a result, youngsters are packed too closely together on the one available square, a competition for space almost always won by boys, leaving little to no room for girls; noise from one activity easily disrupts another nearby. Participants call for a square large enough and designed so boys and girls of every age — and the elderly — can all use it throughout the day.
Dirty and abandoned public space	Public space	Streets are dirty with significant litter, especially amid ongoing Tweemontstraat renovations; the square is poorly maintained, littered, and the adjacent building appears at risk of shedding bricks at any moment.
Transition neighbourhood	Other: social dynamics	Lack of municipal upgrading/investment has made the Tweemont neighborhood a naturally transitional one, with high population turnover making it harder to resolve other safety signals.
Very few activities	Leisure/ Wellbeing	Little to do in the neighborhood — one general grocery store and a few night shops, few meeting places — meaning young people follow only one route through their area; this monotonous, understimulating setting contributes to a sense of hopelessness.
A lingering bad reputation	Wellbeing	Deurne Noord's history of drug-related crime and attacks leads parents to instruct youngsters to avoid

		certain places or stay home more; despite recent calm, history persists in how youngsters are raised and perceive their neighborhood's safety. Reputational repair is slow — any new incident adds another 4–5 years to the recovery.
Being targeted through excessive ID checks	Police	Unannounced identity checks create a sense of being targeted ("Why don't you conduct identity checks like that in Brasschaat?"); from the police's side, the neighborhood's lingering drug-crime reputation drives ongoing "evaluation" and list-compiling of youngsters seen as potential future drug offenders — making youngsters victims of their neighborhood's reputation and a prevention strategy that trivializes their need for a safe living environment. Over time, youngsters avoid places where they are repeatedly checked, losing access to spaces they had appropriated, and the sense of safety once associated with them: "the hardest part is making an unsafe place safe again."

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youth workers themselves

This phase of the activity was not reached due to time constraints; no signals on youth workers' own safety were captured during this specific session.

WP10.7: Betonne Jeugd II — youth worker signal-gathering interview

Description

Betonne Jeugd (BJ), the only youth center in this sample focused specifically on homeless youth facing multiple challenges, was revisited for a second WP10 activity. The activity was framed as a dialogue on the role of youth workers in creating and preserving community safety for youngsters. The first ten minutes served as a center tour and introduction; participants expressed no concerns about data collection and management.

As there were three participants, the activity took the form of a semi-structured interview: the planned two-phase structure served as a loose reference point but was set aside once the conversation moved into unplanned directions. Phase 2 (youth workers' own safety) was not substantively captured in the resulting notes.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youngsters (as observed by youth workers)

Safety signal	Life domain(s)	Context/ illustrative content
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A genuinely multi-problem issue	All (cross-cutting)	Participants stressed problems cannot be viewed in isolation, as one feeds another: "If you do poorly in school, have a difficult home situation, and lack meaningful leisure activities, you are more likely to come into contact with drugs, and thus with the police, and ultimately with the justice system."
Police scepticism (asymmetric responsiveness)	Police	Police investigate readily when neighbors report youth "nuisance", but are perceived as not showing up or taking complaints seriously when young people themselves call for help in unsafe situations — a rejection that, given young people's difficulty calling police in the first place, either breaches trust deeply or confirms an already hostile attitude. Example: a youth beaten badly enough to be hospitalized said police did not respond to his call because they already knew him from previous incidents.
Stereotyping of youngsters by police	Police/ Other: social dynamics	Police judge young people based on past or current offences, whether the incident involved aggression or self-defense; those merely resembling a stigmatized youngster (and who might be confused with them) also suffer from the same negative stereotype — a factor participants linked directly to the police-scepticism signal above.
"Square stereotypes"	Police/ Other: social dynamics	Police associate certain squares with senseless youth violence and judge intervention as unnecessary there; when they do intervene, interactions are cold and alienating (example: a group's recognized leader being ignored).
Bad first experiences, without repair	Police/ Information/ Wellbeing	Youngsters' first disciplinary interactions with police are decisive for their perception of the institution and rarely go well. Example: young Antwerp students (19–21) protesting the Israeli flag at City Hall were, according to participants, dealt with harshly and repressively by police over recent months — for many peacefully protesting for the first time, this was incomprehensible and starkly at odds with their expectations of the police's role.
The violence of youth institutions	Information/ Other: institutions	Many "problematic" youngsters have a history in youth institutions, described as particularly cold and unsafe environments gathering large groups of vulnerable young people; rather than protecting, a

		stay of months or years can further exclude youngsters and entrench behaviors incompatible with mainstream society. Example: a now-22-year-old who called police to confront his father as a young teen was placed in the Don Bosco youth institution, where he was exposed to negative influences; he now regards trusting the promise of institutional protection as a serious, regretted mistake.	
Not being heard by conventional society	Wellbeing	Offences committed by youngsters should first be read as a signal to society that their existence is not fully recognized and that they want their voice heard — echoing Martin Luther King Jr.'s framing that "a riot is the language of the unheard".	
Not enough space to be oneself	Housing/ Public space/ Wellbeing	"Problematic" youths often come from smaller homes with tighter budgets, leaving parents less mental space for their children amid financial stress; restrictive household rules (don't be loud, don't cause trouble) push youngsters to seek space outdoors, where they form their own spaces alongside similarly displaced peers — clashing with a middle-class norm treating public space primarily as a liminal, restrained-behavior zone.	
Unacknowledged historical injustice	Justice/ Other: social dynamics	Experiences of police intimidation or unjustified violence persist in a victim's body and memory and can affect an entire community; as such experiences accumulate, they constitute a historical injustice transcending the individual, and the resulting unrest will not dissipate until addressed institutionally.	
A lack of community	Other: social dynamics	Some of the unsafety felt by both young people and the wider neighborhood stems from limited contact and mutual knowledge between residents, leading people to call the police over neighbor disputes rather than speaking directly; participants note this is also true in Ten Eekhoven neighborhood ("there is little connection here") and that building connection is a slow, non-linear process taking years.	
The danger of community itself	Gender/ Other: social dynamics	While unconditional belonging is a universal need, not all communities are healthy — some are stifling or oppressive. Example 1: girls not fitting expected norms experience their community as a watchful,	

		constricting presence. Example 2: a Syrian girl and Afghan boy, both Muslim, wished to marry, but both sets of parents refused to "preserve their culture" — related to broader cultural fossilization.
Drug and alcohol use	Health/ Wellbeing/ Other: social dynamics	Many youngsters function well until starting to vape or smoke weed with friends; illegally obtained street vapes are described as especially harmful, not meeting legal quality standards, with one participant reporting some containing cocaine.
Exclusion from middle-class neighborhoods	Housing	Non-white and/or working-class families moving into a white middle-class neighborhood find it almost impossible to find genuine belonging, remaining perpetually viewed as "the stranger" — linked to the square-stereotype signal above.
Racist remarks at school	Wellbeing/ Education/ Other: race	Teachers address non-white students differently, with remarks such as "your type needs to come back!"; such remarks breed resentment and are always accompanied by a lack of safety — "if a teacher doesn't want you, you cannot feel safe."
Assumed inability of non-white students	Wellbeing/ Education/ Other: race	Example 1: a Turkish-heritage girl strong in mathematics, demonstrating A-stream capability, was nonetheless referred to the B-stream. Example 2: during a higher-education exam, a lecturer told a non-white student, "I understand that it is harder for you; you probably don't come from a Dutch-speaking family."
Tiredness and fatalism	n/a	When organizations attempt to address a neighborhood problem, many young people respond, "that won't change anything anyway" — a self-protective stance against further disappointment.

Safety signals — unsafety experienced by youth workers themselves

This phase of the activity was not reached due to time constraints; no signals on youth workers' own safety were captured during this specific session.

Photo



4. Consolidated overview of identified signals and context

Together, the seven WP10 activities engaged 25 outreach youth workers (12 male, 12 female, 1 preferring not to say) across youth work organizations covering both Deurne North (JES Deurne, KRAS Deurne) and Deurne South (KRAS Berchem), plus Betonne Jeugd, a specialized center for homeless youth with multiple challenges consulted twice. The tables below consolidate the recurring themes across all seven activities — first for signals about youngsters as observed by youth workers, then for signals about youth workers' own safety and working conditions.

4.1 Recurring signals concerning youngsters' safety, as observed by youth workers

Recurring theme (youngsters, via youth workers)	Raised in	Cross-activity observation
Racism and discrimination across institutions (police, education, healthcare, retail, hairdressers, employment)	WP10.1, WP10.3, WP10.4, WP10.5, WP10.7	The most extensively and consistently documented theme in this dataset, spanning nearly all institutions young people interact with; WP10.4 and WP10.7 in particular provide unusually granular, first-hand examples (fines, shop searches, hairdresser refusals, unequal school streaming) that corroborate each other closely.
Police relationship:	WP10.1, WP10.3, WP10.4, WP10.6, WP10.7	A pervasive signal echoed by youngsters directly in WP2 and

excessive/targeted ID checks, silent or repressive authority, asymmetric responsiveness		independently reinforced from the youth-worker perspective across five of seven WP10 activities — including the specific, repeated observation that police are quick to act on nuisance complaints against youngsters but slow or absent when youngsters themselves call for help (WP10.7).	
Public space contested along gender lines	WP10.1, WP10.3, WP10.4, WP10.6	Boys' informal claiming of squares and hang-out spots consistently pushes girls into detours, avoidance, or exposure to predatory looks/remarks — confirmed independently across four activities and consistent with equivalent signals directly from youngsters (WP1, WP2).	
The manosphere / harmful online role models	WP10.1, WP10.3, WP10.4	A recurring, increasingly specific signal: general "manosphere" pressure (WP10.1) sharpens into named influencers and podcasts (Andrew Tate, "The Dawah Brothers", the "red pill" ecosystem) explicitly targeting Muslim women and shaping boys' real-world speech and behavior (WP10.3, WP10.4).	
Social media "perfection" pressure, especially on girls	WP10.1, WP10.2, WP10.3, WP10.4	Confirmed across four activities with escalating specificity, from general awareness (WP10.1) to concrete, high-risk coping behaviors: cosmetic procedures, Ozempic use, and — most seriously — transactional dating or footfetish content to fund the associated lifestyle (WP10.2).	
"Temptation of the streets" / drug economy	WP10.1, WP10.2, WP10.3, WP10.5	Consistently linked to poverty and blocked legitimate opportunity rather than framed as a simple lifestyle choice, most starkly illustrated by the direct testimony (WP10.1) of a now-institutionalized young person explaining his entry into drug running at age 12.	

Poverty and blocked material opportunity	WP10.1, WP10.4, WP10.5, WP10.7	A structural throughline connecting several other signals: exclusion from leisure/sport (WP10.1), a saturated and discriminatory job market (WP10.1, WP10.4), and material/spatial deprivation shaping both school performance and identity (WP10.5, WP10.7).
Education as a site of exclusion, punishment and unequal treatment	WP10.1, WP10.3, WP10.4, WP10.5, WP10.7	Ranges from punitive, judgement-first school culture (WP10.1) and racist/sexist teachers (WP10.3) to systemic streaming bias tied to neighborhood and surname (WP10.5) and explicit discriminatory remarks from teachers and lecturers (WP10.7).
Deteriorating or insufficient public space (lighting, maintenance, scarcity)	WP10.1, WP10.6	Physical/infrastructural signals — a poorly maintained football pitch (WP10.1) and a single, overcrowded, poorly lit and poorly maintained square serving an entire growing neighborhood (WP10.6) — that plausibly compound the gendered public-space contestation documented above.
Neighborhood reputation as a self-reinforcing driver of policing and stigma	WP10.5, WP10.6, WP10.7	A distinct causal mechanism identified independently across three activities: a neighborhood's past reputation (drug crime, "problematic" youth) drives current police practice (list-compiling, checks) and community stigma, which in turn reinforces the reputation and makes it slow to repair ("4–5 years", WP10.6).

4.2 Recurring signals concerning youth workers' own safety and working conditions

Recurring theme (youth workers' own signals)	Raised in	Cross-activity observation
Being cast as a "wall"/mediator	WP10.1	Youth workers describe being expected to simply "solve the

between police and youngsters, without matching support		problem" during police–youngster tension, undermining their preventive, relational role and, in a documented COVID-era example, actively damaging their trust relationship with youngsters when required to "patrol" on police-adjacent terms.
Structural under-resourcing relative to expectations	WP10.1, WP10.3	A near-identical structural signal in two organizations: unclear, uncoordinated external expectations without matching resources (WP10.1) and an explicit staffing shortfall relative to the safe-capacity needed for 24/7 drop-in provision (WP10.3, "it's too much").
Occupational exposure to aggression and boundary violations	WP10.3	Youth workers report occasional aggression from youngsters (verbal violence, physical incidents, rare threats) and transgressive behavior from volunteers toward staff or toward girls specifically — risks the source material frames as manageable but real occupational hazards.
Emotional toll of structural powerlessness	WP10.5	Distinct from operational/physical risk, this signal concerns the psychological cost of working within a system whose structural drivers (housing shortage, inequality) youth workers cannot resolve at the individual level — captured in the phrase "mopping with the tap running".

4.3 Challenges unique to parts of the Deurne ecosystem

- Deurne South perceived as comparatively calm (KRAS Deurne, WP10.3): considered relatively fine compared with Antwerp North or Borgerhout; drugs are present but not overtly visible ("not in your face") — a useful counterpoint to the more acute signals documented for Deurne North.
- Deurne North's compounding drug-crime reputation (JES Deurne, WP10.6): a documented history of drug-related attacks and "drug millionaires" (also confirmed independently in WP10.2) continues to shape both parental guidance to youngsters and police practice years after the underlying incidents, illustrating a self-reinforcing local dynamic distinct from Deurne South.

4.4 Recurring patterns across the seven activities

- Racism and unequal institutional treatment are the single most pervasive and cross-validated theme in this WP10 dataset, documented with an unusually high density of first-hand, named examples (policing, retail, healthcare, hairdressing, employment, education) across five of seven activities — consistent with, and considerably more granular than, the discrimination signals raised directly by youngsters in WP1 and WP2.
- The police relationship shows a consistent asymmetry across multiple independent activities: proactive and, per youth workers, often heavy-handed enforcement toward youngsters in public space, contrasted with a documented pattern of slow or absent response when young people themselves seek police help — a nuance not previously this explicit in earlier WP1/WP2/WP9 reporting and worth flagging for the Phase 2 dialogue with police actors.
- Gendered public space and online misogyny form a connected cluster: boys' informal territorial claims on physical public space (WP10.1, WP10.3, WP10.4) are echoed and reinforced by explicitly named manosphere content shaping some boys' real-world language and behavior toward girls and women (WP10.3, WP10.4).
- Structural poverty and blocked opportunity underline several seemingly distinct signals — drug-economy recruitment, educational underperformance, and job-market exclusion — with youth workers across multiple organizations independently describing these as interconnected rather than isolated (most explicitly stated in WP10.7: "one feeds the other").

Youth workers' own structural precarity (under-resourcing relative to expectations, being positioned as a buffer between police and youngsters, occupational exposure to aggression) is a smaller but consistent theme, most fully documented in the three activities that did complete a reflection on youth workers' own safety (WP10.1, WP10.3, WP10.5).

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