

who we are

Amapola is a no profit organisation funded in 2002. Our mission is to work on **urban security and safety** using an **integrated approach**, so we take into consideration all sectors that have a role in defining the conditions of security and safety in an urban environment, such as crime, social and economic factors, migration and integration, urban design.

In the last years we have been focusing on social cohesion, immigration and urban environment/public space. All these factors play an important part in building up safe or unsafe scenarios in citizens's perceptions. Cities are evidently characterized by a sizable and heterogeneous population, but also by the fact that social relations show higher levels of anonymity and that social problems and contrasts are here more tangible than elsewhere. The spatial and social mobility of the urban population, the rise and decline of urban lifestyles and subcultures and the ever changing social relations between individuals and groups in urban settings are therefore matters of serious political concern. Urban public space has historically been a key site of host-immigrant encounter. Debates about the immigration-public space nexus are often riddled with issues of fear and concern for security.

While acknowledging the sociological significance of fears, concerns and struggle, it can also be argued that urban public space is the locus of identity and the site of meetings, exchanges and opportunities. Amapola is working to implement projects and researches on the subject as a contribution in building up a background to orient **public policies aiming at designing safer and more welcoming cities.**

Its **core activity** includes: researches, studies and surveys on urban life conditions and citizens' perceptions; initiatives and projects aimed at raising awareness on, as well as promoting, social and community development; training courses on security-related issues for both the private sector and public authorities.

Amapola works in partnership with institutions, research centres and universities, and it is a member of European and national networks.

The **staff** is composed by 10 persons with different backgrounds: criminology, urban studies, social studies, architecture and urban design, community development.

Amapola has three functional areas: Technical assistance, Research and Community management. Projects are carried out through team work. When needed, for targeted projects and researches, external specific expertise joins the staff.



what we do

Here a brief description of the activities realized in the last years:

1 technical Assistance to local and regional authorities

↳ Setting up a datawarehouse on urban safety and security

Turin Local Administration (2009/2010/2011)

The City is building up a datawarehouse that will collect databases from different sectors (crime, demography, immigration, economy...). The elaboration of such information will give a picture of the situation of urban safety and security in Torino, through both numbers and maps. All indicators are defined and weighted with a group of experts of the various fields. To balance quantitative and qualitative data the outputs of the datawarehouse will be analysed and revised through the confrontation with local stakeholders. Amapola carries out all research activities and supports the administration in all project actions.

↳ Survey on public perception on security, safety and immigration

Turin Local Administration (2010/2011)

In the last years Torino has invested much in urban regeneration and integration projects. The research aims at making the point of the impact of these policies on citizens' life. It's carried out through a survey on citizens' perceptions and a media monitoring.

↳ Technical assistance to the Regional government

Piedmont Regional Government - Local Police Department (2008/2010)

Amapola's work is meant to support the Region in implementing safety strategies and meet the safety targets set out by the regional law n°23/2007. It consists of different activities, such as:

- scientific coordination to set out the overall strategic framework and the funding programme;
- support to the activities of local authorities (province and local institutions) to develop effective crime prevention policies;
- support to the design and development of pilot projects;
- research on crime, collection and analysis of data on crime and insecurity in the Region;
- collaboration with the Local Police to promote best practices and enhance officials' training.

↳ Supporting the Local Administration for an intervention in Crocetta, a run-down neighbourhood

Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo (2008/2010)

Crocetta is an area with very bad life conditions: high density of population, very high percentage of migrants, damaged buildings, abandoned public spaces.

Amapola works to promote and develop coordination, cooperation and mutual understanding among local institutions, public services, civil society and neighbourhood organizations. The project encourages partnership and facilitates communication among all actors in order to enhance the integration of the migrant population, address specific problems and improve the quality of life in the area.

↳ Survey on safety and security in Piedmont

Piedmont Regional Government - Local Police Department (2010)

The survey is meant to define the situation relating to safety and security in the region through citizens' perceptions. Results will be used to identify areas where to support local authorities in designing Local safety and security Plans.

↳ Feasibility study and technical assistance to the Local Administration

Municipality of Galliate (2007/2008)

Amapola coordinated and supported the local institution in developing methods and tools necessary for preventing crime and guaranteeing security. Technical assistance includes a wide range of activities: studies and local safety audits, focus groups with stakeholders,

groups of citizens and target groups (migrants, youth, elderly people), research activity, seminars and public meetings; setting up of a joint Safety group to assess safety problems and priorities; drafting of a local security contract to address the causes of crime and victimization.

➤ **Project within the framework of the Neighbourhood Contract on the Sant' Eusebio area**

Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo (2007)

The action helps setting up a local partnership and encourages its active involvement within the work plan. As a result of the process, a local safety pact between the community and the institution has been signed. Another activity carried out consists of a training course for local authorities' officials and for those in charge of implementing crime prevention policies.

2 local projects

➤ **Project CIVIVO, with the support of the Piedmont Region and the CRT Banking Foundation (2006–2008)**

The main aim is to develop support tools for local authorities to implement effective crime prevention policies at local level.

The project completed all its phases:

- research activity and case studies. Monitoring and evaluation of interventions carried out by public actors in the field of urban safety;
- pilot projects with primary schools and undergraduate students;
- design and development of classroom activities on children's perceptions of safety in their local communities. Pilot project in three schools;
- university workshops on the impact of advertising campaigns to reduce crime;
- workshops with students of graphic design and communication to develop a campaign on crime prevention strategies;
- thematic seminars and focus groups to explore specific issues (CTTV, media & security, security for children, safe cities);
- activities at local level as steps towards the signing of community safety agreements based upon a consensual appraisal of community needs.

➤ **Youth Action Plan, with the support of the Municipality of Ivrea (2008):** involvement of young people in a "Participative Balance" in order to encourage young citizens to participate actively in society. The activity supported the local authority throughout the whole process: identification of target groups, organisation and facilitation of meetings, definition of communication tools, organisation of a final event.

➤ **Project "Passaggi", Casale Monferrato (2008):** design and development of school activities on safe places in daily life, referring both to physical spaces and relationships taking place in these spaces. The project involved teachers, students and families in class activities and exchanges of experiences.

➤ **Conference "The Islamic community: between demand of representation and problems of perception", University of Turin, department of Political studies (2007):** the conference was an opportunity of confrontation between representatives of the Islamic community, the institutions and local stakeholders.

➤ **Project "Casa in vista: innovative solutions to housing emergency"**

Turin, Fondazione Unidea-Unicredit (2006-2007)

The project started with a research activity on migrants access to proper housing followed by some experimental actions aiming at improving living conditions of migrants through renovation of housing and regularisation of rent contracts.

3 international and european projects

↘ Project “Public space and social cohesion” *Urb-AL Programme (2007/2008)*

The aim of the project is to develop direct and lasting links between European and Latin American local communities through the exchange of best practices and case studies on public spaces regeneration and social cohesion. It also aims to improve knowledge and competences of local officials in charge of local policies (urban security, urban planning, youth and social development...).

↘ Project “Urban safety and security: training and practices” *Urb-AL Programme (2006/2007)*

After defining training needs and exchanging best practices between European and Latin American partners, the project set up training programmes on urban safety and security policies.

↘ Collaboration in launching the Police Platform for Urban Development *Barcelona (2009)*

The platform is a joint initiative run by CIFAL Barcelona, UN-Habitat, the Swedish National Police Board, UNITAR. Its main goals are to drive police contribution to sustainable urban development and manage public spaces in partnership with other actors in cities.

↘ Collaboration in organizing the launch of the GEUMED network *Tangeri (2009)*

A Euro-Mediterranean network of organizations and institutions working on the field of security, public space and public policies.

