

# **The First Worldwide ISO-Standard for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) published!**

*(Paul van Soomeren, February 1st 2021)*

In January 2021 ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) published a worldwide standard on CPTED: ISO 22341:2021. ISO is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). Worldwide there are estimated to be more than thousand different guidelines, schemes, manuals and ordinances on CPTED each presented under different name and using slightly different approaches. This is natural as CPTED needs national and local tailormade approaches. Or as stated on the [ICA website](#): Promoting CPTED Globally & Locally.

A worldwide standard should be a very useful tool when looking for common ground on answering and asking questions such as 'What is CPTED?', 'Which principles and elements can be distinguished and which approaches, strategies and processes are available?'. While the standard is not legally binding but rather voluntary, it promotes best practice and voluntary compliance that can benefit all the parties involved.

ISO 22341 was developed by ISO technical committee ISO/TC 292, Security and resilience, whose secretariat is held by SIS, ISO's member for Sweden. It is available from your national ISO member or the [ISO Store](#).

## **A worldwide CPTED standard**

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a widely used urban design, planning and management approach to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in communities.

Implemented judiciously and context-appropriately, CPTED is an effective and efficient approach for reducing all types of crimes and anti-social behaviours and improving feelings of insecurity/fear of crime. CPTED addresses a wide range of mainly opportunistic problems like burglary, theft, street violence (including specific acts of terrorism), arson, sexual violence in the public domain, vandalism and vehicle crimes. It has also shown effective in addressing littering, graffiti, nightlife disturbances and the fear of potentially becoming a victim to these types of crimes and behaviours.

CPTED focusses on specific environments and uses numerous proven crime prevention strategies. Academic research shows this approach to be (cost-) effective but only if a specific step by step process is followed in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.

Many different national sources of guidance exist for CPTED practitioners, often using their own terminology and concept-names. Since 2003 there is an important set of European standards (CEN 14383 series), but a worldwide internationally agreed-upon set of guidelines was not available. Until now.

The ISO 22341 standard – Guidelines for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, addresses the principles, elements, strategies and processes for reducing crime (including certain types of

terrorist attacks), anti-social behaviour and fear of crime/feelings of insecurity in new or existing urban built environments. Covering all kinds of sites, such as residential areas, commercial areas, industrial sites, educational institutions, community parks and more, the standard includes the process of crime risk assessment with a strong focus on partnerships to include all involved stakeholders including residents, businesses and local institutions.

### **History of CPTED standardisation**

The concept of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) emerged in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and by the end of that Century numerous guidelines and schemes existed. Following a Danish initiative (Bo Grönlund) CEN TC 325 started working on European CPTED standards led by Paul van Soomeren (Netherlands) and Tim Pascoe (United Kingdom). The first standard (CEN/ENV 14383-2:2003) was published and other related documents followed. This process standard was subsequently translated into several languages and even made it to a Korean standard KS A 8800:2008 (Korean Standards Association). In the following years the European standard (ENV) was slightly revised whereby an important 'Preliminary declaration' against isolation, exclusion and discrimination (i.e. 'gated communities') was added - and published as CEN/TR 14383:2:2007 together with the explanatory practical guidebook 'Safe Polis' (EU AGIS). Chaired by Clara Cardia/Umberto Nicolini (Italy) and Francois Wellhoff (France) this work continued in the EU-funded COST-action (Cooperation in Science and Technology) [TU 1203](#) and included a thorough evaluation of the existing set of European CEN standards.

In Korea, Dr Hyeonho Park took much effort to develop the worldwide ISO standard on CPTED as Project Leader of the ISO committee of experts that developed the standard with the Swedish-held secretariat - Security and resilience - held by SIS.

In Europe, the work towards revising and updating the existing set of CEN standards – CEN/EN 14383-1:2006 on terminology and definitions and CEN/TR 14383-2:2007 on principles and process to begin with – started in 2019 and is currently underway. This process is expected to be completed with the launch of new documents 2021/2022 (CEN/TC 325 chaired by Czech experts). Academics and practitioners from all across Europe are participating in this work and are also supported by experts from the Standardisation Committee of The International CPTED Association – [ICA](#).

#### *More info:*

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