

Public spaces



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..... **What are the main concerns ? / Political position**

Public spaces are vital areas of urban life: the citizens occupy these multi-functional spaces for different uses that vary in time but also during different times of the day and at night.

Places for communication, meeting, political demonstrations, artistic and cultural performances and all sorts of entertainment, public spaces are vulnerable to a multitude of problems, however: incivilities, shared between different categories of the population for different uses, and difficulty to fully secure such places during large gatherings or events, especially against terrorist threats.

These characteristics give public spaces a specific status in the domain of urban security: effectively, they require a security policy that is based on genuine cooperation between the different organisations and institutions concerned (local authorities, police, emergency services, user representatives...), for instance a co-production of security that guarantees that this type of urban place is both safe and open and accessible for everyone.

Thematic recommendations of the manifesto “Security, democracy and cities: Co-producing urban security policies”

The manifesto “Security, democracy and cities: Co-producing urban security policies” is the European Forum for Urban Security’s (Efus) political platform; it gathers the values and principles which form the basis of its and its members’ action. It is our network’s roadmap.

This manifesto is the result of a collective writing and is based on the work conducted by Efus, its local authority members and its entire network (universities, European and international organisations, thematic networks) as well as on concrete recommendations from thematic workshops held during the international conference “Security, democracy and cities: Co-producing urban security policies” organised by Efus, the city of Barcelona and the Catalanian government in November 2017 in Barcelona (Spain).

The commitments of Efus’ members will be updated during the next “Security, democracy and cities” international conference in November 2020, which will lead to a new, updated manifesto.

...On the design and organisation of the public space...

Considering that... :

- Public spaces are an essential part of the life and quality of a city since they are by nature places where people live together;
- A well-designed public space matches the multiple needs of everyday and one-time users;
- Numerous studies and experiments have shown that the design and management of public spaces have an impact on security and feelings of insecurity;
- Security in public spaces depends on a number of actors and professions from both the public and private sectors, which have very different professional cultures;
- There is a growing number of recommendations and national, international and European guidelines advocating the integration of security issues in projects related to public spaces. Training and the exchange of knowledge are necessary to improve practices.

Key messages

- The different uses and needs of the public, including minorities and those most vulnerable to victimisation, must be taken into account in the design and management of public spaces, based on objective and subjective data.
- Operations for securing and managing public spaces should be designed in accordance with quality and social inclusion objectives so as not to hinder social cohesion and avoid generating a feeling of insecurity that would be counter-productive.
- Changes in the use of public spaces over time but also at different times of the day and night must be taken into account.
- The use of art and culture should be increased to encourage citizen participation and improve the quality of public spaces.

..... **The role of the local authorities**

- Securing public spaces is a common challenge for everyone. All stakeholders are encouraged to develop solutions which produce efficient security while respecting the standards of an open society and a balance between human presence and technologies.
- Cities play a central role in promoting a shared culture of security issues in public spaces. Also, they are particularly well-placed to organise the co-production of security with all the relevant stakeholders in order to promote the participation of local communities in the design and management of their public spaces.
- As they play a leading role in the reflection on smart cities and on the contribution of new technologies to the security of public spaces, local authorities must maintain their dialogue and partnership with research and industries that provide solutions.
- In order to provide global and tailor-made solutions to public space issues, local security policies must include local, multi-stakeholder diagnosis.

Efus activities and projects

European cities are confronted with similar challenges regarding their public spaces. Furthermore, security practices can be transposed from one city to another across Europe. Thus, the sharing of experiences contributes to improving local action but also to creating a collective knowledge. The European dimension is therefore the framework within which the initiatives of Efus are based, reflecting on the protection, planning and sharing of public spaces.

Urban Agenda for the EU

Efus, with the cities of Nice (France) and Madrid (Spain), is coordinating the new partnership on the security in public spaces of the Urban Agenda for the EU.

> *Affirming the role of cities in European security policy*

Through this three-year partnership, European local authorities, Member States and institutions will work together to strengthen the role of cities in European urban security policies, increase the sharing of knowledge and good practices, and advocate at European level legislative reform and new funding frameworks.

The work of the partnership will be structured around three axes:

- Urban planning and design ;
- Technology for smart and secure cities ;
- Managing the security and sharing of public spaces.

As co-manager, Efus stresses the need to reflect on security issues early, at the stage of urban programme designing rather than in reaction to problems that arise.

The partnership is organising a workshop on the occasion of the 17th edition of the European Week of Regions and Cities organised by the European Committee of the Regions and the European Commission (Directorate General for regional and urban policy - DG REGIO), on 7-10 October 2019 in Brussels.

European projects

PRoTECT

The project aims to strengthen local authorities' capabilities in public space protection by putting in place an overarching concept where tools, technology, training and field demonstrations will lead to situational awareness and improve direct responses to secure public places before, during, and after a terrorist threat.

> *Role of Efus*

Efus and the Dutch Organisation of Applied Research (TNO) have created a manual to help local authorities use the "Soft Target Site Assessment" tool developed by the European Commission's Directorate General Home Affairs, which consists of a series of recommendations for the on-site evaluation of the vulnerability of public spaces.

Efus also helps the five partner cities (Brasov, RO; Eindhoven, NL; Larissa, GR; Málaga, ES; Vilnius, LT) to conduct a local vulnerability evaluation so that they can adopt tailor-made, technological solutions and good practices to strengthen the security of public spaces.

The project aims to build the capacities of cities and local actors in the field of the security of public spaces vulnerable to terrorist threats among others. Through a bottom-up approach, PACTESUR gathers local decision makers, security forces, urban security experts, urban planners, IT developers, trainers, front-line practitioners, designers and other professionals in order to shape new European local policies to secure public spaces against terrorist attacks.

> *Role of Efus*

Within PACTESUR, Efus:

- leads a working group of 11 cities, including a number of European capitals, that have specific issues and knowledge regarding the protection of urban public spaces (Athens, Edinburgh, Essen, Gdańsk, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Munich, Riga, Xàbia);
- leads the associate expert committee of 14 experts who take part in all the main activities of the project including the European Security Weeks, field visits in the pilot cities, and the working groups;
- leads the working groups on European standards and transnational cooperation set up with the partners of the 11 associated cities and the expert advisory committee.

CCI

The aim of the Cutting Crime Impact (CCI) project is to enable police and relevant local and national authorities (i.e. security policymakers) to reduce the impact of crime and, where possible, prevent crime from occurring in the first place. The project will enable a preventative, evidence-based and sustainable approach to tackling high-impact petty crime. It will develop tools for the creation of European public policies aiming to integrate petty crime into the European security model, particularly surrounding:

- predictive policing
- community policing
- crime prevention through urban planning
- feelings of insecurity among citizens

> *Role of Efus*

Efus will contribute to the development of tools relative to the feeling of security. In addition, it will strive to mainstream a preventive approach to this type of petty crime that has significant impact on local communities. Efus will also contribute to disseminating effective approaches to safety and security throughout Europe, by promoting a more comprehensive European security model that includes high-impact crime and citizens' feelings of insecurity.



National working groups to promote exchange at the local and regional level

Efus also takes part in the three working groups initiated by the Belgian Forum for Prevention and Urban Security (FBPSU), the French Forum for Urban Security (FFSU) and the German and European Forum for Urban Security (DEFUS) on the security and sharing of public spaces.

In France, the “public spaces” working group was created in December 2017 by the Executive Committee of the French Forum for Urban Security (FFSU).

Its objectives are to:

- contribute to a resolution of Efus’ Executive Committee on the issues that will have been identified and discussed;
- collect innovative and promising practices implemented by European authorities in this field;
- share and exchange around these European practices;
- organise field visits for members of the working group in the local authorities represented within the group;
- produce a guide for European local authorities that will include practical recommendations.

The Belgian Forum for Prevention and Urban Security (FBPSU) and its working group on public spaces started a reflection on local innovation for a responsible sharing of public spaces, while the German and European Forum for Urban Security (DEFUS) has raised the issue of the role and responsibilities of cities regarding the security of public spaces.

These three working groups, entirely self-financed by their members, offer their participants different tools and methodologies, for example the on-site evaluation of the vulnerability of a public space to the terrorist threat, as well as technical assistance.

Sharing of tools and methodologies

Through its working group on public spaces, the French Forum for Urban Security is drafting a guide aimed at local elected officials and local authority technicians on the topic of incivilities. This work is focused on 4 areas: the appropriation of public spaces, pollution in public spaces, noise and anti-social behaviour from groups of young bikers (called “rodeos”), degradation of property and the living environment.

Promotion of and participation in exchange of experiences between cities: meetings and study visits:

The FBPSU organised several meetings in Belgium gathering professionals, local elected officials, universities and other partners from civil society to discuss challenges and innovations on the topic of the sharing of public spaces.

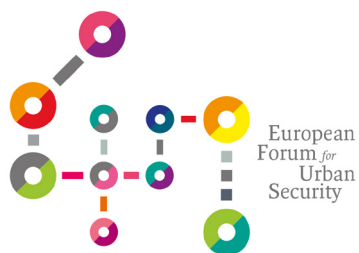


Make local, national and European authorities aware of the need to take into account the security of public spaces against terrorism early, when local security policies are being designed:

DEFUS has adopted eight principles on the protection of public spaces against terrorist threats. Underpinning these principles is a conception of cities as open places that are accessible to all, as opposed to “bunkers” with restricted access. DEFUS emphasises that the prevention of radicalisation and political and religious extremism is fundamental in guaranteeing the long-term safety of public spaces. Also, it advocates dynamic and proactive security policies founded on the prevention of potential dangers rather than repressive measures.

**We look forward to seeing you
participate in our activities!**

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