Urban Safety and Societal Security Research Center (URBSEC)

URBSEC was established in 2011 as a joint strategic initiative by University of Gothenburg and Chalmers University of Technology.

URBSEC has three core missions:

1) Increase research collaboration within and between the two universities, expand research volume on center topics

2) Build network with public and private sector actors as well as civil society, establish URBSEC as a platform for such collaboration

3) Academic research collaboration should be combined with taking-on practice relevant knowledge-gaps and challenges
URBSEC is a ‘soft’ center…:

Researchers are positioned at their home departments and work together in various constellations for the duration of a particular project.

Collaborating departments:

- Applied Information Technology (Chalmers and GU)
- Architecture (Chalmers)
- Computer Science and Engineering (Chalmers and GU)
- Energy and Environment (Chalmers)
- Global Studies (GU)
- Journalism, Media and Communication (GU)
- Law (GU)
- Occupational and Environmental Medicine (GU)
- Philosophy, Linguistics, and Theory of Science (GU)
- Political Science (GU)
- Psychology (GU)
- Public Administration (GU)
- Society, Opinion, Media Institute (GU)
- Sociology and Work Science (GU)
- Technology Management and Economics (Chalmers)
...a ‘soft’ center with a small core of activities:

Being a soft center without permanent research staff, URBSEC’s core activities are organized with an objective to:

- reflect the center’s multi-disciplinary scope
- enable well-rounded strategic decision-making
- optimize capacity to build research projects
- create capacity for fast and flexible response to opportunities

In terms of formal organization, URBSEC has four ”functions”:

- Steering Committee
- Director
- Priority Area Leaders
- Research Teams
URBSEC - Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of members from both universities and from the external partner Lindholmen Science Park:

• Maria Stern (Chair), Professor, Global Studies (GU);
• Adrian Hyde-Price, Professor, Political Science (GU);
• Bo Norrhem, Program Manager, TUCAP, Lindholmen Science Park;
• Magnus Almgren, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering (Chalmers and GU);
• Stefan Forsaeus Nilsson, PhD, EU Coordinator, Operative and Strategic Support (Chalmers);
• Urban Nuldén, Associate Professor, Head of Dept, Applied IT (Chalmers and GU);
• Sara Stendahl, Associate Professor, Dept of Law (GU)
URBSEC – Priority Research Areas

The Steering Committee has decided on four Priority Research Areas:

- Politics and Governance
- Communication and Interaction
- Infrastructures and Interdependencies
- Sustainability and Resilience

With an increased budget, the appointment of Priority Area Leaders is ongoing. They will form an operative management team together with the director. The aim is to:

- strengthen strategic focus and URBSEC’s profiles
- increase the capacity to build projects and draft applications
- increase the capacity of immediate response to opportunities
- increase the capacity to organize project partnerships
Appointment of Priority Area Leaders and EU-applications

URBSEC is presently engaged as Swedish partner in two European Union, Horizon 2020-applications, in the area ”Secure Societies”.

The creation of an operative management team will increase the capacity to participate in EU-calls, which tend to be more time-consuming and labor-intensive than national calls.

Both calls concern Critical Infrastructure Protection:

- **DRS-14**: Critical Infrastructure resilience indicator - analysis and development of methods for assessing resilience
- **DRS-15**: Protecting potentially hazardous and sensitive sites/areas considering multi-sectorial dependencies
EU-applications on CIP: Consortium

**Germany**
1. University of the Federal Armed Forces (UniBw, Munich)
2. Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM, Berlin)
3. CreaLab GmbH (Consulting firm in scenario-analysis and risk)

**France**
1. The French Institute of Science and technology for Transport, Development and Networks (IFSTTAR)
2. Center for Research and Expertise on Risk, the Environment, Mobility and Land-use Planning (CEREMA)

**The Czech Republic**
Czech Technical University in Prague (CVUT)
Examples of partners in collaboration

- Security Arena Lindholmen
- The County Board of Västra Götaland
- Region Västra Götaland
- The Police Authority of Västra Götaland
- The Greater Gothenburg Rescue Services
- The City of Gothenburg
- Carmenta AB
- Ericsson AB
- The SAAB Group
- Volvo Technology
Open Activities

• Open seminars in the Kuggen building, Speakers Corner, Chalmers Lindholmen

• Yearly research conference with and for URBSEC researchers with invited external participants

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…and THANK YOU!