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New study – 90 percent of the Swedish public positive to the use of security cameras in public places.

During the second week of August, 1,000 Swedes were asked via telephone about their opinions on the use of security cameras in public spaces. Ninety percent of the public were positive when asked the question “What do you think about surveillance cameras in public spaces?” – 49% stating that they are “very positive” and 41% “quite positive”. Furthermore, 72% of the respondents stated that there should be more cameras installed, compared to the number currently in use, while 3% stated a desire to decrease the number of cameras currently in use.

The study also addressed the relationship between privacy and security cameras. When asked the question “The presence of security cameras in public spaces (public squares and streets) invades my privacy.”, 83% state that the presence of security cameras in public spaces does not invade their privacy (58% stating that it fits “very poorly/not at all” with their opinion, and 25% stating that it fits “quite poorly” with their opinion).

Previous research efforts on security cameras often only focus on **the crime preventive effect** of cameras in public spaces. In addition to the crime preventive effect of cameras, two additional camera benefits were included in this study. The benefit of **detecting crime**, and the benefit of using camera-generated material to **investigate crime**.

- 83% of the public believe that the presence of security cameras prevents potential perpetrators from committing crimes (28% agree “very well”, while 55% agree “quite well”)
- 86% of the public consider security cameras to be a good tool for detecting crimes in progress (45% agree “very well” and 41% agree “quite well”)
- 82% of the public perceive that the material generated from security cameras can be used to investigate and solve crimes (35% agree “very well” and 47% agree “quite well”)

The trust in the Swedish Police’s ability to appropriately assess their own need to use security cameras in public spaces was also included in the study. Answering the statement: “My privacy is breached if the police are allowed to use security cameras at their own discretion, for example in streets and public squares.”, 45% stated that their privacy is “not breached at all”, 23% stated that it fit “quite poorly” with their opinion while 30% believed it fit “quite well” or “very well” with their opinion. **In summary, 68% reject the statement that their right to privacy is breached if the police are allowed to use cameras at their own discretion.**

The general public in Sweden can typically be described as being very positive to the use of security cameras in public spaces, as well as seeing a need for a higher number of cameras than is currently in use. Regarding the effects (benefits) of security cameras, the public believe security cameras have the greatest benefit in detecting crime in progress. **Furthermore, the participants in the study reject the statement that security cameras in public spaces infringe on their privacy.** The typical participant also rejects the statement of misuse of security cameras if the police is allowed to decide on the use of security cameras in public spaces at their own discretion.

For more information, please contact:

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About the study

Since 2017, Securitas is a partner company to the School of Economics and Management, Lund University. Securitas asked the LUSAX research group at the School of Economics and Management, Lund University to coordinate and assure the quality of a study concerning the use of security cameras in public spaces among the general public in Sweden. The study was executed by opinion poll institute KANTAR SIFO, between 7-11 August 2017 and included 1,000 phone interviews.

About LUSAX

LUSAX is a multidisciplinary research project focusing on the transformation of the global security industry, with an emphasis on the shift from analog to digital technology platforms, and its consequences for corporate strategy, global demand and supply, market expansion, and organizational management. LUSAX is driven by the idea that relevant and useful research is created in close cooperation with businesses, policy makers, society and citizens. LUSAX is a non-profit research group at the School of Economics and Management, Lund University, Sweden.

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