



GRAFFOLUTION

Awareness and prevention solutions
against graffiti vandalism among
public areas and transport

Background European city administrators, public transport services, law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders spend enormous amounts of money attempting to tackle graffiti vandalism. For example Berlin, London and Madrid spend millions each year, cleaning and preventing illegal graffiti in public areas. In parallel transport and other public authorities fight to keep illegal sprayers off their property, linked to safety as well security issues. Besides economic considerations, sprayers can risk the lives of citizens deliberately or inadvertently, when they paint over safety signs or labels (e.g. particularly on trains).

Grffiti vandalism is linked to changing European contexts. For example, the “Broken windows theory” (Kelling and Wilson, 1982) is now being reviewed by some of its original promoters, such as Malcom Gladwell (2000). Multiple and different publics are also indicating the increased value of some kinds of illegal graffiti related practice, some of which are now seen to “regenerate” rather than simply to “degenerate” (Young, 2014; Iveson, 2007). Relevant stakeholders in the field of graffiti prevention are also indicating more limited resources today than before, thus reducing possibilities to learn from each other or to collaborate to maximise efficiency of their efforts. All this change demands a new focus. An effective and holistic approach to fight illegal graffiti is needed, including a community resource to help understand vandalism problems whilst at the same time sharing and innovating new protocols and responses. Here the value of artistic expression that does not compromise public or private property in relation to stakeholder experience or safety, is anticipated, in relevant contexts, as part of future graffiti management.

Project Facts

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Consortium

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Project Graffolution seeks to counteract the increase of graffiti vandalism in public areas and transportation networks by focusing on smart awareness and positive prevention solutions for all affected stakeholder groups, including those who have utilised street art as part of city regeneration and placemaking strategies. The project will work to deliver an extensive set of “Collaborative Tools and Resources” that would include (a) a secure space for duty holders, with cases studies and other methods of evidencing successful practice, to empower city administrations, public transport services and law enforcement agencies, to share knowledge and more widely promote best practices. Additionally, Graffolution will develop (b) an interactive “Open Information Hub” addressing local communities, citizens and sprayers to strengthen public awareness and enforce the prevention of illegal spraying activities, using effectual tools and visualisations. Social media features and channels will also be integrated to reach young people, graffiti writers and other connected publics.

Useful References

_BBC, (2013): *David & Goliath*. In The Culture Show 2013/14, Jon Ronson meets Malcolm Gladwell - Beware the Underdog. Documentary at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01hykfz>.

_Gladwell, M. (2000): *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. New York: Little Brown.

_Iveson, K. (2007) *Publics and the City*. Oxford: Wiley- Blackwell.

_Wilson, J., and Kelling, G. (1982): *Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety*. Atlantic Monthly.

_Young, A. (2014) *Street art, public city: law, crime and the urban imagination*. Illustrated Ed. Abingdon, Oxon Routledge.

Affected Stakeholders and Experts
(city administrations, public transport services, law enforcement agencies, etc.)

Collaboration Navigator and News Board

Best Practice Measure and Case Library

Data Collection and Document Pool

Collaborative Knowledge Base

GRAFFOLUTION

Open Information Hub

Damage Visualisation and Statistics

Free Wall Finder and Social Media Widgets

Reporting Guide and Citizen Support



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