

***European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) in Exchange
with the German Congress on Crime Prevention (GCOCP)***

European forum for urban security (EFUS)

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International Perspectives of Crime Prevention 9
Contributions from the 10th Annual International Forum 2016
within the German Congress on Crime Prevention
Forum Verlag Godesberg GmbH 2017

978-3-942865-73-9 (Printausgabe)
978-3-942865-74-6 (eBook)

European Forum for Urban Security (Efus)

European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) in Exchange with the German Congress on Crime Prevention (GCOCP)

Founded in 1987 under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) is the only European network of local and regional authorities dedicated to crime prevention and urban security. Founded by the mayors of a number of European cities, it now includes almost 250 regions and cities from 16 countries. Efus' objectives are to:

- promote a balanced vision of urban security, combining prevention, sanction and social cohesion,
- support local and regional authorities in the design, implementation and evaluation of their local security policy,
- raise awareness on the key role played by European local elected officials in developing and implementing national and European policies.

Efus provides support and inspiration for locally elected officials and their teams who are convinced of the necessity of working together beyond political differences and for long-term security. In accordance with the principle of 'cities helping cities,' Efus fosters the exchange of experience among local authorities.

The Manifesto, the cities' political platform

The founding values and principles of Efus' members are expressed in the 'Security, Democracy and Cities Manifesto'. As the roadmap of Efus' membership, the manifesto is regularly updated in accordance with the evolution of urban security contexts and policies. This process of regular discussion and rewriting allows Efus and its members to include in the manifesto new challenges to urban security and social cohesion as well as innovative responses and strategies. The current Manifesto of Aubervilliers and Saint-Denis (2012) is a continuation of the Naples Manifesto (2000) and the Saragossa Manifesto (2006), and will be followed in 2017 by the Manifesto of Barcelona and Catalonia.

By means of the manifesto, local elected officials affirm that choosing prevention 'is a rational, strategic and cost-efficient option' and an intelligent application of criminal law. Prevention must be favoured in order to 'guarantee that the security of future

generations, indispensable to the quality of life in cities, is a basic right for all.' They also call for the adoption of citizen participation as an overarching principle of security policies. They call for full participation of young people who are 'too often stigmatised and victims of violence', as well as for the 'promotion of women's rights and sexual equality.' By joining Efus, local authorities endorse these principles.

The manifesto is reinforced by the resolutions adopted by Efus' Executive Committee. The following resolutions have recently been adopted: 'For a global nightlife policy', 'Call to the European Union and for the joint responsibility of Member States to support local authorities in welcoming and integrating migrants', 'Preventing re-offending' and 'For a local prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism'.

Action with public administrations

One of Efus' core missions is to represent local and regional authorities in the European debate on Justice and Freedom & Security. It has established close ties with national, European and international institutions such as the Council of Europe and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), thus promoting the voice of locally elected officials. By participating in Efus' activities, local authorities can contribute to building a European project on crime prevention and urban security.

Work topics

Over the course of almost 30 years, Efus has worked on more than 30 topics related to urban security. In accordance with its objectives and principles, Efus promotes a vision of security as a transversal issue. Security closely relates to the values of freedom, pluralism and equal rights and is tied to other policy fields that contribute to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Thus, security policies must be open to the participation of all members of society and can touch on a variety of topics.

The work topics Efus engages with are chosen based on requests made by members and activities are developed as part of European working groups. Over the last five years, the network has notably worked on the following topics: Police, Nightlife, Managing Large Events, Risky Behaviours, Recidivism, Collective Violence, Violent Radicalisation, Mediation, Technology and Security, Security Audits, and Violence Against Women. Some of these topics, which Efus calls "Secutopics", have recently been of particular relevance and are described in more detail below.

Services for local authorities

Collaborative projects and working groups

Efus implements and manages cooperative projects as well as working groups. These activities aim to strengthen local authorities' knowledge of a particular topic through

the exchange of practices, communal reflection and expert contributions. Above all, these projects enable the operational implementation of methodologies that strengthen local policies (audits, evaluations, pilot projects). These activities conclude with policy recommendations that benefit the whole network. Such projects are often partially financed by the European Commission.

Currently, Efus is coordinating projects on the following topics: Fighting against violent radicalisation, Nightlife management, Hate crime, Social inclusion through sport, and Security of senior citizens.

Information and technical assistance concerning European grants

There are a variety of financing opportunities for local policies at the European level. However, these opportunities require management and the preparation and submission of complex applications. Efus informs its members of the calls for proposals published by the EU in the domain of security and supports them in the administrative and financial follow-up of submitted proposals.

Supporting local policies

The European Forum's technical team and external experts can support local authorities in designing their local prevention strategy, completing a security diagnostic (audit) or surveying the feeling of insecurity of the population, as well as implementing security measures (local mediation service, municipal police, etc.). These services are customised and offered at preferential rates.

Promoting local experience

Should a member city wish to organise a local event (conference, seminar) on a topic relevant to urban security, Efus can help draft a programme and propose relevant stakeholders and experts from its network. This type of event showcases local practices, promotes innovative ideas and contributes to developing a common vision of urban security.

Visits and study tours

Efus offers to organise visits or thematic study tours in the network's cities. These visits allow members to discover on the ground the details behind the implementation of a comprehensive strategy or a specific project that has been successfully implemented in a city facing similar challenges to their own. As such, they can meet and share with local stakeholders and benefit from their feedback.

Cities can also host a delegation from another European city in order to showcase their local activities, mobilise partners and benefit from a peer review.

Training

Training is an essential tool for updating knowledge, strengthening the capacities of elected officials and their collaborators, and for supporting the development of innovative local prevention policies. Efus collaborates with universities to offer a European university degree in urban security, which allows participants to acquire a high level of expertise on issues of security policies and crime prevention.

On request, Efus can also offer customised training programmes with preferential rates. These trainings are designed for elected officials, managers of local services, and the municipalities local security partners. Participants can acquire concepts and methods adapted to the issues faced by their local authority.

Access to Efus Network, a members-only, collaborative online platform:

- direct contact and exchange with the representatives of 250 local authorities across Europe
- access to Efus' resource library: publications and practice sheets
- information about the European Commission's call for proposals
- updates on the life of the association
- invitation to conferences and events organised by, or in partnership with, Efus
- free access to Efus' publications, also available for download and in print (three free copies per member).

Governance and organisation

Efus is led by an Executive Committee that represents the diversity of its members; a third of EC members are renewed each year. As Efus' decision-making and political body, the Executive Committee directs the association's activities.

All Efus members may participate in the association's governing bodies by being a candidate to the Executive Committee and by voting at the annual General Assembly.

A multilingual technical team based in Paris manages the network and coordinates all the activities of the association. Members can contact the Efus team for any question, request, or to contact other members.

National Forums

National urban security forums have the same objectives and perform at a national level the same mission as Efus, i.e. exchange and cooperation among local security stakeholders and improvement of local crime prevention. There are six national Forums for Urban Security, comprising Efus' member cities from their respective

countries: Belgium (Forum pour la Prévention et la Sécurité Urbaine, FBPSU) (created in 1990), France (Forum Français pour la Sécurité Urbaine, FFSU) (1992), Italy (Forum Italiano per la Sicurezza Urbana, FISU) (1996), Spain (Fórum Español para la Prevención y la Seguridad Urbana, FEPSU) (1998), Portugal (Fórum Português para a Prevenção e Segurança urbana, FOPSU) (2005), and Germany (Deutsch-Europäisches Forum für Urbane Sicherheit, DEFUS) (2010).

DEFUS - The German-European Forum for Urban Security

While police authorities at the federal and state level have reached a high degree of networking in the prevention of and fight against crime in Germany, there is clearly a lot of catching up to be done at the local level. Faced with similar challenges and at a time of dwindling financial resources, which has also had an impact on the police, towns and cities need more than ever to cooperate more closely. DEFUS aims to provide a national platform for sharing experiences and fostering mutual learning through inter-city dialogue, seminars and the exchange of good practices.

One of its priority areas is to improve security and public order in towns and cities, primarily in the fields of the prevention of and fight against crime and of traffic safety. Furthermore, DEFUS promotes partnerships among authorities, bodies and organisations whose task it is to strengthen urban security and to increase residents' and communities' sense of security and safety. DEFUS partners in scientific projects in order to channel practical knowledge from the member cities into the research process and make the voice of cities heard. Member cities benefit in turn from a direct access to scientific projects and their results, which they can use to improve the quality of their local prevention work.

DEFUS was founded on 10 May 2010 in Berlin at the German Congress on Crime Prevention and has 15 members: the cities of Augsburg, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Essen, Freiburg, Gelsenkirchen, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Karlsruhe, Kreis Lippe, Mannheim, Munich and Stuttgart, the German Congress on Crime Prevention (GCOCP, Deutscher Präventionstag GmbH, DPT) and the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony (CPC, Landespräventionsrat Niedersachsen, LPR). Stuttgart and Cologne are joint chairs of DEFUS. The registered association has its legal seat and HQ in Hanover, in close connection with the secretariats of the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony and the German Congress on Crime Prevention.

“Security, Democracy and Cities. Co-producing Urban Security Policies” – Efus international conference, November 2017, Barcelona

Apart from the regular meetings of its Executive Committee and General Assembly, Efus organises every five to six years a major international and interdisciplinary

conference. Convening in a different European city each time, this conference is an important moment in the life of the network. It brings together a large number of actors and stakeholders from the world over to discuss current topics in urban security strategies. During these conferences, a manifesto is discussed and adopted by the general assembly. Since its foundation, Efus has held five international conferences in Montreal (1989), Paris (1991), Naples (2000), Saragossa (2006), and Aubervilliers & Saint Denis (2012).

Organised by Efus in partnership with the Government of Catalonia and the City of Barcelona, the next international and interdisciplinary conference will be held in Barcelona on 15-17 November 2017 and will be dedicated to the co-production of urban security policies. In addition, this event will mark Efus' 30th anniversary.

The overarching theme of the 2017 conference will be the co-production of security. The main topics to be discussed are the governance of security and how it is shared between the various levels of government (local, regional, national and supranational); why prevention is a priority in all the fields of security policies and how it concerns all actors and levels of governance, and the growing involvement of private actors and citizens in local security policies.

Ongoing activities

Efus is currently working in priority on the following issues:

Strengthening local authorities' capacities to prevent and fight radicalisation

Efus has been working for several years on this topic, which is particularly important and pressing for many member local authorities. After the attacks of January and November 2015 in Paris, Efus members repeatedly advocated prevention as a key approach to counter radicalisation and stressed the importance of respecting human rights and striving to strengthen social cohesion.

In order to improve local authorities' capacities to prevent and fight this phenomenon, Efus organises training sessions and helps them set up pilot projects and innovative practices. It also coordinated the exchange of practices and knowledge among some 40 European localities, and produced a book and videos that include guidelines and good practices on the prevention of radicalisation at the local level.

In order to increase cooperation on this major issue, Efus has established partnerships with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the international Strong Cities Network, the EU's Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN), and the governments of France and Belgium.

Countering hate crime at the local level

Incidents motivated by hate and intolerance are increasing in number and intensity in many EU member states, according to recent EU reports. While this is a trans-national phenomenon, responses must be found at all levels of governance. To increase knowledge among decision-makers and practitioners about the measures that can be taken at a local level to counter acts of discriminatory violence, Efus has been working on a collection of practices, the organisation of a seminar titled “Preventing and Countering Discriminatory Violence at the Local Level in Europe”, as well as a series of national and international events.

Efus has cooperated on this topic with a number of local partners, including the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima, APAV), the Italian Forum for Urban Security (FISU), the Austrian Institute for Research on Conflicts (Institut für Konfliktforschung, IKF), the Belgian Forum for Urban Security (FBPSU), the Spanish Forum for Urban Security (FEPSU), the German association Ufuq e.v., the Jagellonian University of Krakow (Poland), and the French Forum for Urban Security (FFSU).

Improving police-population relations

Good relations between the police and citizens are a key requirement for enabling the police to work effectively and impartially and for the population to feel secure. However, these relations prove to be conflictual in certain European countries or cities. Because cities play a central role in local life, they can participate in bringing the police and citizens closer by acting as intermediaries. Efus has worked along several European cities, among them Amiens (FR), Aubervilliers (FR), Barcelona (ES), Brussels (BE), Lisbon (PT), Milan (IT), Nantes (FR), and Toulouse (FR), to develop pilot projects and collectively define a series of principles and recommendations to improve interactions between the police and citizens. It produced a publication on this theme (Police-population relations: challenges, local practices and recommendations), in February 2016.

Promoting social integration through sport

Efus launched the first European Prize for Social Integration through Sport in 2015 with the objective of identifying and promoting practices that use sport to strengthen social integration and values such as respect, tolerance and inclusion. The first prize was awarded in 2016. Some 180 applications were received from all over Europe and five practices were distinguished.

The winners were: in the category “Prevention of and fight against racism”, Mondiali Antirazzisti (Italy); in the category “Promotion of gender equality”, PLAY International (France); in the category “Integration of marginalised people”, Come Together Cup (Germany); in the category “Inclusion of people at risk”, Icehearts of Finland (Finland); in the category “Education for active citizenship or fair play”, RollerFoot-Ball (France).

Drafting and implementing a local night-time strategy

At night, cities slow down and the hustle and bustle moves to specific areas. The potential conflict between sleep, work and play means that cities need to develop night-time policies that take into account the distinct aspects of nightlife. Efus helps its members to design their local strategy for nightlife, adapted to their local context. Efus' support includes training on the main steps and principles of action for designing such a strategy and on the specific issues and tools related to the management of a city's nightlife.

Numerous Efus members who work on nightlife through dedicated structures or through a 'Night Czar' (an executive officer in charge of nightlife) can exchange in the work group moderated by Efus on the Efus Network platform.

Improving local policies on senior citizens

Local policies and actions do not always take into account the specific needs of senior citizens although there are many projects and practices of prevention, support and information that concern this group of population. Efus and the government of Catalonia set up a working group in 2014 with the aim of gathering existing practices in Europe, to further knowledge and to make a series of recommendations for a comprehensive European policy on elderly people.

Developing a strategic approach to urban security

In order to help European local policy-makers and practitioners to build and review their security policies on the basis of reliable information and data collected on the ground, Efus collects methods and tools. It works on questions such as: how to translate the results of an audit into concrete actions; how to use the new information and communication technologies; the opportunities offered by open data, and the obstacles to overcome in order to implement a strategic approach to urban security in the current climate of budgetary reductions. In the course of different projects on this topic, and responding to requests by many European local authorities, Efus produced two handbooks and a video presenting a number of effective tools and methodologies to be used to conduct local security audits.

Understanding the emerging role of social media in enhancing public security

Efus contributes to research and project-related activities to better identify and understand the opportunities, challenges and ethical consideration linked to the use of social media for public security purposes. Through these activities, Efus wishes to draw attention to the needs and expectations of local authorities in this area so that adequate research may be conducted.

Developing concerted local policies for security and tourism

The tourist city, regardless of its size or type of tourism, must consider security as a major element of its development strategy. Whereas in the past security and tourism policies were often conducted separately, dialogue between these two spheres is now essential. Through thematic local audits, field observations and exchanges with experts, Efus helped eight European cities to design their local “security and tourism” strategy with three main objectives: raise awareness among tourists on risk prevention and local customs; improve the way tourists are received and supported when they have problems; foster peaceful coexistence between tourists and local residents.

Recent publications

Since its creation, Efus has published close to 60 books on a large array of themes. Focused on inter-cities cooperation programmes, they include information on methodology and practices as well as contributions from experts. The most recent publications are:

Preventing Discriminatory Violence at the Local Level: Practices and Recommendations, September 2017.

Available in English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish

European Practices for Social Integration Through Sport, January 2017

Available in English and French

Preventing and Fighting Radicalisation at the Local Level, October 2016

Available in English, French, German, Spanish

Methods and Tools for a Strategic Approach to Urban Security, June 2016

Available in English, French, German, Italian

Police-population Relations: Challenges, Local practices and Recommendations, February 2016

Available in English and French

Security and Tourism: Concerted Local Policies, October 2015

Available in English and French

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