SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

SECURITY, Collaborative Project

Grant Agreement no. 285222

Best Practice Enhancers for Security in Urban Regions

BESECURE

Deliverable 4.1: Urban security eGuide

Deliverable details	
Deliverable number	D4.1
Author(s)	▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
Due date	November 30th , 2014
Delivered date	December 2 , 2014
Dissemination level	PU
Contact person EC	▮▮▮▮▮▮

Contributing Partners	
1.	ITTI (WP 4 lead)
2.	UU
3.	EMI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objectives

WP4 covers the design, implementation and production of a user interface that provides end users with access to BESECURE products. In particular WP4.1 focuses on providing access to the BESECURE resources (e.g. case study best practices, urban security related literature reviews) and enabling its efficient browsing.

The Inspirational Platform is a is a user-friendly knowledge-based system that can aid policy makers in the process of getting relevant information for further urban security enhancement process (available through WP4.2 Policy Platform). The system proposes a set of functionalities enabling browsing, creating and searching through the various BESECURE data resources.

Description of the work

Deliverable 4.1 (Urban security eGuide) refers to the functional elements of the project final technical output being the BESECURE platform software prototype. The present document provides a declaration of existence of the abovementioned platform, elements including appropriate evidence base and its current development status.

Results and conclusions

The main objective of the Inspirational Platform (IP) is to provide a capability to browse efficiently BESECURE data resources (case study best practices, urban security related literature reviews) to gain additional knowledge. For this reason a set of platform functionalities have been implemented including: best practices definition using common BESECURE coding structure, searching, best practices comparison engine etc.
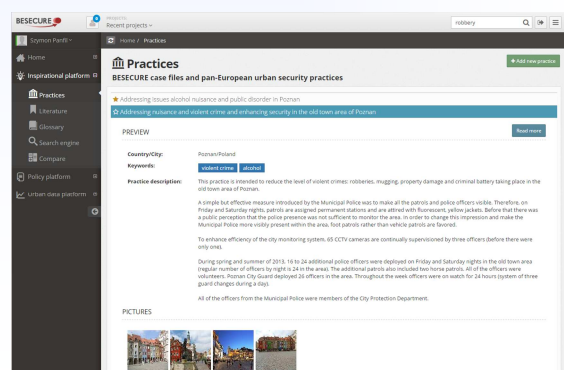
Project information
Acronym:
BESECURE

Grant Agreement N°:
285222
Total Cost:
€ 4,321,420
EU Contribution:
€ 3,468,092

Starting Date:
01/04/2012
Duration:
36 months

Website:
www.besecure-project.eu

Coordinator:
Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk

erg, The

Partners:
TNO, The Netherlands
University of Ulster, Ireland
Fraunhofer, Germany
Albert Ludwigs University, Germany
Itti, Poland
The Stephan Lawrence Charitable Trust, UK
Downey Hynes Ltd, Ireland
JVM, UK
Crabbe Consulting, UK
Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche, Italy
Universita degle Studi Mediterrane, Italy
Experian, The Netherlands
Stichting dr. H. Verwey Jonker, The Netherlands
Erasmus University, The Netherlands

Coordinator contact:

Table of Contents

1. Declaration

Deliverable 4.1 (D4.1) 'Urban security eGuide' refers to the functional elements of the project final technical output being the BESECURE platform software prototype. The present document provides a declaration of existence of the mentioned above platform elements including appropriate evidence base and its current development status.

The BESECURE platform is the showcase of the BESECURE project in which the final technical output is presented.

2. Introduction

2.1. Purpose and outline of BESECURE project

The project BESECURE (Best practice enhancers for security in urban environments) is working towards a better understanding of urban security through examination of different European urban areas. By examining eight urban areas throughout Europe, BESECURE builds a comprehensive and pragmatic knowledge base that supports policy making on urban security challenges by sharing best practices that are in use throughout Europe, and by providing visualization and assessment tools and guidelines that help local policy makers to assess the impact of their practices, and improve their decision making.

2.2. Purpose and outline of work package 4

Work Package 4 (WP4) covers the design, implementation and production of a user interface that provides end users with access to BESECURE products. It is based on users' classification and in-depth analysis towards tailored and specific need assessment with a strong focus on ergonomics and effectiveness of use. The results of this work package are predominantly software-based applications but also include other delivery media such as interactive media, printed versions of chosen materials or other solutions. The software element of the interface is constructed on an open source platform. This includes built-in mechanisms for issues such as security and user access rights management. These tools are tested throughout the whole project and updates are implemented on a periodical basis, and are informed through performance analysis and end-user feedback.

The objectives of Work Package 4 are:
1. Provide an interface reference guide to support the use of a common framework on urban security developed within WP1, in order to realize and understand mechanisms influencing security in urban regions.
2. Support decision making within the security enhancement process through the provision of an end user platform allowing the use of selected or newly developed process models, literature and best practice knowledge base and GIS methods and models
3. Monitor and improve security awareness by providing risk analysis and management and the selection of indicators and thresholds to calibrate the early warning system within the application of the security enhancement process model
4. Deliver an open toolbox approach facilitating access to valuable tools available in additional sources

2.3. Purpose and outline of D4.1

Urban security eGuide is a structured repository will that provides access to knowledge and capacities that will be developed in the BESECURE process. The eGuide is meant to be an online knowledge portal that can be used for educational and community purposes in the urban security domain. In the remainder of the document, we will refer to the 'Urban security eGuide' as the 'Inspirational platform'; the name that the eGuide has been given in the final version of the platform.

3. The Inspirational Platform

3.1. Introduction

The Inspirational Platform is one of three development lines in the BESECURE project to support and inspire policy makers in making decisions on urban security. The Inspirational Platform supports policy makers in accessing knowledge about interventions and practices for urban policy.

The Inspirational Platform resources are available for both registered user and non-registered. Both types of the users have access to same data but some of the functionalities e.g. favourite list or possibility to edit content is available only for those users who are registered. Each registered user is provided with appropriate credentials enabling to log-in.
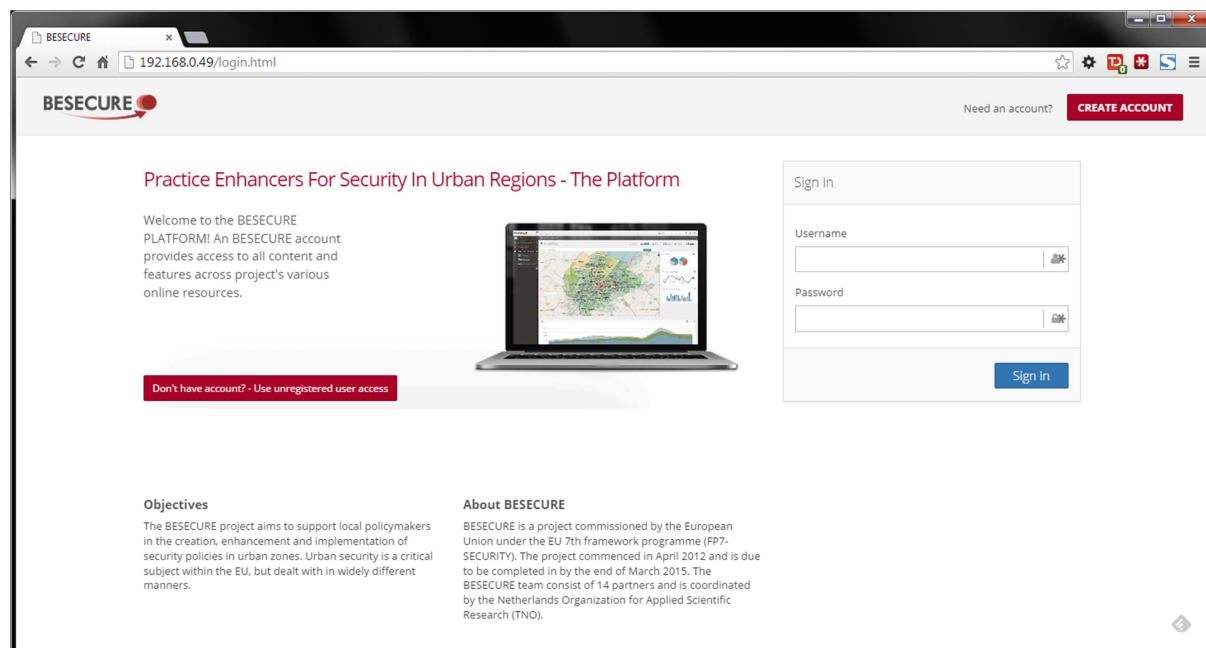

Figure 1: The access page of the BESECURE platform

Once having the access to the BESECURE restricted area provided by the platform administrator, the user can use Policy Support Platform resources.

The Inspirational Platform (IP) contains a wide range of material that is inspiring to designing policies or initiatives to address different types of crime and instability in user city. The Inspirational Platform encourages users to look at the bigger picture and explore how a wide

range of contextual factors, from the quality of city streets, to the provision of education, or the level of investment in an area, interact to influence for example crime and anti-social behaviour. It helps frame users thoughts and direct users to real life approaches that have worked to reduce crime and instability in situations similar to users.
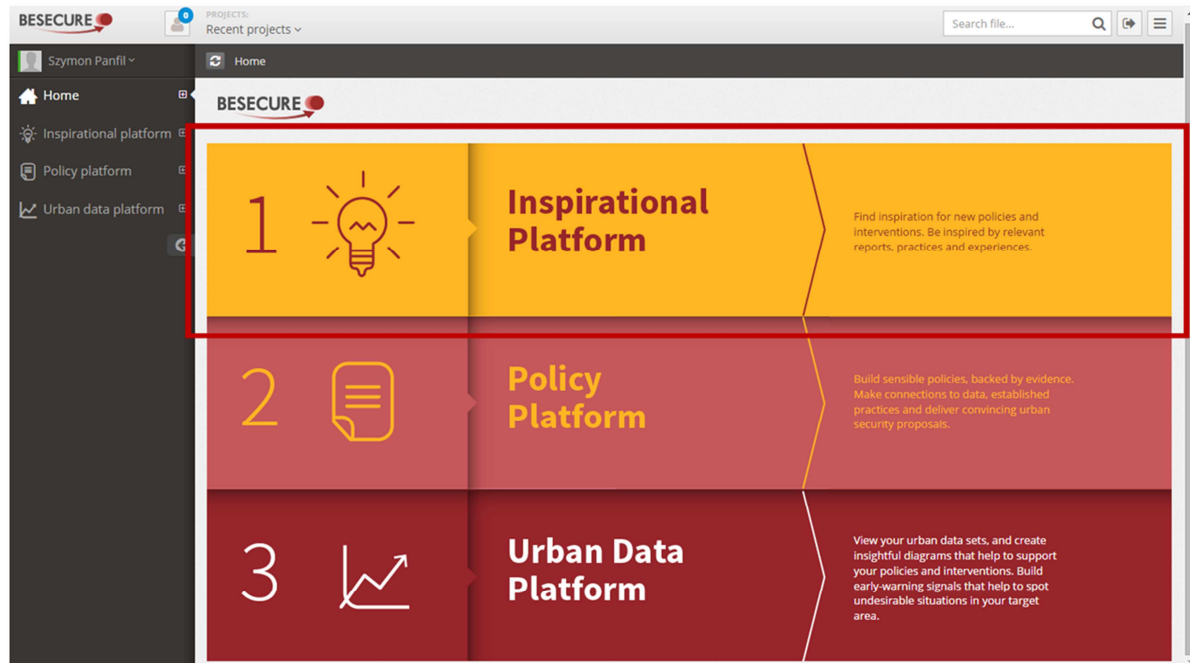

Figure 2: BESECURE platform landing page – Inspirational Platform overview

The Inspirational Platform helps users get in touch with experts involved in the design and implementation of urban security enhancement approaches.

Figure 3: About BESECURE landing page

3.2. Advantages and benefits of an inspirational platform

- Gives you insights into innovative approaches to reduce crime and instability in urban areas similar to users.

- Triggers users to consider contextual factors users may not have previously thought about.

- Allows users to compare their experiences with urban security with those of policy makers, police, and community groups from across Europe and beyond.

- Gives users practical information on the resource requirements and level of investment typically required to implement urban security enhancement approaches.

- Supports the enhancement of best practice through research, learning and application.

4. The Inspiration Platform – data and functionalities

The inspirational platform contains a wealth of information to inspire users when building more effective policies and interventions. It contains information about urban security practices from all over Europe, and a large body of related literature.
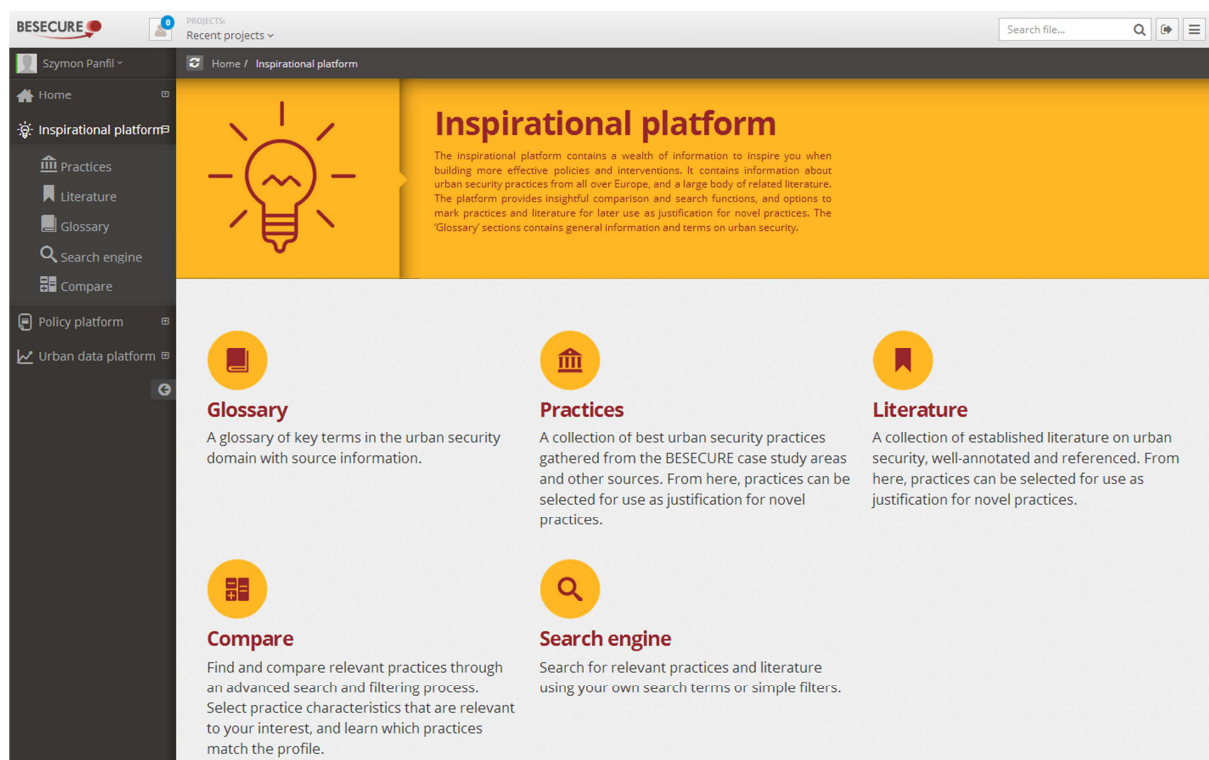
Figure 4: Inspirational Platform landing page

The platform provides insightful comparison and search functions, and options to mark practices and literature for later use as justification for novel practices. The 'Glossary' section contains general information and terms on urban security.

4.1. Menu of the Inspiration Platform

The Inspiration Platform consists of five main functionalities: Practices, Literature, Glossary, Search engine, and Compare. Those functionalities are available for all users in a "view" mode. In order to introduce changes ("edit" mode) in the BESECURE data, an appropriate user account with an editor system role needs to be provided.

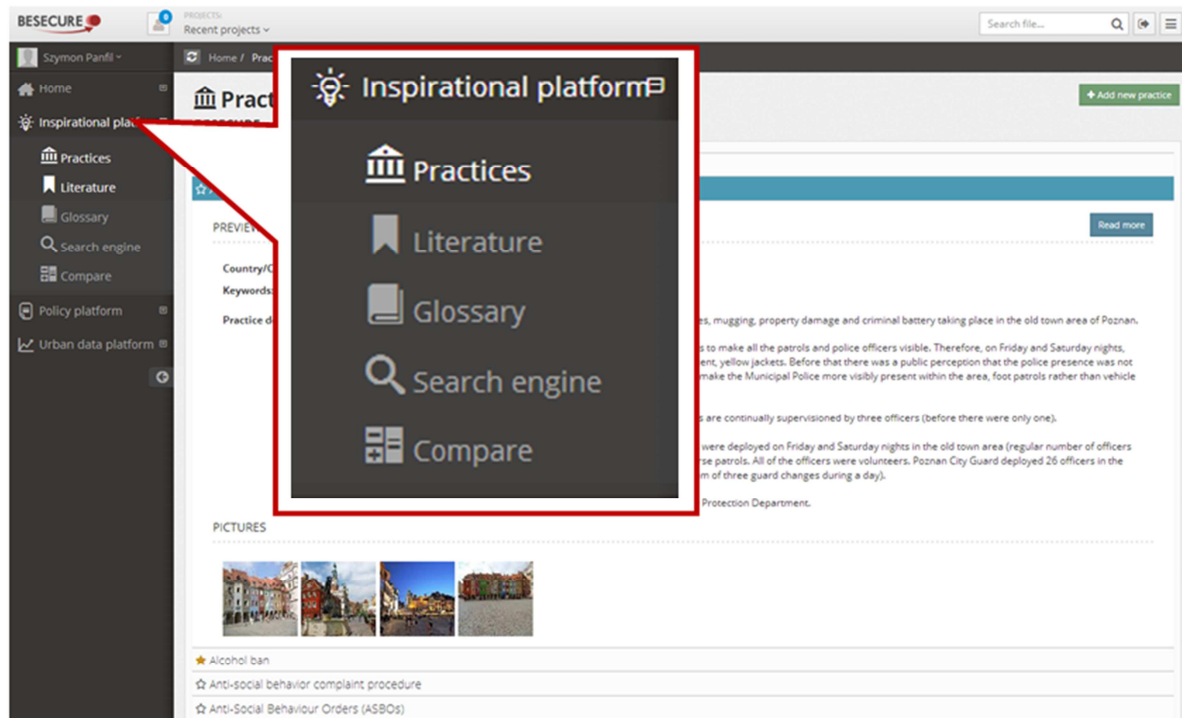The WP4 implements the BESECURE content management system (CMS) based on user roles.

Figure 5: The menu of the BESECURE Inspirational Platform

Each user of Inspiration platform has several possibilities to search for and browse the available BESECURE data. The top platform menu gives users access to a simple and quick full-text and tags search. By using it they can find matching literature and practices files quickly. More advanced profiled search capabilities are available through "Search engine" and "Compare" functionalities.
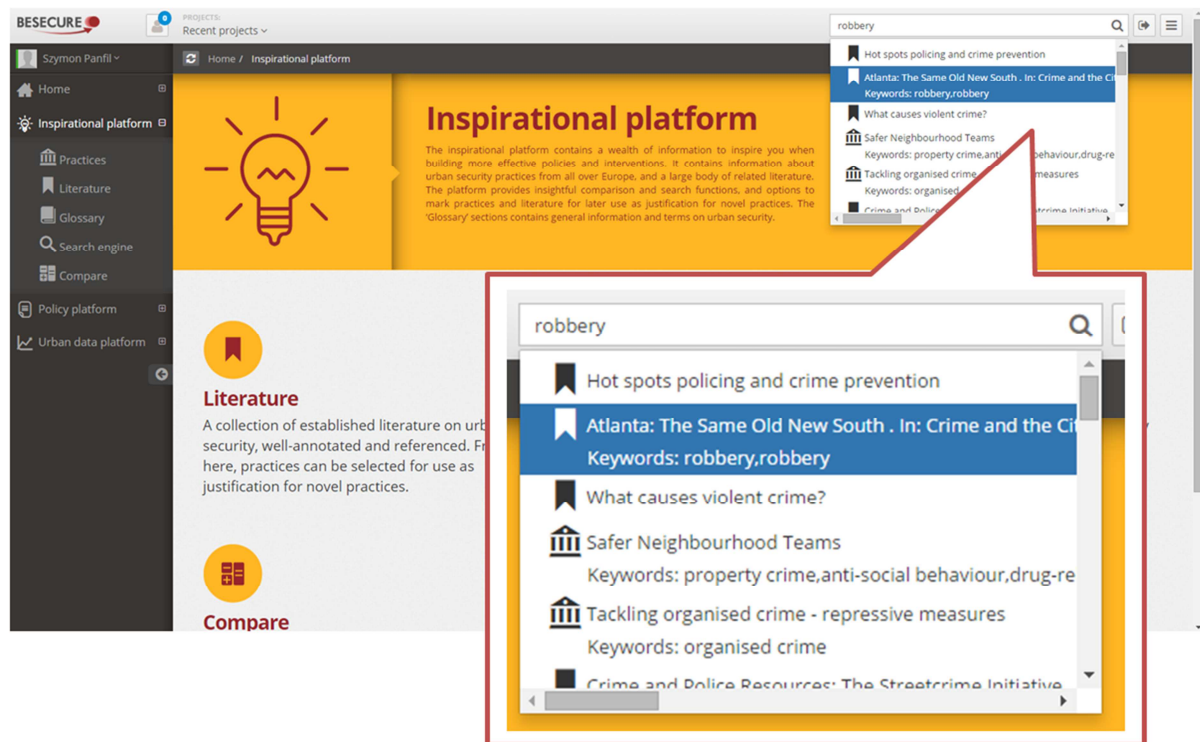
Figure 6: Quick search functionality (example of quick search results)

4.2. Practices

The 'Practices' section is a collection of best urban security practices gathered from the BESECURE case study areas and other sources analysed during the BESECURE project. From here users can search, view or edit practices also practices can be selected for use as justification for novel practices.

The practices are coded according to the common BESECURE coding structure which is a standardised way to define a best practice regardless geo-location specificity, city specificity etc. The BESECURE coding structure is a result of project WP1, WP2 and WP6 activities mainly. Once having the structure defined, the WP4 performed coding structure implementation on the BESECURE platform. As a result the BESECURE best practices coding structure was translated into BESECURE platform data model for best practices.
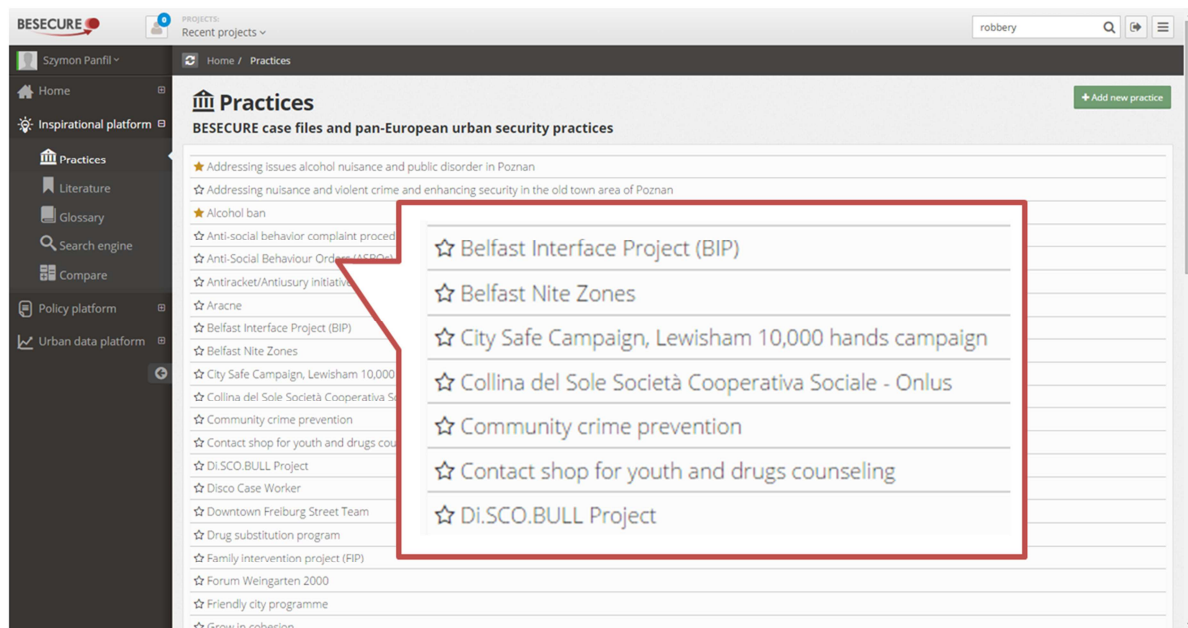
Figure 7: Inspirational Platform – Practices list
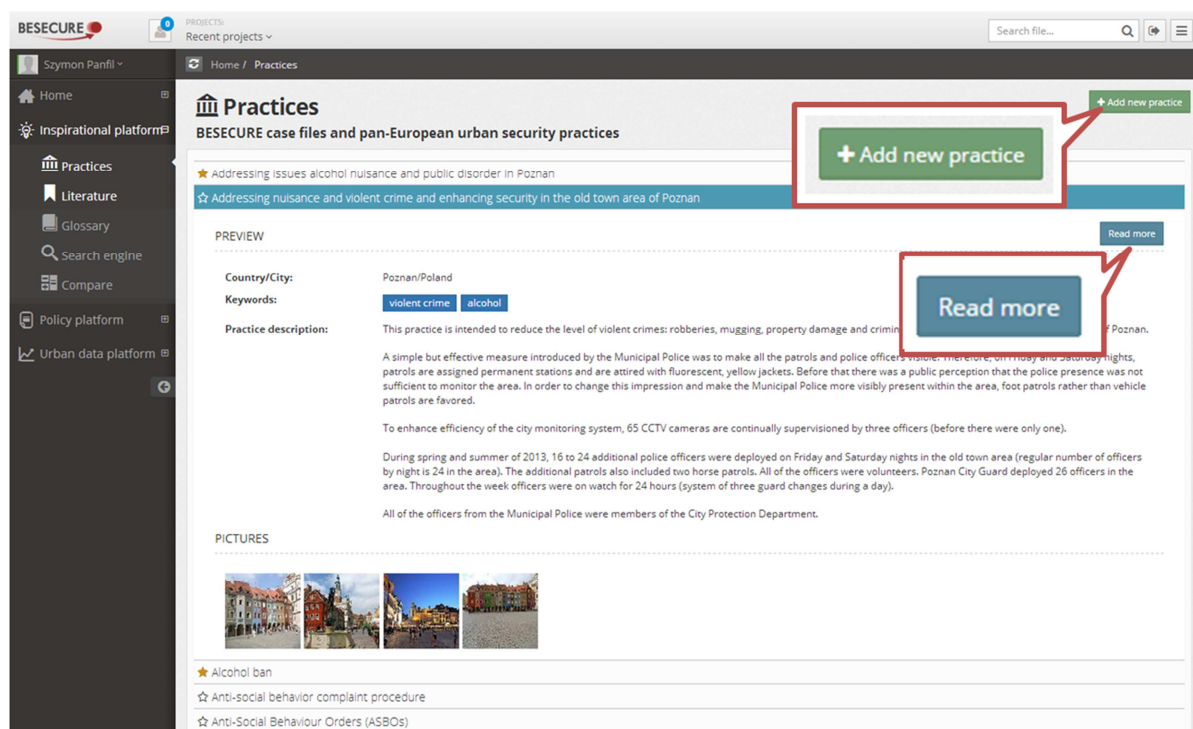
Figure 8: Inspirational Platform – Practice preview

Data collected in each practices are stored in four categories: practice, context, issue and references. Those sections were designed using a dedicated structure that captures the essentials elements of best practices. By using a fixed structure, it becomes easier to store, share and link practices.
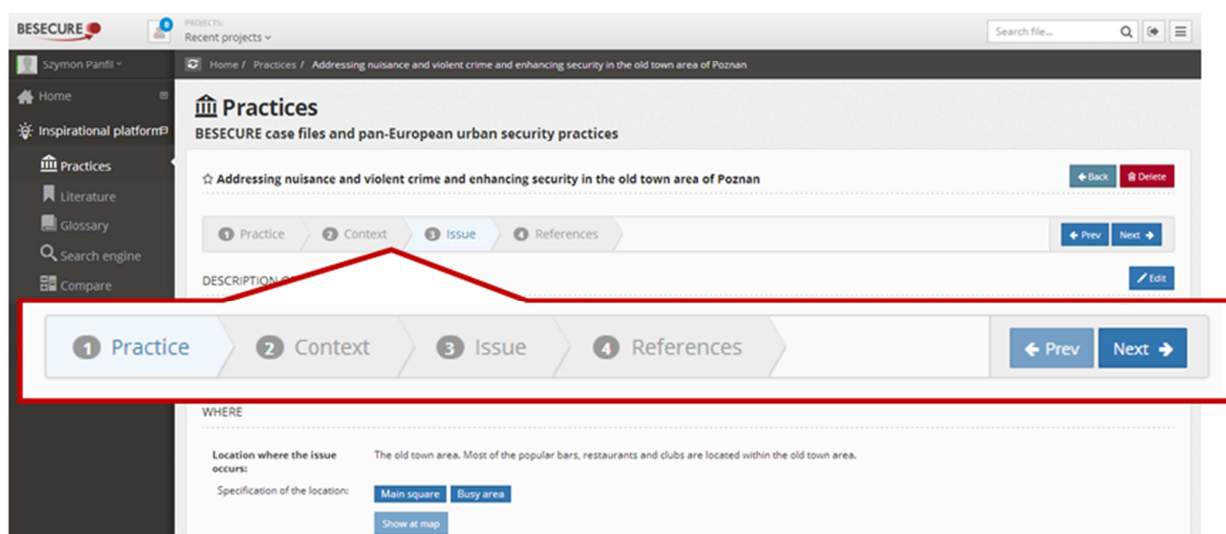
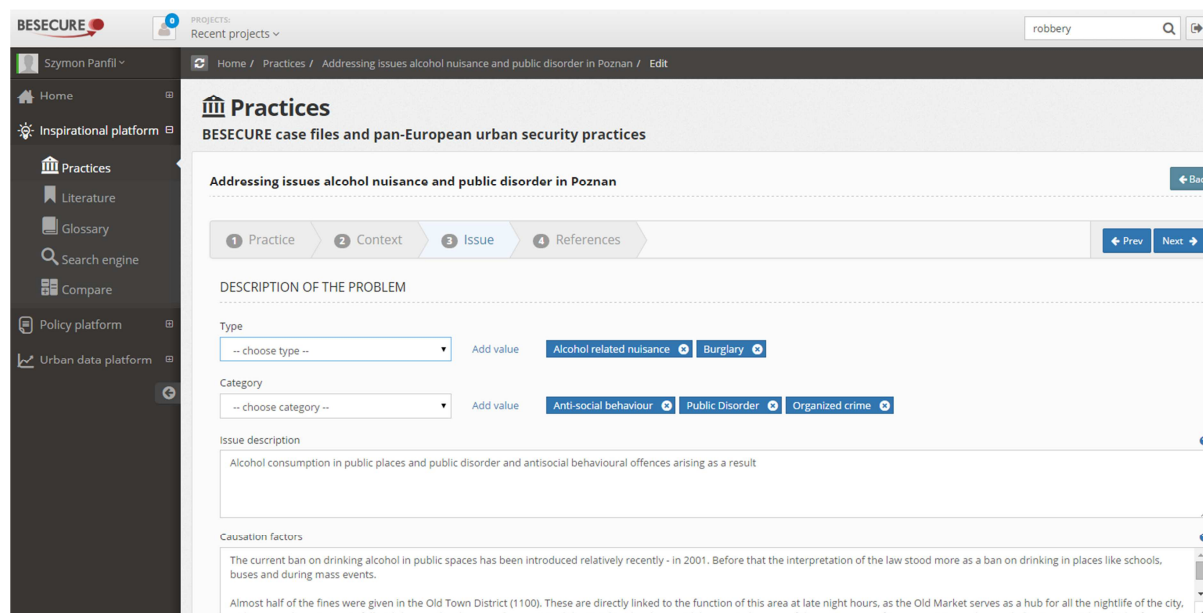**Figure 9: Inspirational Platform – Steps of the practice definition (view mode)**

Figure 10: Inspirational Platform – Steps of the practice definition (Issue edit mode)

In the BESECURE platform the concept of data coding structure is based on a set of reusable specific attributes which can be applied to a best practice or a policy. However, the attributes apply not only to these elements but can also be used for describing literature reviews and other sources of urban security information, creating a common glossary of terms etc. Such an approach will enable to create relations in the system between different data elements (practices, policies, terms, literature files can be related to the same specific issue type e.g. *domestic violence*). The BESECURE project propose an extensible, initial set of attributes and their types and values for defining urban security best practices and policies. These attributes are available on the BESECURE platform in a form o so called *BESECURE coding structure tags*.

Figure 11: Inspirational Platform – Example of a practice coded on the BESECURE platform (fragment of the Practice section attributes - tags)

The BESECURE coding structure includes different means to describe various aspects of the practice or a policy. Besides a set of tags enabling clear and standardized way of describing different aspects of the practices (e.g. related issues, target groups) it also includes a set of reusable practice or policy context descriptors. Such descriptors can be used to describe the context area of a particular practices in terms of semi-quantitative factors (e.g. average area income rate, employment rate etc.).

Figure 12: Inspirational Platform – context descriptors definition

4.3. Literature

The Literature section is a collection of established literature on urban security, well-annotated and referenced. Registered users can also provide new positions of literature files. Those files can be linked with the practices and terms available in the glossary.
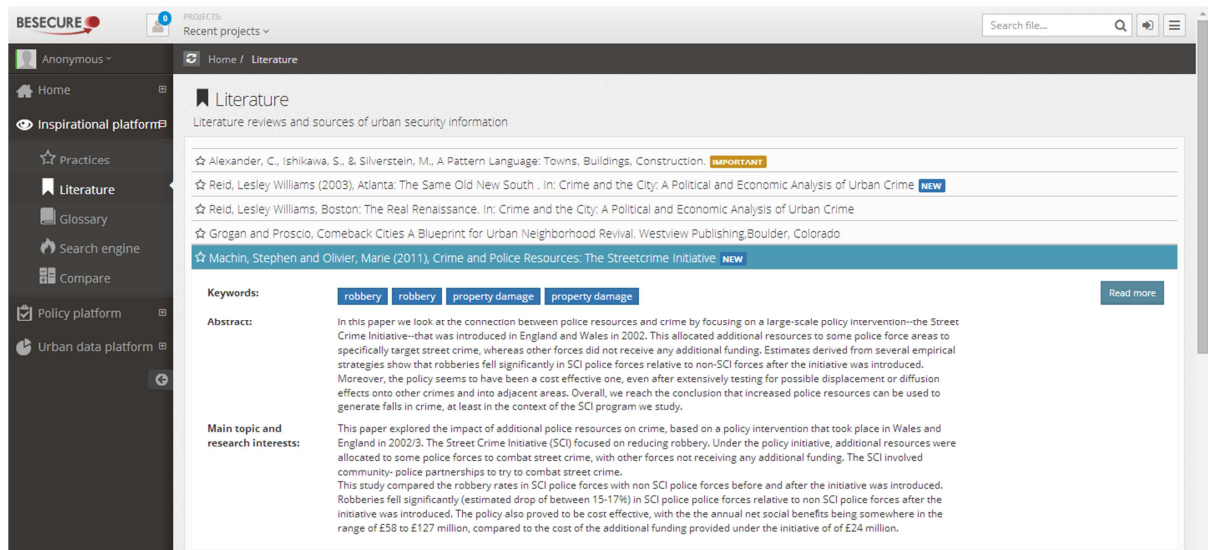
Figure 13: Urban security related literature file preview

4.4. Glossary

The Glossary section provides a collection of key terms in the urban security domain with source of information. Those terms are linked with the other part of the inspiration platform, practices and literature files. By using this functionalities users can in a simple way search for the terms or even provide new one, but editing is available for registered users.
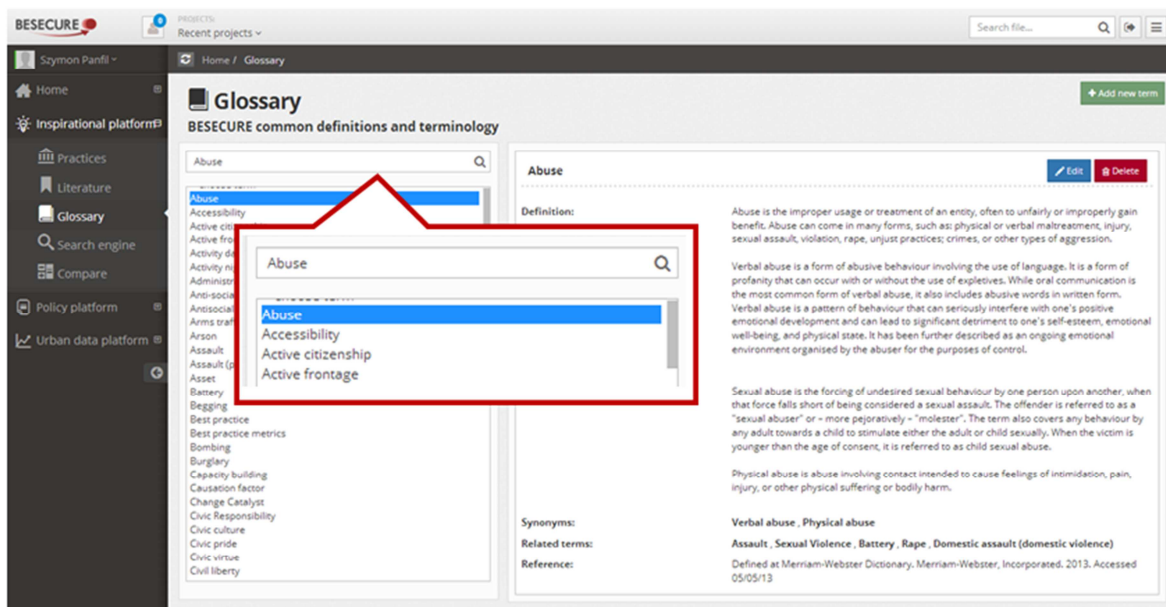

Figure 14: BESECURE common glossary of terms

4.5. Search engine

The search engine is a useful tool for searching through the Inspiration Platform for the relevant practices and literature basing on set of user-defined criteria. Users can make their results more accurate thanks to limiting the scope by selecting criteria defined in the platform e.g. issue type, issue category, victim type. The possible criteria to select match the BESECURE coding structure concept mentioned above.
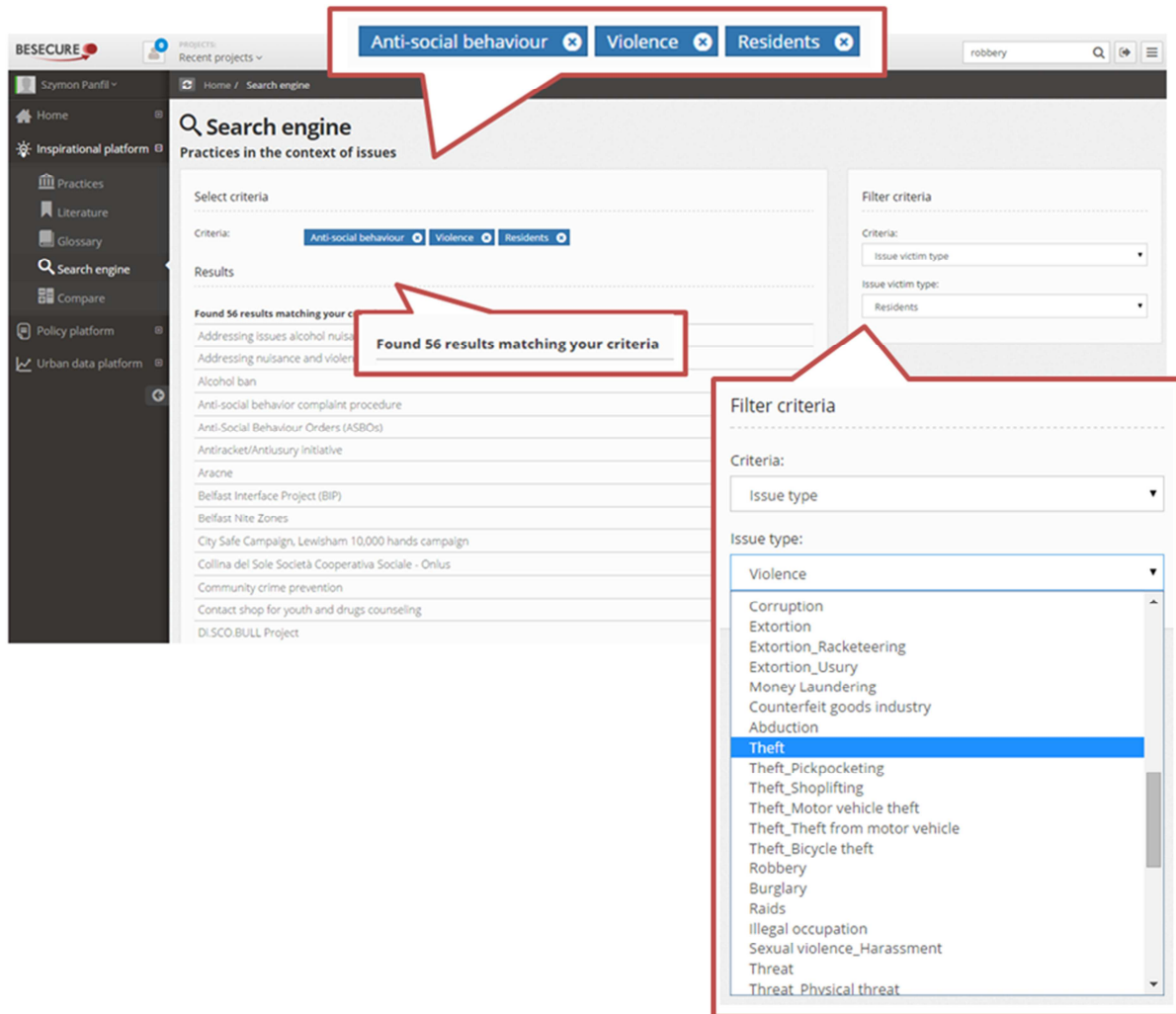

Figure 15: Inspirational Platform – search engine

4.6. Compare

This advanced search and compare functionality is an implementation of the WP6 BESECURE D6.2 comparative method on the BESECURE platform. The D6.2 develops a method that allows users to make comparisons between case studies of practices to enhance security in cities. It uses inputs from the case files developed in WP5, be stored in the case study practices registry on the platform. By using the Compare functionality, users can define the most important for them criteria and descriptors of the area, then put them in order from most important to less important. As a results users get the most relevant practices with information about the percentage of consistency of the search criteria.
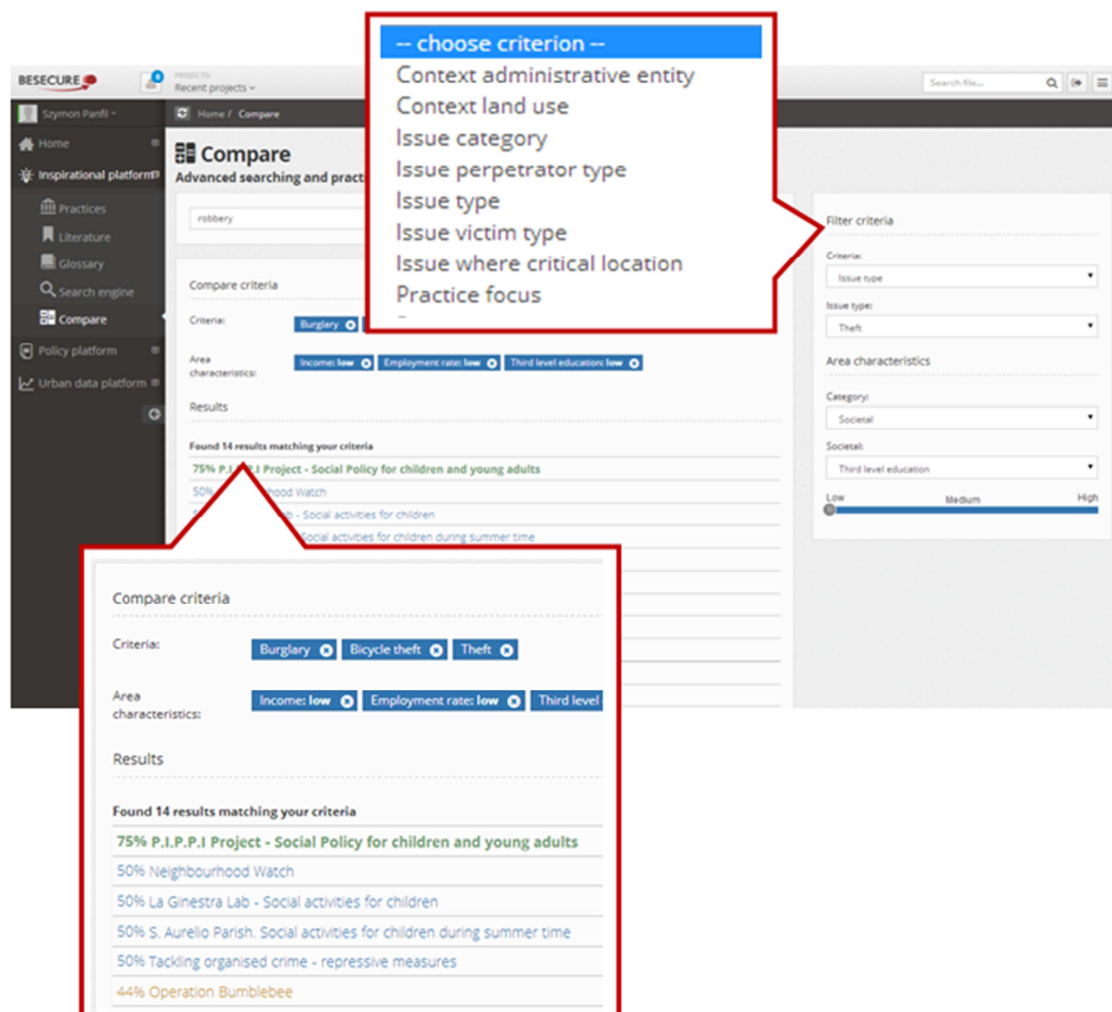

Figure 16: The BESECURE platform comparative method implementation