

**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:	WP6
Event name:	Local community safety signals of young people at risk of being excluded by society/institutionally in Lanaken
Type:	Training
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Belgium - OverKop Lanaken, Jeugdhuis Apollo, Aan de Engelse Hof 10/2, 3620 Lanaken - OverKop Lanaken, Jeugdhuis Apollo, Aan de Engelse Hof 10/2, 3620 Lanaken
Date(s):	05/06/2026 29/07/2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.uitdemarge.be/cosy/
Participants	
Female:	4 9
Male:	7 4
Non-binary:	1 3
From country 1 [name]:	Belgium
...	
Total number of participants:	28

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 6 (WP6) of the COSY project — "Local community safety signals of young people in the municipality of Lanaken at risk of being excluded by society/institutionally" — in fulfilment of specific objective SO1 ("Gaining insight into local community safety signals behind the societal safety symptoms") and, more specifically, operational objective OO1.1 ("Discovering and determining societal local community safety signals from and with youngsters").

In line with COSY's Phase 1 methodology, WP6 uses the co-design principle and the flip-thinking Cypher method to give the primary target group — young people at risk of being excluded by society/institutionally — an equal and safe space to voice what causes them to feel unsafe or unsettled (unrest) in their local community, and where and why this occurs. Two activities were organized in the Lanaken ecosystem to this end. This report:

- presents the process toolkit that was used, across the whole COSY project, to determine what qualifies as a local community safety signal (identical to the toolkit applied from WP1 to WP8, reproduced here for completeness);
- describes the ecosystem context of Lanaken and the shared methodology developed for WP6;
- documents of the two activities organized for WP6 (context, approach, participants);
- presents, for each activity, the signals identified together with their formal assessment against the Safety Signal Assessment Framework and their prioritization on the Signal prioritization Matrix;
- provides a consolidated, cross-activity overview of the signals, their scoring, and the local context in which they occur.

This report constitutes the underlying material for WP6 deliverable D1-8.2 ("Method(s) to determine what a local community signal is", shared with WP1-8) and for the WP6 monitoring & evaluation report (D1-8.3).

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 organizers during the preparation, facilitation and post-processing of both WP6 activities in Lanaken. 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 young people. To structure the exploration of these signals, the toolkit works with a fixed list of 14 life domains, including education, police, justice, wellbeing, mobility, social media, gender, leisure and public space, among others.

Four working principles apply throughout: voluntary participation, a safe conversational environment, confidentiality, and the leadership of youth voice.

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

Every observation raised by youth or 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. In Lanaken, the clustered signals per activity presented in this report already reflect this filtering: they were clustered by the facilitators specifically around recurring themes raised independently by several participants, while single, uncorroborated statements are reported separately as additional observations rather than as confirmed signals (see Sections 7 and 8).

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 is scored using the COSY Safety Signal Assessment Framework, which rates each candidate signal on five dimensions (1 = lowest, 5 = highest):

- Frequency — how often does it occur (from less than once a month to multiple times a day)?
- Impact — how strongly does it affect young people's physical or mental well-being?
- Spread — how many youth groups are affected?
- Urgency — will it worsen without immediate action?
- Change potential — to what extent can local actors influence it?

The combined score (range 5–25) is interpreted as: 5–10 Observation, 11–17 Emerging Signal, 18–25 Confirmed Safety Signal. Unlike the WP1 and WP2 reports — where scoring is foreseen for a later

consolidation moment with the wider project team — the Lanaken activities already applied this scoring at activity level, immediately after each session. The full scoring is presented per signal in sections 6 and 7 below.

2.5 Signal Prioritization Matrix

Finally, scored signals are 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 (low impact / low ability to act), Advocacy or policy dialogue (high impact / low ability to act), Quick community improvements (low impact / high ability to act), and Immediate pilot action (high impact / high ability to act). For WP6, this prioritization was likewise already carried out per signal, and is reported alongside each signal's score below.

2.6 Local extension used in Lanaken: protective factors and further-exploration categories

In Lanaken, the local reporting team extended the standard framework in two ways, to capture the full richness of what young people shared:

- Protective factors: signals that describe a positive resource rather than a risk (e.g. supportive friends, family, or a trusted youth worker) are labelled "Confirmed Safety Signal — Protective Factor" or "Emerging Safety Signal — Protective Factor" and are prioritized as "Preserve & Strengthen" rather than plotted as a risk to be mitigated.
- Further-exploration categories: for signals raised by very few participants but with a plausible high impact (e.g. helpline waiting times, feeling unsafe at home), the prioritization field additionally specifies "Further Exploration" (alone or combined with Advocacy/Policy Dialogue, Community Dialogue, or Quick Community Improvement) to flag that the signal should be re-tested in subsequent activities before being escalated.

These local extensions do not replace the standard four-category Signal Prioritization Matrix; they sit alongside it to ensure protective factors are not lost from the analysis and that low-frequency but high-impact statements are not silently dropped.

3. Ecosystem context: Lanaken

Lanaken is a municipality in the province of Limburg located on the Dutch border, directly adjacent to Maastricht. This border location is relevant to the local ecosystem and to young people's everyday lives, since youngsters do not move exclusively within the municipal boundaries and influences from Maastricht are also present.

On 1 January 2025, Lanaken had approximately 26,500 inhabitants. For COSY reporting purposes, the population is divided into three relevant age categories: 0–17 years, 4,382 inhabitants (16.6%); 18–59 years, 13,481 inhabitants (51.0%); and 60 years and older, 8,594 inhabitants (32.5%). Lanaken therefore has a relatively large older population: roughly one in six residents is under 18, while almost one in three is 60 or older.

3.1 Local governance context

The local authority is led by mayor Marino Keulen. The College of Mayor and Aldermen consists of the mayor and five aldermen. Dominique Terwingen holds the youth portfolio as alderman, alongside Sport, Education and Personnel.

Safety and enforcement occupy a visible place within the local governance context. The municipality also makes extensive use of camera surveillance. This combination of police, enforcement and camera surveillance forms a relevant backdrop for interpreting young people's signals regarding safety, police, oversight and public space, presented later in this report.

3.2 Youth work landscape

Within professional youth work, two important structures are present: OverKop Lanaken, operated by Arktos, and Uit De Marge (UDM).

OverKop Lanaken targets young people aged 12 to 25. Youngsters can drop in without an appointment to meet friends, take part in activities, or simply relax ("chill"). At the same time, the OverKop house functions as a low-threshold place where young people can find a listening ear and support when something is troubling them. The official OverKop structure is a partnership between the local authority, Arktos and CAW Limburg.

Within this local context, three youth workers are attached to the OverKop structure. In addition, one outreach youth worker from Uit De Marge is active; this worker likewise makes use of the OverKop house to reach and support young people. The OverKop house therefore forms an important physical meeting place within the local youth work ecosystem, where young people can both take part in activities and gather informally to relax.

3.3 General observations of the youth group reached

Contacts and activities with young people produced an initial qualitative picture of the group reached through youth work.

The group of young people reached came across as relatively homogeneous: a large share of the youngsters contacted during the activities were Belgian young people without a migration background. This is an observation about the young people reached within the project and should not be interpreted as a statement about the full youth population of Lanaken.

The geographical proximity of Maastricht also appears to play a role in young people's everyday lives and youth culture. During the contacts, an influence from Maastricht was noticeable in the way young people spoke about their leisure time and daily lives. This is likewise recorded as a qualitative project observation rather than a general demographic characteristic.

In informal contacts, relatively frequent reference was made to chilling, going out, drugs and substance use. According to the youth worker involved, substance use, including alcohol use, is also present within the local youth context. These elements are not yet assessed as separate safety signals in this general report; where they emerge from young people's own answers, they are addressed in the individual activity reports below.

3.4 Participation and group dynamics

An important point of attention during implementation was young people's motivation to take part in the signal-capture activities. It proved far from self-evident to convince youngsters to participate. The presence of the youth worker and his existing relationship of trust with the young people were particularly important in this respect; the youth worker actively encouraged participation and formed an important bridge between the young people and the COSY project.

Considerable active encouragement was also needed from the project worker. Young people regularly had to be approached personally and persuaded to take a question card and formulate an answer.

Some young people showed clear resistance to taking part; a number chose not to participate at all. For others, motivation appeared to stem mainly from their relationship with the youth worker: they were willing to give an answer because the youth worker encouraged them to. For part of the group, the attitude could be summarized as: answer a question, write it down, and then continue with whatever they were doing. The need to chill and be informally together appeared, at that moment, more important to them than sustained participation in an organized activity.

3.5 Attention and interaction during signal capture

Holding shared attention also proved difficult. Young people were relatively easily distracted and often wanted to return quickly to their own activities. This resulted in less extensive group conversation around the answers on the question cards; signal capture more often proceeded individually and in brief interactions — a youngster drew a question, gave an answer, wrote it down, and moved on.

This is an important methodological observation: the answers give direct insight into what participating young people named, but there was less opportunity to probe certain answers further or to have them confirmed or expanded on by other young people through group conversation.

3.6 Role of the youth worker and the trust relationship

The activities clearly demonstrate the importance of a trusted youth worker in reaching young people. The youth worker functioned not only as the person bringing young people to the activity, but also as a bridge of trust: his presence lowered the threshold for engaging with a project worker who was new to them.

At the same time, it became clear that a trust relationship with a youth worker does not automatically mean young people are motivated to take part in a formal participation moment. Part of the group primarily wanted to use the meeting place to see friends and relax. This is a relevant finding for further development of the methodology: participation should connect as much as possible with young people's existing dynamic, rather than temporarily interrupting it.

3.7 General evaluation of methodology

As for the two activities, 28 young people were reached in total. Despite variable motivation, the question cards and post-its made it possible to capture a range of signals. The methodology proved particularly useful because young people were not required to engage in a lengthy conversation: even youngsters with little interest in an extensive participation moment could answer one or more concrete questions.

At the same time, the implementation shows that the methodology can be further adapted to local group dynamics. A classic shared set-up, in which young people remain seated around the questions for an extended period, fits less well with this group's need to move around freely, talk to each other and chill. For future signal capture, a more informal and flexible approach therefore seems advisable: brief conversations during existing chill moments, integrating individual questions into ongoing activities, and giving young people multiple opportunities, at different moments, to share something.

4. WP6 methodology: participatory signal capture in Lanaken

For signal capture in Lanaken, thematic question cards organized around different life domains were used. The intention was not to ask young people a broad direct question such as "What are young people's problems?" or "Do you feel safe?", but instead to prompt reflection on concrete aspects of their everyday lives.

The questions covered various life domains, including education; police; justice; wellbeing; mobility; social media; gender; leisure; public space; and relationships with societal institutions.

Young people could draw a question card and note their answer on a post-it. The post-its were then placed on laminated posters for the respective life domains. Unlike in Dilsen-Stokkem (WP5), no map of Lanaken was used; signal capture was built entirely around the question cards, post-its and life domains.

As for the two activities, 28 young people were reached in total. The concrete participant profiles and captured signals are addressed separately in the activity reports below (Sections 6 and 7).

5. Activities organized for WP6 in the ecosystem of Lanaken

Two activities were organized with young people at risk of being excluded by society/institutionally in Lanaken to realise OO1.1. They are reported separately below, numbered WP6.1 and WP6.2.

Event	Date	Location	Format	Participants
WP6.1 — Local youth worker session	05/06/2026	Existing youth work setting, Lanaken (with local outreach youth worker Yassin)	Thematic question cards + post-its/laminated posters per life domain	12 (7 boys, 4 girls, 1 not specified); 1 country
WP6.2 — OverKop barbecue	29/07/2026	OverKop Lanaken barbecue event	Thematic question cards + post-its/posters, integrated into an existing barbecue event (with ice cream as participation incentive)	16 (4 male, 9 female, 1 non-binary, 2 prefer not to say); 1 country

WP6.1: Local youth worker signal-gathering session (outreach youth worker Yassin)

Description

The first signal-capture activity with young people in the Lanaken ecosystem took place on 5 June 2026, in cooperation with the local outreach youth worker (Yassin), who already had an existing relationship of trust with the young people present.

The youth worker's presence played an important role in reaching and motivating participants. While part of the group was willing to take part, motivation was not self-evident for everyone: several young people had to be actively approached and encouraged to participate, and a few showed clear resistance and chose not to take part.

The activity took place within the young people's existing environment, meaning their own group dynamic remained strongly present. For several youngsters, being together with friends and chilling was more important than sustained participation in an organized signal-capture activity.

The same thematic question cards and laminated posters covering different life domains were used as in the general WP6 methodology; no map of Lanaken was used. Young people could draw questions about different aspects of their everyday lives and write their answers on post-its, which were then collected on the posters for the respective life domains.

Holding participants' attention proved relatively difficult during the activity, resulting in fewer extensive group conversations. Interaction mainly took the form of brief, individual answers: a youngster drew a question, wrote down an answer, and often wanted to return to friends or other activities. The youth worker played an important facilitating role here: his presence and encouragement ensured that youngsters who were otherwise less inclined to participate still answered several questions.

This is an important point to bear in mind when interpreting the signals below: they come directly from participating young people but could not always be explored further or discussed collectively due to the more limited group conversation.

Signals identified and assessed — WP6.1

As in the other WP6 activity, individual statements are not automatically treated as separate safety signals; they are clustered when several answers point, in substance, to the same underlying issue. The original statements remain visible under "Illustrative signals" beneath each clustered theme, so that the basis for the analysis stays transparent.

Signal 1 — Young people experience tension and negative experiences in their relationship with police and justice

Life domain(s): Police / Justice

One of the most explicit themes in this activity concerns the relationship between young people and the police. Several young people indicate that they want less police control and feel that young people are stopped or apprehended too readily. The wording varies strongly in intensity, from a request for less control to an explicitly negative attitude toward the police; while no single statement on its own gives enough information to establish which concrete experiences preceded it, taken together the answers point to tension in the relationship between part of this group and the police. Justice was also mentioned, with one participant specifically asking for more polite treatment of people with a foreign background.

Illustrative signals:

- *The police shouldn't be so sour anymore.*
- *Less police control.*
- *Not being stopped so quickly by the police anymore.*
- *Fuck the police.*
- *Justice should be more polite towards foreigners.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
-----------	-------------

Frequency	5
Impact	5
Spread	4
Urgency	4
Change potential	4
Total score	22/25
Classification	Confirmed Safety Signal
Prioritization	Advocacy / Policy Dialogue

Motivation:

The relationship with the police came up repeatedly and in various formulations during this activity. Young people ask for fewer police checks, feel they are stopped too quickly, and express frustration about how the police treat them. The statement "Fuck the police" is not in itself a safety signal, but within the broader cluster it is an indication of the strongly negative feelings held by at least part of this group toward the police. The way justice treats people was also raised, with one youngster specifically requesting more polite treatment of people with a foreign background. Impact is rated high because repeated negative experiences with police and justice can affect young people's trust in societal institutions. Because change cannot be achieved by youth work alone and requires the involvement of police, justice and local policy actors, this signal is prioritized for Advocacy / Policy Dialogue.

Signal 2 — Young people need more places where they can freely gather and chill

Life domain(s): Public space / Leisure

A very clear recurring signal concerns the need for more meeting space for young people. Youngsters ask not only for more physical facilities such as benches, playgrounds and football pitches, but especially emphasize that they need places where they can gather with friends without their presence immediately being seen as a nuisance. The request for physical space is thus linked to a broader need to be able to use public space as a young person — to hang out, play football, meet friends and be outside — without constantly feeling watched or told to move on. One concrete proposal is a canopy/shelter near the tennis hall where young people can sit quietly; additional benches near OverKop are also specifically requested.

Illustrative signals:

- *More football pitches.*

- *More playgrounds, e.g. a park as a place where young people gather.*
- *More places where minors can be, such as more playgrounds.*
- *Being able to hang out more without it being labelled a nuisance.*
- *More benches in the municipality.*
- *Benches at OverKop.*
- *More places to hang out without being labelled a nuisance.*
- *A canopy/shelter near the tennis hall where we can sit quietly without constant control.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	5
Impact	4
Spread	5
Urgency	4
Change potential	5
Total score	23/25
Classification	Confirmed Safety Signal
Prioritization	Immediate Pilot Action

Motivation:

This is one of the most clearly expressed signals from the activity. Young people ask for more football pitches, playgrounds, benches, places for minors, and a shelter where they can sit quietly. Notably, the request is not only about the presence of physical infrastructure: young people repeatedly state that they want to be able to hang out without their presence being seen as a nuisance and ask for a place to sit without constant control. Spread and frequency are therefore rated high: several distinct answers point to the same underlying need for accessible, low-threshold meeting space. Change potential is likewise high, since local actors can directly influence infrastructure, the design of public space, and agreements on its use. This signal lends itself strongly to Immediate Pilot Action, for example by actively involving young people in deciding where and how a low-threshold meeting place could be set up.

Signal 3 — Friends, family and social contacts form an important protective factor

Life domain(s): Other: social dynamics / Wellbeing (protective)

Several young people mention social contacts when asked what they find important or enjoyable. Playing football, meeting up with friends, being outside, and contacting friends and family recur multiple times. These answers point less to a problem signal and more to a protective factor within young people's everyday lives: social contacts and informal gatherings appear to occupy an important place in their leisure time and wellbeing. The request for sufficient meeting places cannot be seen separately from this social dimension: public and youth-work spaces make it possible to maintain the social relationships young people themselves consider important.

Illustrative signals:

- *I enjoy playing football or meeting up with friends.*
- *Going outside with female friends.*
- *Going outside or meeting up with female friends.*
- *Contact with friends and family is important to me.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	4
Impact	4
Spread	4
Urgency	2
Change potential	5
Total score	19/25
Classification	Confirmed Safety Signal — Protective Factor
Prioritization	Preserve & Strengthen

Motivation:

Several young people spontaneously named friends and family as important parts of their lives. Meeting up, playing football, being outside, and contact with friends and family are experienced positively. This signal differs from the others because it does not describe a problem or risk but a protective factor: social relationships and informal gatherings appear to contribute to young people's wellbeing and sense of

connection. Urgency is therefore rated lower, while change potential is high: by creating sufficient space and opportunities for young people to meet informally, local actors can preserve and strengthen this existing protective factor.

Signal 4 — Young people ask for more activities and leisure opportunities

Life domain(s): Leisure / Public space

Alongside the request for places to hang out, young people also directly asked for more activities. The need for leisure opportunities also comes through indirectly in requests for football pitches, playgrounds and places to gather. This signal points to a need for sufficiently accessible ways for young people to spend their free time within the municipality. At the same time, it appears that not every opportunity to gather needs to be strongly organized: several answers show that young people also value informal free time in which they decide for themselves what to do.

Illustrative signals:

- *More activities.*
- *More football pitches.*
- *More playgrounds.*
- *I enjoy playing football or meeting up with friends.*
- *Going outside with female friends.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	3
Impact	3
Spread	3
Urgency	3
Change potential	5
Total score	17/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Quick Community Improvement

Motivation:

The request for more activities was raised directly and is indirectly supported by requests for football pitches, playgrounds and gathering places. At the same time, this signal should be interpreted with some caution: the broader activity showed that several young people were primarily interested in informal free time and chilling rather than necessarily more organized activities. The signal therefore points mainly to the need for sufficient leisure opportunities, with young people themselves having a say in how these are concretely filled in. Because local youth-work and municipal actors can respond to this relatively directly, it is prioritized as Quick Community Improvement.

Signal 5 — Mobility and accessibility form a barrier for young people

Life domain(s): Mobility

Mobility came up in several ways. Young people ask for buses to run more frequently and later, which is relevant for their ability to travel independently and take part in activities. The long waiting time for obtaining a driving license was also mentioned. For young people who depend on public transport or are in the process of moving to independent transport, accessibility can thereby form a concrete barrier.

Illustrative signals:

- *Buses should run more often and later.*
- *Long waiting time for a driving license.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	3
Impact	4
Spread	3
Urgency	3
Change potential	3
Total score	16/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Advocacy / Policy Dialogue

Motivation:

Young people named both the frequency/hours of public transport and the long waiting time for obtaining a driving license. Both relate to young people's ability to travel independently. Although mobility was mentioned less frequently in this activity than police contact and meeting space, the impact can be significant: limited mobility can make it harder to access leisure, education, work and social contacts. Local change potential is more limited because several mobility actors and policy levels are involved. Further confirmation from other young people is advisable, after which the signal can be taken forward as part of Advocacy / Policy Dialogue.

Signal 6 — Young people experience barriers in accessing support services

Life domain(s): Wellbeing / Information

One young person explicitly named long waiting times for support services. Although this signal was raised less frequently during this activity than, for example, the signals around police and meeting space, its potential impact can be significant: when young people need support, a long wait can mean they do not receive appropriate guidance now they seek it. Because it was only raised to a limited extent in this activity, it should be examined further whether this signal occurs in other activities.

Illustrative signals:

- *Waiting lines for help are too long.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	2
Impact	5
Spread	2
Urgency	4
Change potential	3
Total score	16/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Further Exploration / Advocacy

Motivation:

Long waiting lines for support services were explicitly named only once during this activity, so frequency and spread are rated low. Potential impact, however, is high: when a young person needs help but must wait a long time before support becomes available, this can have significant consequences for their well-being and safety. Based on this activity alone there is insufficient information to determine how broadly this problem is experienced among participating young people. The signal is therefore classified as an Emerging Safety Signal and initially requires further capture; if confirmed again in other activities, it can be taken forward more strongly toward relevant support and policy actors.

Signal 7 — Young people experience negative experiences and feelings of being targeted within education

Life domain(s): Education

Education also came up during the activity. One young person explicitly indicated feeling targeted by their school, and a request was also made for a specific school ("Linc Park") to close. These statements point to a negative experience with the school context but, on their own, provide insufficient information to establish what specifically underlies these experiences. This signal therefore requires further exploration — particularly the statement about feeling targeted, to examine during future signal capture how this feeling arises, how it manifests, and whether it is an individual experience or one recognized by several young people.

Illustrative signals:

- *School targeted me.*
- *Linc Park (school) should close.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	2
Impact	4
Spread	2
Urgency	3
Change potential	3
Total score	14/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Further Exploration

Motivation:

Two negative statements were recorded regarding education: one young person indicated feeling targeted by their school, and another asked for a specific school to close. The statements point to negative experiences but provide insufficient information about the underlying causes. Based on this activity, it cannot be established whether this reflects a broader pattern or individual experiences. The signal therefore mainly calls for further deepening and confirmation; future signal capture can explore what young people specifically mean by feeling targeted and whether other young people recognize similar experiences.

Signal 8 — Young people need respect, kindness and room to be themselves

Life domain(s): Other: social dynamics / Wellbeing

Another theme concerns how people treat each other. Young people name respect and kindness as important values, and it is explicitly stated that young people should be able to be themselves without having to feel ashamed in front of others. These statements can be read as a call for a social environment in which young people feel accepted and in which respectful interaction between people is central.

Illustrative signals:

- *Be yourself, don't be ashamed in front of others.*
- *Everyone should just be kind.*
- *Everyone should show respect to each other.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	3
Impact	4
Spread	3
Urgency	3
Change potential	4
Total score	17/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Quick Community Improvement

Motivation:

Respect, kindness and being able to be oneself were named in several answers. Although the statements are formulated in general terms, they refer to a shared need for a social environment in which young people feel accepted and people treat each other respectfully. The concrete background to these statements was not explored in enough depth during the activity to establish which negative experiences preceded them, so the signal is provisionally considered an Emerging Safety Signal. Concrete opportunities do exist within youth work and local meeting places to further strengthen a respectful and inclusive culture of interaction, which is why it is linked to Quick Community Improvement.

Signal 9 — The youth worker is a valued figure of trust

Life domain(s): Wellbeing / Other: social dynamics (protective)

One young person explicitly indicated a need for "more chill people like Yassin", referring to the youth worker. Although this is only one concrete statement, it aligns with observations made during the activity: the youth worker played an important role in reaching young people and motivating them to take part. The statement can therefore be seen as an indication of the value a low-threshold trusted youth worker can hold for young people, although based on a single explicit statement it is not appropriate to treat this as a broadly confirmed safety signal.

Illustrative signals:

- *More chill people like Yassin (the youth worker).*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	2
Impact	4
Spread	2
Urgency	2
Change potential	5
Total score	15/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal — Protective Factor
Prioritization	Preserve & Strengthen

Motivation:

The statement "More chill people like Yassin" was recorded explicitly only once, so frequency and spread are limited. The statement does, however, align with the context of the activity, in which the youth worker played an important role in reaching and motivating young people; his existing relationship of trust made it possible to involve young people who otherwise showed little interest in the signal-capture activity. The signal can therefore provisionally be considered an Emerging Protective Factor. Further activities can show to what extent young people more broadly experience the presence and approach of trusted youth workers as a protective factor.

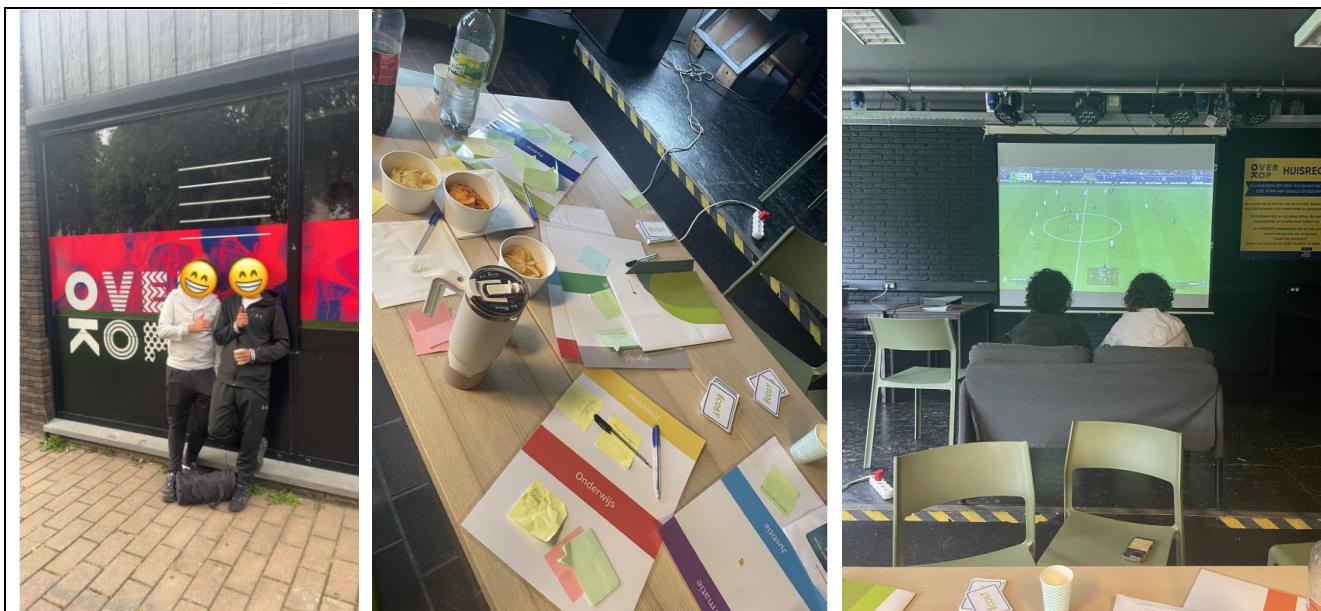
Additional observations — statements not linked to a recurring signal

A few statements could not, based on the available information, be sufficiently linked to a recurring safety signal:

- *"Sigma boys" this term was written down by one young person without further context. Based on this registration alone, it cannot be established what meaning the young person attached to it or which underlying signal, if any, was intended. It is therefore not methodologically sound to attach an interpretation to it within this report.*
- *"Shops should be open longer" one young person indicated that shops should have longer opening hours. This may relate to the availability of amenities or how leisure time is filled in but was mentioned only once and not further explained.*

General observation on this activity: two content clusters stand out most clearly in this first activity — the relationship with police and control on one hand, and the need for sufficient space to gather, chill and spend leisure time on the other. These two signals appear partly connected: young people do not only ask for more physical meeting space, but explicitly for places where they can be present without their presence immediately being seen as a nuisance or subject to constant control. At the same time, the answers show what young people themselves consider valuable: friends, family, being outside, playing football and gathering occupy an important place in their lives, so that alongside risk signals, clear protective factors and concrete suggestions for improvement also emerge. When interpreting these results, the context of the activity should be kept in mind: as described above, active encouragement by the youth worker was needed to involve part of the group, so the signals are valuable as a record of what these participants shared but should not be generalized to all young people in the ecosystem without further confirmation.

Photos



WP6.2: Signal-gathering integrated into an OverKop barbecue

Description

The second signal-capture activity with young people in the Lanaken ecosystem took place during a barbecue organized by OverKop. By connecting to an already-planned activity, signal capture could take place in a setting where young people were present on their own initiative and already familiar with the youth workers and the youth work structure.

Rather than bringing young people together separately for a dedicated participation moment, signal capture was integrated into the barbecue. Young people could take part in the activity during the event and receive an ice cream afterwards as a low-threshold incentive to take part.

This approach made it possible to briefly engage young people within their existing leisure context, without taking them away from the barbecue or from contact with other young people for an extended period.

The same basic method was used as in the first activity: thematic question cards, post-its and laminated posters organized by life domain. Young people could draw a question, write their answer on a post-it, and place it under the relevant life domain. The barbecue formed the informal context within which signal capture took place, meaning young people did not need to take part in a separate or formal session but could briefly join in during the existing activity.

The collected answers cover various aspects of young people's everyday lives. Notably, certain topics recur from different angles and across multiple answers — in particular, space to chill, police and control, leisure time, social relationships, accessibility of support, and the role of youth work come through clearly.

Signals identified and assessed — WP6.2

As in the first activity, individual statements are not automatically treated as separate safety signals. Answers that point, in substance, to the same underlying experience, need or problem are brought together into broader signals. The original statements from young people remain visible under each signal, so that it stays clear what the analysis is based on. This follows the same reporting logic as Activity 1.

Signal 1 — Young people need places where they can gather and chill freely and safely

Life domain(s): Public space / Leisure

The need for sufficient meeting space comes through very clearly. Several young people name concrete places where they like to gather, with Sportoase mentioned multiple times as a positive chill spot. At the same time, young people indicate that more places are needed: they ask, among other things, for picnic tables, benches and outdoor spaces where young people can also gather in the evening. One young person explicitly states that young people without a place of their own should be able to hang out somewhere safely and without problems. The need therefore goes beyond physical infrastructure alone: young people also want the space to be outside and make use of public space, which also comes through in the statement that they do not want to sit inside all day or be kept inside.

Illustrative signals:

- *Sportoase is a chill spot.*
- *Not sitting inside all day or being kept inside.*
- *I want a picnic table.*
- *Chilling at Sportoase is nice.*
- *The young people who don't have a place should be able to hang out somewhere safely without problems.*
- *Young people need a place to chill.*
- *More benches needed to sit on.*
- *There should be outdoor spaces for young people in the evening, e.g. in the center.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	5
Impact	4
Spread	5
Urgency	4
Change potential	5
Total score	23/25
Classification	Confirmed Safety Signal
Prioritization	Immediate Pilot Action

Motivation:

The need for meeting space returns very clearly and from multiple angles. Young people name Sportoase as an existing positive chill spot, while at the same time asking for more benches, a picnic table and outdoor spaces where young people can also go in the evening. It is moreover not solely about physical infrastructure: young people explicitly state that those without a place of their own should be able to hang out somewhere safely and without problems. The need for space is thus connected to safety, social contact and young people's right to use public space. Change potential is high because the local authority, youth work and young people can jointly explore concrete locations and small-scale adjustments. This signal is therefore prioritized as Immediate Pilot Action.

Signal 2 — Young people experience tension from police control while using public space

Life domain(s): Police / Public space

The police are mentioned several times and in predominantly negative terms. Young people speak of "annoying police" and specifically state that they feel there are too many checks. Police control is moreover directly linked to the places where young people gather. Young people indicate that the police regularly pass by while they are chilling, and it is also noted that, according to young people, neighborhood residents call the police over minor matters. These signals point not only to a general negative perception of the police but also to tension around young people's use of public space. At the same time, the signal capture includes an important nuance: one young person explicitly names a positive experience with the police — that the police arrive quickly when needed — which is deliberately included in the analysis, showing that the perception is not exclusively negative.

Illustrative signals:

- *Annoying police.*
- *Annoying that the police often come by to carry out checks.*
- *In Lanaken the police are annoying.*
- *Annoying police [officers].*
- *Police check too much.*
- *People from the neighborhood call the police over the smallest thing.*
- *The police come by too often when we're chilling.*
- *If I were to call the police, they're quick to arrive, and that's positive too.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	5
Impact	5
Spread	5
Urgency	4

Change potential	4
Total score	23/25
Classification	Confirmed Safety Signal
Prioritization	Advocacy / Policy Dialogue

Motivation:

This is one of the most clearly expressed signals from the activity. The police are repeatedly described as "annoying", and young people concretely state that they feel there are too many checks; the presence of police specifically at moments when young people are gathering and chilling is highlighted. The signal is thereby closely linked to the first signal on public meeting space: for some young people, it is not only the availability of a place that matters, but also the ability to stay there without constant control. At the same time, the signal must be nuanced: one young person explicitly states that the police arrive quickly when called and experience this as positive. The issue therefore does not appear to be the presence or reachability of the police as such, but rather the perceived frequency and manner of control in public space. Because structural change requires cooperation with police and local policy actors, this is prioritized for Advocacy / Policy Dialogue.

Signal 3 — Young people experience tension in their relationship with some residents

Life domain(s): Other: social dynamics / Public space

Alongside the police, residents are also mentioned. Young people experience that some residents react quickly to their presence and, according to young people, contact the police over minor matters. One young person describes older residents as annoying; other state they were nearly hit by a car and links this to annoying residents. These statements may point to intergenerational tension around the use of public space; at the same time, caution is needed in interpretation, since these statements reflect the perception of participating young people and should not be generalized to residents or older residents in general.

Illustrative signals:

- *In Lanaken there are annoying old people, especially a lot of old people.*
- *Sometimes annoying residents too, because I've often nearly been hit by a car.*
- *People from the neighborhood call the police over the smallest thing.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	3

Impact	4
Spread	3
Urgency	3
Change potential	4
Total score	17/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Community Dialogue / Further Exploration

Motivation:

Several statements point to tensions between young people and some residents. Young people experience that the police are called for relatively minor matters, and one young person explicitly refers negatively to older residents. The signals may point to a broader tension around shared use of public space; at the same time, the available information is insufficient to determine how widely this experience is shared or which concrete situations give rise to complaints. The signal therefore requires further deepening and may give rise to dialogue between young people, residents, youth work and other local actors.

Signal 4 — Young people experience a shortage of activities and leisure opportunities

Life domain(s): Leisure

Several young people indicate there are insufficient options for spending their free time in Lanaken. They ask for extra activities, outings and facilities; concrete examples given include outings to an amusement park or swimming pool, and it is noted there are few swimming pools. At the same time, the picture is not solely negative: existing sports infrastructure is not judged only negatively, as one young person explicitly notes that Lanaken has good football pitches. The answers therefore point not necessarily to a general shortage of all forms of infrastructure, but to a need for more variety and accessible leisure opportunities for young people.

Illustrative signals:

- *Few swimming pools.*
- *There should be extra things for young people.*
- *More outings with young people, e.g. an amusement park and going swimming.*
- *I enjoy crafting.*
- *There aren't many things you can do here.*
- *We have good football pitches in Lanaken.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	4
Impact	3
Spread	4
Urgency	3
Change potential	5
Total score	19/25
Classification	Confirmed Safety Signal
Prioritization	Quick Community Improvement

Motivation:

Several young people ask for more ways to fill their leisure time, naming extra activities, outings, swimming and other options. At the same time, the picture is not exclusively negative: the football pitches are rated positively, and crafting is named as an enjoyable activity. The need appears to concern mainly more variety and accessible leisure opportunities. Change potential is high because youth workers and local partners can relatively directly explore, together with young people, which activities are desired. This signal is therefore linked to Quick Community Improvement.

Signal 5 — OverKop, youth workers and support workers form important, accessible figures of support for young people

Life domain(s): Wellbeing / Other: social dynamics (protective)

A strong protective signal in this activity concerns the presence of OverKop and trusted youth workers. Several young people can concretely name where to turn when they have a problem or when things are difficult; OverKop is mentioned several times, and youth worker Yassin is also explicitly named as a figure of trust. In addition, young people are aware of other support actors such as JAC, CLB and CAW; one young person states that talking with a support worker and peers helps. The answers show that several participants have knowledge of possible sources of support and that low-threshold youth work and support actors fulfil an important protective function.

Illustrative signals:

- *If I have a problem and don't know what to do, I go to OverKop.*
- *I can always turn to Yassin.*
- *I know the JAC and the CLB.*
- *It helps me to talk with a support worker and peers.*
- *I can go to the JAC and the OverKop house for help.*
- *If things get difficult I can turn to my friend, OverKop or CAW.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	5
Impact	5
Spread	4
Urgency	2
Change potential	5
Total score	21/25
Classification	Confirmed Safety Signal — Protective Factor
Prioritization	Preserve & Strengthen

Motivation:

This is a strong protective factor within this activity. Several young people can concretely name where to turn when experiencing problems, with OverKop and youth worker Yassin named directly. JAC, CLB, CAW, support workers and peers are also mentioned. The answers show that several young people not only know support organisations but also indicate making use of them. The high impact lies in low-threshold access to trusted adults and professional support. This existing network should therefore above all be preserved and strengthened.

Signal 6 — Waiting times form a barrier to accessing mental health support

Life domain(s): Wellbeing / Health

Set against the presence of several known support actors is an important bottleneck: waiting lists for mental health support. One young person explicitly indicates encountering waiting lists for mental health problems. This is relevant because other answers show that young people do seek help and know where to turn. An important distinction thereby emerges between knowing the way to support and being able to receive that support in time. The presence of low-threshold actors such as OverKop, JAC and CAW is a protective factor, but does not remove any structural waiting times within specialized support services.

Illustrative signals:

- *Running into waiting lists for mental health problems.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	2
Impact	5
Spread	2
Urgency	5
Change potential	3
Total score	17/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Further Exploration / Advocacy

Motivation:

Waiting lists for mental health problems were named explicitly only once, so frequency and spread are rated low. Impact and urgency, however, are high: when a young person seeks help with mental health difficulties but does not receive timely support, this can have significant consequences for their wellbeing. The signal is therefore not disregarded because of its low frequency; it requires further capture and, if confirmed again, follow-up toward relevant support and policy actors.

Signal 7 — Friends and family form important protective factors for young people's wellbeing

Life domain(s): Other: social dynamics / Wellbeing (protective)

Social relationships again emerge as an important positive factor. Young people name good friends and family as important, and link feeling good about oneself to having good friends. One young person also names a friend as someone to turn to when things are difficult. These answers show that young people's social networks can be an important source of connection, wellbeing and support.

Illustrative signals:

- *Good friends are important.*
- *Family and friends are important to me.*
- *Being myself means I feel good and that you have good friends.*
- *If things get difficult, I can turn to my friend, OverKop or CAW.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	4
Impact	4
Spread	4
Urgency	2
Change potential	5
Total score	19/25
Classification	Confirmed Safety Signal — Protective Factor
Prioritization	Preserve & Strengthen

Motivation:

Friends and family are named spontaneously several times as important people in young people's lives. Good friends are linked to being able to be oneself and feeling good; a friend is also explicitly named as someone to turn to when things are difficult. This is therefore a clear protective factor. Supporting places and activities where young people can build and maintain social relationships can further strengthen this factor.

Signal 8 — Some young people find it difficult to be themselves and express their feelings

Life domain(s): Wellbeing

A few answers refer to identity, feelings and the ability to be oneself. Particularly notable are the statements from one young person who indicates being unable to be themselves at home and only being able to be themselves through sleeping. The precise context of this was not further explored during signal capture, so no conclusions can be drawn about the underlying home situation. Other answers give insight into what being able to be oneself means for young people: one links this to feeling good and having good friends, while another links being seen for having new clothes.

Illustrative signals:

- *My feelings.*
- *When I have new clothes, I feel seen.*
- *At home I can only be myself by sleeping.*
- *Being myself means I feel good and that you have good friends.*
- *I can't be myself at home.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	3
Impact	5
Spread	2
Urgency	4
Change potential	3
Total score	17/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Further Exploration

Motivation:

The statements "I can't be myself at home" and "At home I can only be myself by sleeping" are substantively strong and may point to an important well-being signal. At the same time, further context is lacking in determining exactly what the young person means and what circumstances lie behind it. Because the potential impact is large but spread is limited and the context insufficiently known, this is assessed as an Emerging Safety Signal. Further deepening should take place in a safe and non-directive way.

Signal 9 — Young people experience unequal treatment within school and other settings

Life domain(s): Education / Other: social dynamics (ethnicity/background)

One young person describes that some teachers do not treat every student the same way, giving the concrete example that a student with a foreign background reportedly receives a more aggressive response when asking something. More broadly, it is also stated that not all young people are treated the same. These statements point to an experience of unequal treatment; based on the available signals it cannot be established how frequently this occurs or what concrete mechanisms lie behind it. The experience itself is nonetheless relevant, since unequal treatment can affect young people's sense of safety, recognition and trust within societal institutions.

Illustrative signals:

- *Some teachers don't treat every student the same way — e.g. if a foreigner asks something, they get an answer in a more aggressive way.*
- *Not all young people are treated the same.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	2
Impact	5
Spread	3
Urgency	4
Change potential	4
Total score	18/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Further Exploration / Advocacy

Motivation:

One young person gives a concrete example of experienced unequal treatment by teachers, in which a student with a foreign background is reportedly addressed more aggressively; it is also stated more generally that not all young people are treated the same. Potential impact is high because experienced unequal treatment can affect young people's trust, sense of connection, and experience of safety within education and other

institutions. Because the number of concrete statements is limited, further confirmation is needed before broader conclusions can be drawn.

Signal 10 — Physical accessibility forms a barrier to participation for young people with a disability

Life domain(s): Public space / Other: disability access

This activity captured very concrete signals regarding physical accessibility for people with disabilities. One young person states that many places are inaccessible to them as a wheelchair user and directly links this to a feeling of not being wanted; a request is also made for accessible toilets that are also reachable in the evening. This signal goes beyond physical infrastructure alone: when young people cannot independently use certain public facilities, meeting places or leisure locations, this also affects their ability to take part in social life.

Illustrative signals:

- *Need for accessible toilets for people with a disability (also reachable in the evening).*
- *Many places are inaccessible to me as a wheelchair user, which makes me feel unwanted.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	2
Impact	5
Spread	3
Urgency	4
Change potential	5
Total score	19/25
Classification	Confirmed Safety Signal
Prioritization	Immediate Pilot Action

Motivation:

Although only a limited number of statements were recorded, they are particularly concrete. One young person names inaccessible places for wheelchair users and directly links this to a feeling of being unwanted; accessible toilets that are also available in the evening are also requested. The low frequency here should not automatically lead to a low priority: the signal concerns a specific group of young people that may be numerically smaller within a participant group, while the impact of inaccessibility is very high. Change potential

is moreover high: concrete facilities and meeting places can be assessed for accessibility, and certain infrastructural improvements can be realized locally. This is therefore prioritized as Immediate Pilot Action.

Signal 11 — Mobility forms a barrier to work and independent travel

Life domain(s): Mobility / Work

Mobility is again named as a bottleneck. One young person indicates that buses often arrive late or are cancelled at the last minute. Mobility is moreover directly linked to employment: according to one young person, it is difficult to find work within Lanaken, and one must look outside the municipality, which in turn creates additional dependency on a car and driving license. The signal shows how mobility can affect different life domains: transport problems relate not only to travel itself but can also limit access to work.

Illustrative signals:

- *It's difficult to find work in the area — you really have to look outside Lanaken, and for that you need a car and driving license.*
- *The buses often arrive late or are cancelled at the last minute.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	2
Impact	4
Spread	3
Urgency	3
Change potential	3
Total score	15/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Advocacy / Policy Dialogue

Motivation:

Young people name problems with buses arriving late or being cancelled at the last minute. A clear connection is also made between mobility and access to work: one young person indicates having to look for work outside Lanaken, making a car and driving license important, so that mobility affects not only travel but potentially also

economic participation and independence. Because public transport and mobility policy are only partly influenced locally, this signal is linked to Advocacy / Policy Dialogue, while further confirmation remains desirable.

Signal 12 — Access to sport and facilities is not self-evident for every young person

Life domain(s): Sport / Public space

Although one young person states that Lanaken has good football pitches, another indicates no longer playing sport because they do not feel welcome within a sports complex. This creates an important distinction between the presence of sports infrastructure and its actual accessibility for young people: a facility can be physically present without every young person automatically feeling welcome there or able to use it. The precise reason why this young person does not feel welcome in the sports complex was not further explored during the activity and cannot therefore be further interpreted.

Illustrative signals:

- *I no longer play sport because I'm not welcome in the sports complex.*
- *We have good football pitches in Lanaken.*

Assessment (Safety Signal Assessment Framework) and prioritization:

Criterion	Score (1–5)
Frequency	2
Impact	4
Spread	2
Urgency	3
Change potential	4
Total score	15/25
Classification	Emerging Safety Signal
Prioritization	Further Exploration / Quick Community Improvement

Motivation:

One young person indicates having stopped playing sports because they do not feel welcome in the sports complex, while another young person rates the football pitches in Lanaken positively. This suggests that the presence of sports infrastructure does not automatically mean all young people experience these facilities as accessible or inclusive. Because insufficient information is available on why this young person does not feel welcome, further deepening is necessary; once the concrete barrier is clear, it may be possible to intervene relatively locally.

General observation on this activity: several themes stand out particularly clearly in this second activity. The need for space to chill, the relationship with police and control, leisure time, accessible support and social relationships take up an important place. Notable is the connection between public space and police control: young people ask for more benches, picnic tables and outdoor spaces, while at the same time noting that, in their view, police regularly pass by while they are chilling; the relationship with residents recurs here too, with some young people experiencing that residents quickly call the police when young people gather in public space. At the same time, the picture of the police must remain nuanced: alongside several negative statements, one young person explicitly notes that the police arrive quickly when called, so the report includes both the negative and the positive experience without further generalizing them. Strong protective factors also emerge: young people name friends and family as important and can also name various professional support figures and organizations, with OverKop and youth worker Yassin standing out as low-threshold points of contact, and JAC, CLB and CAW also known to participants. Set against this is the signal that young people can run into waiting lists for mental health problems — an important distinction between knowing about support and being able to access it in time. Finally, this activity also surfaces signals that deserve particular attention in the context of inclusive safety: experiences around wheelchair accessibility, accessible toilets, unequal treatment, and not feeling welcome in a sports facility show that safety and participation are not, for every young person, only about crime or police. The extent to which young people have access to facilities and feel welcome, equal and seen is also part of their experience of the local environment. With 16 participants, this second activity was larger than the first, and the participant group was also diverse in terms of stated gender identity.

Photos



6. Consolidated overview of identified signals and context

Together, the two WP6 activities engaged 28 young people at risk of being excluded by society/institutionally (11 male, 13 female, 1 non-binary, 2 preferring not to say, 1 not specified) connected to the Lanaken ecosystem: a mixed-gender, mixed-age group reached through an established outreach youth worker in an existing youth work setting, and a larger, more gender-diverse group reached by integrating signal capture into an OverKop barbecue. Both activities in Lanaken already applied the full Safety Signal Assessment Framework — extended locally with a "Protective Factor" sub-classification and "Further Exploration" prioritization categories — allowing for a direct, scored comparison across the two activities, presented below.

6.1 Cross-activity comparison of scored signals

Signal theme	WP6.1 score/ priority	WP6.2 score/ priority	Cross-activity observation
Meeting/chill space in public space	23/25 — Immediate Pilot Action	23/25 — Immediate Pilot Action	Identical, highest score in both activities. In both cases young people link the request for physical space (benches, pitches, picnic tables, a shelter) explicitly to being able to stay there without being treated as a nuisance or placed under constant control.
Tension with police / control in public space	22/25 — Advocacy/Policy Dialogue	23/25 — Advocacy/Policy Dialogue	Consistently the second highest (WP6.1) or joint-highest (WP6.2) signal; in both activities explicitly linked to the meeting-space signal. WP6.2 adds an important nuance absent from WP6.1: one participant explicitly named a positive experience (police responding quickly when called), preventing the signal from being read as uniformly negative.
Friends, family & social contacts (protective factor)	19/25 — Preserve & Strengthen	19/25 — Preserve & Strengthen	Identical score and prioritization in both activities; consistently framed as a protective factor rather than a risk, reinforcing the case for preserving informal social space alongside addressing risk signals.
Shortage of activities / leisure opportunities	17/25 — Quick Community Improvement	19/25 — Quick Community Improvement	Confirmed in both activities with a similar profile: young people ask for more variety while simultaneously rating some existing infrastructure (football pitches) positively,

			indicating the issue is variety and accessibility rather than a blanket absence of facilities.	
Mobility as a barrier	16/25 — Advocacy/Policy Dialogue	15/25 — Advocacy/Policy Dialogue	Confirmed in both activities with similar (Emerging Signal-level) scores; WP6.2 adds an explicit link between mobility and access to employment outside the municipality, broadening the signal beyond leisure/education access alone.	
Barriers to accessing support services	16/25 — Further Exploration / Advocacy (general helpline waiting times)	17/25 — Further Exploration / Advocacy (specifically mental-health waiting lists)	Raised independently in both activities from a single statement each time, but converging on the same underlying issue: low-threshold youth work is well known and used, yet specialized/urgent support still involves significant waiting times.	
OverKop / trusted youth workers (protective factor)	15/25 — Preserve & Strengthen (single statement, Yassin)	21/25 — Preserve & Strengthen (OverKop, Yassin, JAC, CLB, CAW)	The same protective factor, but far more strongly confirmed in WP6.2 (integrated into OverKop's own event), where multiple young people independently named OverKop and named support actors as accessible points of contact.	
Negative experiences / unequal treatment linked to education or background	14/25 — Further Exploration (feeling targeted by school)	18/25 — Further Exploration / Advocacy (unequal treatment by teachers, linked to background)	Related but distinct signals in each activity; WP6.2's version explicitly names ethnic/background-based unequal treatment, giving it a higher impact score and echoing the discrimination signals documented in other WP's.	
Need for respect, kindness and room to be oneself	17/25 — Quick Community Improvement	17/25 — Further Exploration (specific: difficulty being oneself, incl. at home)	A related but sharpened signal in WP6.2: rather than a general call for kindness, two specific statements point to a young person unable to be themselves at home, warranting careful, non-directive follow-up rather than a general community-improvement response.	

Physical accessibility for young people with a disability	Not raised	19/25 — Immediate Pilot Action	Raised only in WP6.2, from a small number of highly concrete statements (wheelchair inaccessibility, evening-accessible toilets); explicitly flagged in the source analysis as a signal whose low frequency should not be mistaken for low relevance.
Tension with residents	Not raised	17/25 — Community Dialogue / Further Exploration	Raised only in WP6.2; connects to the same public-space tension as the police-related signal, suggesting a broader, multi-actor dynamic around young people's presence in shared public space.
Unequal access to sport / feeling unwelcome in facilities	Not raised	15/25 — Further Exploration / Quick Community Improvement	Raised only in WP6.2; illustrates that the presence of infrastructure (e.g. football pitches, rated positively by another participant) does not guarantee every young person experiences it as accessible or welcoming.

6.2 Signals grouped by prioritization category

Prioritisation category	Signals
Advocacy/ Policy Dialogue	Police/public space tension (both); Mobility (both); Barriers to accessing support services (both, further-exploration variant); Unequal treatment linked to background (WP6.2)
Immediate Pilot Action	Meeting/chill space (both); Physical accessibility for young people with a disability (WP6.2)
Quick Community Improvement	Shortage of activities/leisure (both); Respect/kindness/room to be oneself (WP6.1); Unequal access to sport (WP6.2, combined with Further Exploration)
Preserve & Strengthen (protective factors)	Friends/family/social contacts (both); OverKop/trusted youth workers (both)
Further Exploration (single or combined)	Feeling targeted by school (WP6.1); Difficulty being oneself, incl. at home (WP6.2); Tension with residents (WP6.2); Unequal treatment (WP6.2); Unequal access to sport (WP6.2)

Monitor	No signal in either WP6 activity was classified in this category.
---------	---

6.3 Recurring patterns across both activities

- The need for public meeting/chill space and tension around police control of that same space are the two highest-scoring, most consistent signals across both activities, and are explicitly linked by participants themselves: young people do not only ask for benches and pitches, but for the ability to occupy them without being treated as a nuisance or placed under constant surveillance.
- Two clear protective factors, informal social contacts (friends/family) and low-threshold trusted adults (the outreach youth worker in WP6.1; OverKop and named youth workers/support actors in WP6.2), were confirmed in both activities and consistently scored for preservation and strengthening rather than treated as risks.
- The police-related signal is meaningfully nuanced in WP6.2 by an explicit positive statement (fast police response when called), which was absent from WP6.1; this suggests the underlying concern is less about the police's existence or reachability than about the frequency and manner of proactive checks in public space.
- WP6.2, embedded in an OverKop event with more than triple the number of statements on support services, surfaces a materially more detailed picture of the local support landscape (OverKop, Yassin, JAC, CLB, CAW) alongside a specific, high-impact bottleneck (mental-health waiting lists) that WP6.1's single, more general "waiting lines for help" statement did not specify — together these should be read as the same underlying signal at different levels of detail rather than as two separate issues.
- WP6.2 additionally surfaces a distinct cluster of inclusive-safety signals not present in WP6.1 — physical accessibility for wheelchair users, evening-accessible toilets, unequal treatment linked to background, and not feeling welcome in a sports facility — indicating that safety and participation, for at least some young people, extend well beyond police contact and public space to everyday accessibility and belonging.
- Across both activities, both source reports explicitly caution against over-generalizing: active encouragement by trusted youth workers was needed to involve part of each group, and low-frequency statements (e.g. on accessibility, waiting lists, or feeling unable to be oneself at home) are flagged as requiring further confirmation rather than being dismissed for their low frequency.

6.4 Context of the two activities within the Lanaken ecosystem

The two WP6 activities intentionally combined two access routes into the same ecosystem: a session embedded in the existing, trust-based relationship between an established local outreach youth worker (Yassin) and a mixed-age youth group, and a larger-scale, more gender-diverse activity integrated directly into an OverKop organized barbecue, using a low-threshold incentive (ice cream) rather than a stand-alone participation moment. Both activities took place against the ecosystem context described in Section 3: a municipality with visible investment in policing, enforcement and camera surveillance; a youth work landscape structured around the OverKop house (Arktos/CAW Limburg) and a single UDM outreach worker; a youth population reached that presented as relatively homogeneous and influenced by neighboring Maastricht; and a documented methodological challenge in sustaining group attention, resulting in more individual, less deeply probed answers than in some other COSY ecosystems. These contextual factors are directly reflected in the signals: the prominence of police/public-space tension aligns with the described local emphasis on

enforcement and surveillance, while the strength of the protective-factor signals aligns with the described central role of the youth worker and OverKop in reaching this specific group at all.

This document was produced in the framework of the CERV 2021–2027 programme, funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the organisers and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union.