Manifesto thematic recommendations

European Forum for Urban Security

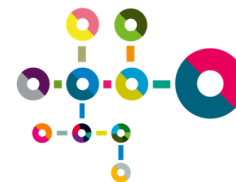2025

Thematic recommendations

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Police

Introduction

Good relations between citizens and their police are a decisive factor in how safe people feel in their city, but also more broadly how they feel supported and listened to by their government and public institutions. On the other hand, good police-population relations are key in enabling the latter to work calmly and efficiently. In many cities, whatever the country, citizens expect to see police officers on the beat, in the streets, and this is a role that is increasingly given to local police forces. As such, local police often take on a social role and are on the front line in dealing with the symptoms and consequences of social, economic and international or geopolitical trends, whether mental health, drug addiction, anti-social behaviour, gender violence, organised crime or drug trafficking, to name a few. Local authorities, which are directly responsible for local policing, can play a key role in ensuring peaceful, healthy relations between law enforcement and citizens, but also in ensuring that local police are adequately trained and supported.

Recommendations

- Local authorities should be recognised as a crucial intermediary between the police and citizens with a role in helping to improve and strengthen their relations based on a local authorities' first-hand understanding of citizens' needs and expectations.
- Train police officers in contact with citizens for not only emergency situations and reactivity when faced with a specific issue but also in listening, communicating and mediating with citizens.
- The police doctrines of action should be based on proximity and citizens' needs and the recruitment and training of officers should be suited to this objective by integrating the issues of relations with the population, partnership, management of violence, communication as well as mediation techniques.
- Police doctrines and profiles should be adapted to the evolution of our multicultural society and to new forms of crime and threats to social cohesion (cybercrime, organised crime and drug trafficking with visible effects on urban centres, drug addiction, poor housing and poverty...).
- Training programmes specifically designed for local police officers should be developed and delivered, for example through local 'police academies'. convient de développer des référentiels de formation spécifiquement conçus pour les agents de police locale, par exemple dans le cadre d'académies de police.
- Police staff should be more representative of the population's diversity (gender, ethnic

background, languages spoken…) in order to better reflect and respond to citizens' needs. Developing quantitative and qualitative tools to monitor the evolution of police population relations in order to measure the effects of existing projects remains a priority.

● In order to boost recruitment and retention, which is a serious challenge for most local authorities, whatever the city or country, there should be more recognition of the important role of local police officers.

● Encourage exchanges of promising practices among European local police forces and promote their expertise so as to co-construct a "common language" among local police forces regarding their intervention methods and procedures, for example through Europe-wide networks such as EU-POLNET.

Practices

● The Lisbon Community Policing model is that of a preventative and participatory police that seeks to solve the local community's security issues. This model was designed and put in place by the municipality of Lisbon in close cooperation with the municipal police and local stakeholders involved in crime prevention, as well as residents.

● Cities of Nice: involving citizens
In Nice (France), citizens can exchange with the City Council on issues of safety through WhatsApp.

● Belgian local police: the local crime prevention partnerships A Local Crime Prevention Partnership (Partenariat Local de Prévention in French) is a cooperation and exchange agreement between citizens and local police in a given neighbourhood. The objective is to reduce crime, improve citizens' feelings of security, foster social control and promote prevention.

● Government of Catalonia: gender equality in the regional police force The Government of Catalonia (Spain) is implementing a Plan for Equal Opportunities between women and men within the regional police, the Mossos d'Esquadra.

References

● Imppulse Police-population relations (Efus 2016)
● Policing (Efus 2023) Manifesto of Aubervilliers and Saint Denis (Efus 2012)
● Manifesto 2017

Justice

Introduction

- There is a lack of inter-knowledge between the justice system and local authorities and a need to improve relations and cooperation.
- There are important gaps to bridge between the prison and the city, and answers can only be found in a comprehensive approach involving a wide range of stakeholders.
- Societies that are built on the principles of social inclusion best protect communities from the harm and distress caused by crime; it follows that imprisonment should be considered as a last resort in the criminal justice system.
- It is necessary to recognise that the role of cities is essential both in the search for alternatives to imprisonment and in the process of reintegrating ex-prisoners into society, in coordination with judiciary institutions
- Recidivism occurs within the first few months of release (in France for example, 31% of those released from prison reoffend within 12 months). Preparing prisoners for their release is therefore essential, and a key challenge for the municipalities where they will be residing and reintegrating.
- With often reduced teams and budgets, local stakeholders active in the process of reintegration and rehabilitation tend to fall back on their core functions, and cooperation must surpass the obstacles not only of lack of resources but also of mutual understanding between stakeholders from very different systems and organisational backgrounds.
- The fight against re-offending is a complex undertaking, and it is not the monopoly of any one individual or institution. Justice gives a 'penal signposting' to the person's behaviour, but it is up to society as a whole to mobilise and put an end to a criminal career path.
- The human and economic costs resulting from recidivism are increasing in all the member states of the European Union so the necessity of implementing strategies for the prevention of re-offending is a priority.

Recommendations:

- Local elected officials must be informed when offenders having served a sentence for serious crime or terrorism are released from prison in their locality.
- Services and institutions of civil society should be easily accessible to ex-prisoners, as social inclusion reduces the risk of reoffending. Motivation and opportunities for ex offenders to make reparations to society and to experience citizenship positively should be strongly promoted.
- Local governments should favour multi-agency cooperation between the police, probation services, victims' organisations, providers of restorative justice and other

municipal and local agencies. This multi-agency cooperation should strive to meet the complex needs of ex-offenders in the process of being reintegrated into society, as well as those of the victims and of communities

- Local elected officials and relevant stakeholders, who are directly in contact with citizens on the ground, should be involved in evaluating the justice system's needs. Also, they can identify the relevant local stakeholders who can help ex-prisoners to reintegrate society.
- Engage in partnerships with European professional organisations in the field of probation, prison, restorative justice, victim services, the police, etc. in order to promote further the idea of multi-agency work and a holistic approach to offenders.
- Restorative justice emerged from the challenges that have been raised by our traditional criminal justice systems, showing that we need new approaches to justice that are less repressive, less harsh and more inclusive and preventive.
- Train prevention professionals, as well as community volunteers, in the culture of mediation, so that they are better equipped to deal with interpersonal conflicts, and to help de-escalate and resolve conflicts.
- Following the principles of restorative justice, develop a different way of thinking justice that is much more problem-oriented and victims-oriented by looking not just at crime but also at responses to it.
- Strengthen victims' access to law and assistance.
- Developing educational initiatives on justice such as on the execution of sentences, so that alternatives to incarceration are known and understood by the general public. Elected representatives, as local players, have a role to play, in partnership with the judiciary, in disseminating this information. Systematise educational initiatives such as re-enactment trials, to inform young people about the workings of the justice system.
- Support the development of community service, community work and penal reparation.
- Develop training sessions for local stakeholders which becomes a tool for partnership working, for better service delivery and to prevent reoffending. Putting together specialised training sessions on prevention of reoffending will increase the cross cutting knowledge of local partners and strengthen formal and non formal cooperation mechanisms.
- A local partnership has to be led by an organisation that will be able to unite the various stakeholders.
- Local authorities should create and support innovative initiatives aimed at reducing reoffending and play a more active role in supporting ex-offenders integrate into society ("Process of reinsertion must start the moment an offender is arrested, and be carried on during and after imprisonment")
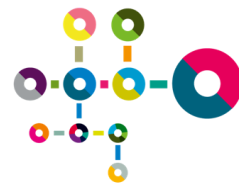
> **Practices:**
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> FALPREV: Training local stakeholders in the prevention of reoffending - Project set up in 2012 by Efus composed of five European Cities: Brasov (Romania); Göttingen (Germany), Le Havre (France), Belfast (Northern Ireland), Valencia (Spain) and the Institute for Research and Training from Turin (Italy) - Twenty four training sessions were organised according to the partners' local context and needs, and tested.
> - This training toolkit was created on the basis of the experience gathered during these training sessions in Belfast, Brasov, Göttingen, Le Havre, Turin, and Valencia.
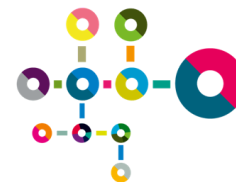
References
- [Prevention of Reoffending (Efus 2012)](#)
- [Innovative Strategies for the Prevention of Reoffending (Efus 2009)](#)
- [Press Release from Efus Website on Prevention of Reoffending, Resolution of CE Nantes (Efus 2011)](#)
- [Livre Blanc (FFSU 2023)](#)
- [Manifesto of Aubervilliers et Saint Denis (Efus 2012)](#)

Security continuum

Introduction
- The supply and demand for private security is increasing, particularly since the wave of terrorist attacks against European cities in the 2010s. Third-party security actors are needed to secure public places and events, for example. As a matter of fact, there are now more private security guards than public police officers in a majority of the world's countries.
- The fact that public authorities throughout Europe have had to face extensive budgetary cuts since the 2008 financial crisis has paved the way for increased contribution from the private sector to urban security.
- In addition to public security actors, others intervene and contribute to the implementation of security policies. These include the voluntary sector, citizens, the commercial sector, and private security firms. These stakeholders all have different cultures, modus operandi and, sometimes, objectives.
- There is no common European culture in the private sector because of a lack of harmonisation at the European level of national laws that concern private security operators. However, as the private sector is a key contributor to public security, there

is also an opportunity to develop public-private partnerships and also better associate citizens.

- "Smart cities" seek the help of solution developers and manufacturers to meet new equipment and service needs in order to guarantee the safety of citizens. In these new collaborations, local authorities take a risk when they enter a partnership: the little information they have available can become a threat to security as a common good.

Recommendations

- All security stakeholders must be included into a security strategy for the common good.
- Common criteria, principles and methods must be developed to ensure all security stakeholders, including those from the private and third sectors, are properly trained.
- The prerogatives and roles of all stakeholders must be clarified for greater transparency and efficiency and clear rules must be established within the partnerships in order to build trust.
- The tasks that are exclusively conducted by public institutions should be identified, such as identity check, surveillance on public roads, and penitentiary administration.
- Public institutions/organisations must always assume a leading role in coordinating private sector stakeholders.
- "Il faut très bien définir les domaines dans lesquels le secteur privé peut coopérer, dans un rôle préventif, et non répressif, qui demeure une responsabilité étatique."
- Legislation on the tasks assigned to the private sector must be harmonised at European level and based on criteria defined jointly by the stakeholders. Security actions by citizens and civil society should be better taken into account and actions such as peer prevention, mentoring and volunteering can be promoted and developed, while being well supervised.
- A culture of prevention among private sector stakeholders must be fostered, with a shift away from an "all police" type of approach to urban security.
- Citizen participation should be taken into account and promoted. But it should be so in a way of a common culture of security focused on social cohesion and inclusion that doesn't promote a strictly repressive, 'total controlling' approach.
- Sharing information about public and private projects regarding security strategies in order to identify areas for cooperation
- Reinforce the collaboration between the public and private sectors, building on each other's strengths without challenging respective responsibilities
- Establish clear and transparent rules for partnerships, which will help build or strengthen trust between public and private sector actors. Identify common goals and priorities based on the needs or shortcomings in different areas such as institutional strength; intervention projects or the production of information in order to set up short, medium and long-term programmes

- Ensure that safety is viewed as inclusive, taking into account the needs of the whole community and not only those of potential clients. The private sector must be part of a strategy of security for the common good and based on human rights respect

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Practices
- Urban Data risk management tool for local authorities: By aggregating data from different sources, the tool makes it possible to identify, select and analyse different types of accidents that have occurred over a long period of time in the area of the local authority concerned.
- Aux Alentours tool from MAIF: Exposure to climatic risks, local services, property prices, etc. Find all the useful information you need about the area around your address.

References
- [European Parliament resolution of 4 July 2017 on private security companies (2016/2238(INI))](#)
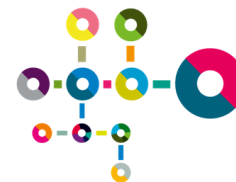
Mental Health

Introduction:

In a post-pandemic context, the issue of health and, more specifically, mental health, is more than ever at the heart of the public's concerns. In several European countries, such as Belgium, Estonia, France, Sweden and Norway, the proportion of young people reporting symptoms of depression more than doubled during the pandemic, reaching prevalence levels at least twice those of older age groups. As underlined by the World Health Organisation (WHO), "There is no health without mental health." Indeed, there is an essential correlation between mental health and overall well-being, particularly through the growing recognition of the multiple social and genetic factors that influence psychological health. The absence of this state of well
being can lead to problems not only for the individual, but also for his or her entire environment.

In some cases, untreated mental health problems can lead to risk-taking in terms of individual   and collective safety. Local stakeholders note increasing numbers of public

disorder incidents are linked to mental health problems. Furthermore, people affected by mental health issues can be victimised (through their risky behaviour or because they are attacked) as do their entourage and broader social environment. Yet another aspect is that feeling insecure in one's town or city can have an impact on people's mental health.

Police officers are not always adequately trained to intervene in situations involving psychological disorders. Elected representatives and professionals in the field are regularly faced with complex, multi-faceted situations - ranging from malaise to violence and critical situations requiring involuntary hospitalisation. Faced with this broad spectrum of problems, it is necessary to adopt innovative, cross-functional approaches within our departments and cooperate with all the relevant players, notably social and educational services, specialised prevention and hospital.

Cities play an important role in facilitating access to care.
It is important to integrate mental health issues into local security and crime prevention strategies, while respecting the human rights of people suffering from mental disorders. It is important that they are not stigmatised.

Recommendations
- Raise awareness among elected officials and other local decision-makers on the importance of mental health and how it is linked to urban security, as well as on the importance of duly training all actors operating in this field.
- Improve inter-knowledge between professionals and the coordination of existing services:
    - Encourage cooperation between different sectors such as psychiatry, addictionology, the social sector, housing, work, the police and municipal authorities.
    - Emphasise the importance of cross-disciplinary action for effective intervention.
- Develop approaches, the culture of players and decision-makers, and specific training for front-line stakeholders and elected representatives/city departments: ○ Develop training for front-line professionals (municipal police officers, mediators, building janitors, etc.) so that they are able to identify disorders at an early stage, and guide or even accompany individuals towards appropriate care.
    - Set up specific training for front-line stakeholders, elected representatives and municipal services to better meet the needs of people affected by mental health problems and dual diagnosis cases (suffering from both mental health and addiction problems); improve intervention methods
- Reinforce specialised resources: Develop young people centres, which are ideal places for detecting and preventing disorders in young people, and strengthen the presence of other professionals involved, such as school nurses.

- Implement mental health promotion initiatives aimed at the general population, to raise awareness of mental health issues, mobilise local residents and reduce the stigmatisation of people with mental health problems.
- Develop training for local professionals (municipal police officers, mediators, building janitors, etc.) so that they are able to identify disorders at an early stage, and guide or even accompany individuals towards appropriate care.

Practices

- City of Montréal's Police Service (SPVM)

  "Immersion MTL" is a joint initiative with partners from various sectors to develop an innovative training programme designed to bring police personnel closer to Montreal communities, outside emergency situations.

- First Aid Training in Mental Health - City of Montreuil

  Supported by the ARS (Regional Health Agency) and implemented by a psychologist from the Bol d'Air association, this training course has been designed for professionals in contact with the public who have no knowledge of psychiatry (youth workers, educators, reception staff, mediators, building wardens, CPEs at secondary schools, municipal police officers, etc.). Its aim is to mobilise these different players upstream of a crisis, enabling them to identify high-risk situations, establish initial contact adapted to the profile encountered, and provide guidance and support to ensure better care.

- City of Brussels: EMUT project (Équipe mobile d'urgence / Mobile Emergency Team). Training for Brussels police officers and specific procedure for calling in care providers during an intervention involving a person in a psychological crisis.

- The PEGASE scheme in the Gironde region:

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The Programme d'Echanges pour améliorer la Gestion de l'Accès aux Soins en intErprofessionalité (PEGASE) (Exchange programme to improve the management of access to care within the profession) is concerned with the pre-hospital management of psychiatric emergencies. Its aim is to strengthen coordination between the players involved (GPs, private nurses, emergency services, fire brigade, police, medical transport, etc.) to improve patient care in the Gironde region, in particular through training, inter-professional discussion forums and the development of shared tools.

Reference
- Livre Blanc (FFSU 2023)

Nightlife

Introduction
- Nightlife is an aspect of urban life that is becoming increasingly important with the rise of weekend tourism and new forms of festive and cultural leisure, in particular among young people.
- Festive nights play a role in reinforcing social cohesion, but they also entail (sometimes) risky behaviour such as excessive alcohol consumption or street brawls, and can also impact the quality of life of residents (noise pollution, littering…).
- The city is occupied differently at nighttime: the use of public spaces, the needs and demands of citizens are not the same as in daytime and thus, the issues and possible solutions must reflect those differences. Citizens often have a sense of insecurity and an underlying anxiety about their city at night, yet these are only partially based on real crime
- The creation of festive spaces and the excessive consumption of alcohol has consequences both in terms of health and security.
- A large number of European cities, particularly student cities, face major challenges when managing nightlife in a context where public services are operating at a reduced level
- The gender inequality in the use of nightlife needs to be addressed, namely due to sexual and gender-based violence.
- Cities need to strike a balance between ecological transition and safety, while considering that light is also an important element in the creation of a nocturnal identity and the reappropriation of public spaces by citizens.
- Local and regional governments struggle to manage nightlife because it is a complex domain that involves many stakeholders and because, by nature, it is a time when most public services are either closed or considerably reduced. On the other hand, many European cities, particularly ones with large student populations, are faced with challenges regarding their nightlife, which needs to be pacified and regulated. They must put forward a global, integrated, cross-sectoral and pragmatic response that encompasses health, security, the management and use of public spaces, and peaceful coexistence among all relevant actors (nightlife actors, residents, revellers, etc.).
- Such a response must be co-designed in order to prevent the conflicts that commonly flare up at night and to enable all types of public to appropriate the night-time according to their individual needs.

Recommendations

● A shared vision for nightlife and diagnosis of specific issues and in the decision-making processes must be sought with all the relevant stakeholders, particularly in the hospitality sector, in order to create mutually beneficial situations.

● This shared vision should be carried out, for example in a Charter on nightlife, through commitments on shared objectives. An action plan providing solutions that can be globally applied must be drawn up and a communication strategy needs to be defined.

● A generalised approach is needed, articulating the different fields of intervention with internal urban services, the volunteer sector, local residents and the private sector (nightlife businesses, transport companies, etc.) complementing one another.

● Areas where festive or leisure activities and social life take place should also be available in peripheral urban areas so that these may also benefit from night-time activities and services, thus avoiding the potential isolation of certain neighbourhoods

● Public policies for reducing nuisances, prevention and risk-reduction actions should be implemented and made sustainable both in terms of security and health, and defined in terms of regulatory and legal actions.

● From the beginning of projects on public spaces, urban planning and architecture should be designed and managed taking into account both their spatial dimensions and the ways in which they will be used and occupied during the night.

● Trained agents, whether professionals or volunteers, should be deployed in order to initiate or supervise cultural and entertainment activities, raise awareness and meditate. They will help defuse tension, reduce feelings of insecurity, reduce risks, improve the quality of nightlife and link with daytime services.

● Special attention must be given to preventing harassment and sexual attacks in nightlife venues through a scheme enabling the public to alert nightlife venue staff.

● Specific training for personnel in night clubs and bars should be carried out to help them deal with the health and security problems caused by customers whose behaviour presents risks.

● Issues specific to public transport should be dealt with in order to control the movement of people at night and reduce the number of traffic accidents due to alcohol.

● Develop at the European level a common doctrine on nightlife and a culture of risk prevention in the field of health and safety linked to nightlife in public spaces, through a permanent exchange about the most promising initiatives.

● Within a work group of Efus member cities, defining a set of objective assessment criteria for labelling a sustainable and high-quality nightlife, which is part of an overall strategy for public order and health.

● Consider environmental issues and the impact of climate change on the use of public spaces at night (consultation on maintaining public lighting, use of green spaces during heatwaves, etc.).

● Local decision-makers should take into account the specificities of nightlife when designing urban facilities or providing certain services. Indeed, their use and way of life are different
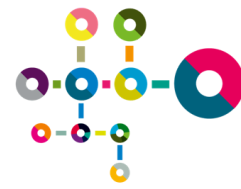
at night. In this sense, gender should be a key aspect of this work in order to seek more inclusive and equal public spaces.

● Mobilising and coordinating public and private operational actors and services (public health, security, urban planning, public transport services, trade associations of nightlife providers and venues, etc.) and civil society to implement pragmatic responses addressing the specific night-time issues in a preventive, intersectoral and partnership approach.

● Assuming the responsibility for coordination and dialogue and taking a leading role in managing the city both at night and during the day, as a democratically elected local authority.

● Setting up, at a local level, consultation and co-construction bodies for night- time policies, which regularly renew the diagnosis specific to nightlife.

● Taking into account the diversity of nightlife audiences (women and LGBTQAI+, wandering and homeless people, night workers, tourists, and peri-urban populations).

● Developing regulatory and legislative measures as well as regulation and control tools. Cities can for example use regulations to recognise festive places as part of their historic heritage and to recognise prior rights.
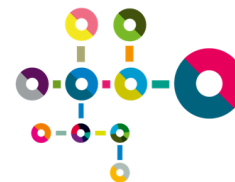
Practices

- City of Bologna: In 2021, the city set up a night council with a deputy mayor for nightlife, involving partners and around forty residents. This nightlife policy integrates various sectors such as culture, the economy and health. The city has established a team of "Sweets Hosts." 15 mediators are deployed in public spaces to disseminate prevention   and risk-reduction messages, limit noise pollution and littering, and reduce violence and conflict. Their work is based on outreach and also helps to combat feelings of insecurity and inform night owls about mobility.

- Ask for Angela: This is a scheme widely used in European and American cities. In France, it has been put in place in Bordeaux since July 2021, and more recently piloted in Nice (2024). Through this scheme, a network of partner establishments (restaurants, hotels, bars, clubs, shops...) pledge to provide refuge and assistance to victims of harassment. When feeling in danger, a victim can go to a venue displaying the Ask for Angela logo and discreetly ask "Where is Angela?". This code-phrase will indicate to staff that they require help and a trained member of staff will then look to support and assist them. This might be through reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or by calling venue security and/or the police.

- SHINE project: An EU-funded project (2020-2023) led by the University of Maribor, working with Efus and Vilnius (Lithuania) and Ljubljana (Slovenia). It aimed to create a common culture among nightlife stakeholders and give them appropriate tools to prevent sexual harassment in nightlife venues.

- Safer Drinking Scenes Project 2011 - 2013: Received co-funding from the European Union. The project's main objective was to share best practices in the prevention of excessive alcohol consumption and in reducing health and safety risks as well as in terms of the management of nightlife and public spaces.

References

- Manifesto of Aubervilliers and Saint Denis (Efus 2012)
- Manifesto (Efus 2017)
- Alcool, ville et vie nocturne - Pour une stratégie locale et transversale (Efus 2017)
- Safer Drinking Scenes, Alcohol, City and Nightlife (FFSU and Efus, 2013)
- Livre Blanc FFSU

Communication and Disinformation

Introduction

- Social media have emerged since the mid 2010s as an increasingly powerful player in the public debate, whether at the international, national or local level. Their influence can now be felt in just about every aspect of our private and public life.
- Because of the algorithms that tend to guide users towards contents that trigger strong reactions, and more often than not anger, social media create echo chambers where citizens can get lost and lose track of reality, living in an increasingly parallel and angry universe.
- The more recent advent of Artificial Intelligence will also profoundly transform the information we receive and share, although we don't know yet exactly how and to what extent.
- Public authorities, whether international, national or local, struggle to deal with these new players that don't follow the traditional norms of public debate. Social media companies, on the other hand, are reluctant to take responsibility for the contents they spread, including fake or dangerous news.
- The advent of social media has rendered our societies more polarised, angry and suspicious even though they can also play a positive role to debunk false information, communicate useful information to the public, or mobilise help in case of need.
- Local authorities, who are faced with the impact of social media on local communities and social cohesion, struggle to come up with responses.

Recommendations

- Countering fake news and dangerous social media contents can only be done through close cooperation between all levels of governance: local, national and international.
- Local authorities can use social media to communicate useful information, involve citizens in public decisions, and spread democratic values and a sense of community.
- Authorities can use social networks to alert the public in case of crisis or immediate danger. Such practice is indeed increasingly widespread.
- Public authorities, whatever the level of governance, must behave and communicate ever more transparently in order to be perceived as reliable and truthful in the face of a growing 'communication jungle'. They should embody honesty, transparency, and ethical behaviour in all their activities and communication.
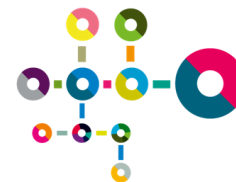
- Educating the public, notably but not exclusively young people, in using social media and distinguishing between fake and reliable news is crucial. Public authorities, in particular at the local level, can play a leading role in this respect by supporting schools and relevant civil society organisations.
- Local authorities can find strength, ideas and inspiring practices through exchanges with their peers in their country, but also across Europe and beyond, through networks such as Efus or others. Similarly, it is more important than ever to set up regular exchanges on this issue between local authorities and national, European and international institutions and organisations.

Practices
- London - Legal obligation to regularly inform the public about police activities. Use of panels and regular information to report on cases handled and results achieved. French Parliament - Creation of an editorial approval right for the appointment of an editor in the media.

- Belgium - service BE-alert: Created in 2014, BE-Alert is an alert system used by the Belgian public authorities to alert the public. This system can be used by mayors, governors, or the Ministry of the Interior. Some 90% of Belgian communes are registered on this system, which totalled (as of June 2024) about 1.2 million citizen addresses.
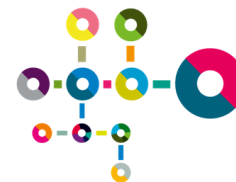

References
- European Union's Digital Services Act (February 2024), which aims at protecting the fundamental rights of citizens and consumers using digital services. It has been widely praised as a landmark piece of legislation.
- The European Media Freedom Act (may 2024) seeks to protect freedom and pluralism among EU media, and strengthen the free circulation of services.
- The OCDE report on Facts not Fakes: Tackling Disinformation, Strengthening Information Integrity (May 2024) presents an analytical framework to guide countries in the design of policies to uphold the integrity of the information space.
- Report of the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom on 'information deserts' in EU member countries

Discriminatory Violence

Introduction:
- The notion of discriminatory violence refers to "violent incidents that the victim, witness or other person perceives as being motivated by prejudice, intolerance,
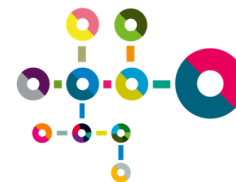
preconceived opinions or hatred, whether or not it is regarded as a criminal offence according to the current Penal Code". This includes violence motivated by gender, racism, islamophobia, anti-semitism, xenophobia, LGBTQIA+-phobia, violence against people with disabilities, ageism, anti-gypsyism, violence against the homeless, refugees, asylum seekers and sex workers, to name but a few.
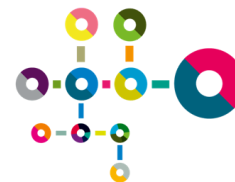
● Acts of discriminatory violence are different from other forms of violence: they have devastating effects on the health and well-being of direct victims, but they also have a wider impact on an entire social group or community, denying them the right to participate in society. The impact is twofold: direct on the victim and indirect on the community as a whole, thus jeopardising social cohesion and affecting the tranquillity and security of individuals and communities.

● Recent developments at European level, such as budget cuts for social action, rising youth unemployment, increased migration, rising extremist mobilisation or a decline in the confidence in public institutions, and the increasingly powerful influence of social media have led to increasingly polarised societies.

● While the levels of reported hate crimes and discriminatory violence are growing (as reported in a number of Efus' member cities), many acts are still unreported and the prevention and control strategies implemented at European level are still insufficient.

● Discriminatory violence is not sufficiently taken into account in urban security policies. It is important to include the harmful effects of discrimination, exclusion and intolerance on peaceful coexistence in local communities as well as how they are linked and the ways in which they fuel polarisation, radicalisation and violent extremism.

● Discriminatory violence directly undermines the founding values of democracy, social cohesion and citizens' security as stated by the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights. Such violence has a devastating impact on many levels.

● The heterogeneous composition of urban society can also become a breeding ground for tensions and conflicts.

Recommendations:

● Strategies to fight against hatred and intolerance should be fully integrated into urban security policy agendas. The notion of discriminatory violence should be made central because it links discrimination and security, fundamental rights and social cohesion.

● Local and regional authorities should play an active role in the fight against discrimination, based on the legal and political frameworks defined by European and national governments. Because they are close to citizens, they can contribute by promoting the production of knowledge, raising awareness, empowering local communities, improving prevention, supporting victims, connecting relevant stakeholders and allocating appropriate resources.

- Diversity should be considered an asset when designing local urban security strategies. Vulnerable groups do not sufficiently participate and contribute to the co production of these strategies. The promotion and development of public spaces shared by a diverse population where the security of all is guaranteed encourages their participation and strengthens social cohesion.
- Early and / or primary prevention measures against prejudice in schools and in all institutions and organisations that contribute to civic education should be promoted, through supporting the development of programmes to raise awareness of discrimination and prejudice and foster resilience against intolerance and hate for all age groups.
- Raise awareness among professionals, elected officials and citizens on the phenomenon and its implications.
- Develop a proactive strategy to promote trust between vulnerable groups and law enforcement authorities and facilitate the reporting of incidents and filing of complaints.
- Seek recognition of the central role played by local elected officials in the fight against discriminatory violence, and publicly strengthen our position against all forms of hatred and intolerance.
- Cooperate with civil society to develop or improve local victim support services.
- Increase diversity within local and regional governments, raising awareness and training civil servants and public officials to better recognise and respond to discriminatory acts.
- Intensify cooperation and exchanges with legal and law enforcement authorities to allow them to better identify cases of discriminatory violence, provide better care to victims and guarantee the promotion of human rights and non-discrimination.
- Improve knowledge through targeted safety audits on the topic of discriminatory violence, making use of adequate methodologies and relying on expert support. Routinely review and evaluate existing prevention strategies on the basis of new knowledge and evidence.
- Collaboration with local and regional media outlets to provide information on discriminatory violence in their territory and exchange about the views of the authorities and affected communities on the issue. Engage in a process with representatives of the media, the local communities and other stakeholders to collectively discuss problematic publications and their impact. Ensure mechanisms are in place to review the content of television programmes, printed and online information to avoid discriminatory content, and that can initiate public debate on such content.

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> **Practices**
> - [LOUD - Local Young Leaders for Inclusion](#) (January 2019 - 2021) - Aimed to foster inclusive environments for young people in order to prevent them from drifting into intolerance and extremist behaviours, to strengthen local authorities' and young people's capacities to produce alternative narratives.
> - [SENTRY SPORT](#) (January 2021 - September 2023) - Aimed to empower grassroots sport stakeholders in monitoring, preventing and mitigating acts of discrimination by providing them with suitable and adequate tools and methodology. The project was led by USIP Nazionale.
> - [Hatento Observatory](#), Spain (2014) - Created by the Rais Foundation to develop a more holistic understanding of hate crimes and other discriminatory incidents against the homeless, to explore the main types of violence experienced by homeless people.

References
- [Preventing Discriminatory Violence at the Local Level: Practices & Recommendations (Efus 2017)](#)
- [Manifesto 2017](#)
- [Safebrussels' observatory: 15 May 2024, Flash report https://safe.brussels/fr/violences-lgbtqiaphobes-etat-des-lieux-de-la-situation-en region-bruxelloise](#)

Audits and methodology

Introduction:
- To be relevant and effective, urban safety policies must be evidence-based and continually assessed. Criminological research shows that evidence-based prevention does significantly reduce crime and victimisation.
- The choice of criteria and evaluation parameters partly conditions their conclusions with a risk of political use in order to justify the investments made.
- Scientific demands do not always conform with the needs and realities of local stakeholders.
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals recognise the importance of basing prevention policies on local safety audits and evaluation.

Recommendations:
- Evaluation procedures should be tested. They must be more inclusive and

participatory, ensuring the involvement of all groups in society.
- Local and regional authorities should cooperate more with research institutions. To foster a common evaluation culture, civil society and the private sector must also be included with support from national, European and international institutions.
- Policy makers must regularly assess their security strategy and the place allocated to prevention to ensure a relevant and balanced allocation of financial and human resources in the short, medium and long term.
- Community coalitions and partnerships between researchers and local authorities are key to ensure the implementation of systematic evidence-based crime prevention. To achieve this, local authorities need the support of national authorities and the European Union.
- The evaluation of local crime prevention and safety programmes should whenever possible be based on integrated data collection that can be used concretely in project management by field teams.
- Artificial Intelligence should (and will) increasingly be integrated in security audits and the monitoring of crime prevention programmes. It can be used to further make the case for the cost-effectiveness and social benefits of crime prevention as opposed to sanction/repression.

Practices
- IcARUS: Innovative AppRoaches to Urban Security. Efus led this project funded through the European Union's Horizon 2020 research programme, which concluded in August 2024. Its main objective was to rethink and adapt existing tools and methods to help security actors to anticipate and innovate, and thus better respond to emerging challenges. This cross-cutting project built on the experience garnered by Efus in over 35 years.

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

Introduction
- While the gender perspective must infuse all aspects of urban security policy, violence against women and girls (VAWG) deserves particular attention.

- All over the world, women are still victims of femicide, often the consequence of a series of harassments and assaults. They are also victims of physical, emotional, structural, sexual, cultural, verbal and economic violence. Such violence must be seen as a manifestation of inequality between men and women.

- Women are at risk, both in private and public spaces. Violence by men against women in the public and private spheres are to be considered as two manifestations of the same phenomenon: in both cases the violence is based on the inequality which characterises relationships between men and women.
- Local authorities can play an essential role in the prevention of violence against women and in increasing women's general safety. Reinforced sanctions in this matter could be useful, but this phenomenon - perhaps more than other forms of crime - is more effectively addressed through a preventive approach
- Violence and abuse are still systematically underreported and the reality of this phenomenon is not reflected in official data. It is difficult to detect domestic violence as it is often hidden, where the victim is isolated by their aggressor.
- In recent years violence against women, more specifically sexual harassment and coercion perpetrated by men in positions of power, has been the subject of intense public debate, particularly through campaigns initiated by civil society on social media.
- Such widespread violence, which equally affects the public, professional and private spheres, must be tackled as a matter of priority by local security policies. The gender approach and the issue of violence against women should be systematically included.
- With each new crisis that arises, from the Covid-19 pandemic to the tragedies of the current war in Ukraine, women and girls bear the brunt of some of the worst consequences.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has deepened pre-existing gender inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems, both in Europe and beyond. Recent analyses of global gender equality and women's empowerment reaffirm that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, with isolation and difficulties accessing resources bringing about a significant increase in gender-based violence. Today, more than 4 million refugees from Ukraine have crossed borders in search of safety, as have hundreds of thousands of other people fleeing other regions of the world, such as Africa and the Middle East. A great number of them are women, many of whom have children, and many are themselves children. All are made more vulnerable as a result of their displacement.
- As the closest level of governance to citizens, local and regional authorities are better placed to assess and identify situations where fundamental rights are threatened.

Recommendations:
- Local authorities must be involved in strategies against gender violence. Their role in the field of prevention and victim support must be recognised and strongly supported by national governments as well as European and international

institutions.

- Policies should take into account all spheres where violence against women takes place: in the public and private spaces, in schools, at work and during their free time, on public transport, and in cyberspace.
- Better knowledge about violence against women should be developed to fill the data gap and systematic underreporting. This must be achieved through the implementation of specific security audits and the publication of statistics and detailed reports on the subject in order to make the true extent of the phenomenon visible.
- Means suitable for this major phenomenon must be allocated to prevent and counter it.
- Local and regional authorities should develop prevention policies that enable women to assert and exercise their rights and provide accessible assistance and support to victims.
- All violence against women should be recognised by law as reprehensible everywhere and a more standardised European legal framework should be defined.
- Intensify efforts to act as coordinators and facilitators of prevention networks that include a multiplicity of stakeholders, among them law enforcement agencies, schools, sports and youth clubs, faith institutions, civil society organisations, committed entities from the private sector as well as individual champions of women's rights and gender equality.
- Increase the diversity of profiles - particularly gender - in the teams involved in the prevention of violence against women.
- Empower women and women's groups to be agents of change, valuing their contribution to urban security and encouraging them to take part in the co production of comprehensive crime prevention policies both in terms of gender perspective and fight against violence.
- Work from an early age to fight against gender stereotypes and hyper sexualisation, in cooperation with all the actors who contribute to the education of children.
- Explore new ways of educating boys and men on violence against women and encouraging a critical thought process on male and female roles and their commitment to prevention campaigns.
- Improve detection, prevention, and assistance for victims of sexual and gender based violence: collaborative partnerships among stakeholders are essential, emphasising the importance of mutual understanding, community awareness, and engaging both victims and offenders in preventive measures.
- Strengthen collaboration among stakeholders with different roles (police, social workers, educators, lawyers, doctors etc.) for better care of victims and perpetrators: the consensus lies in the need for multidisciplinary training and breaking down professional barriers to ensure comprehensive support and intervention strategies.

- Make training obligatory for those involved, especially police officers, in dealing with victims and understanding the specific nature of such violence, including the cycle of violence and various types of abuse (psychological, physical, virtual, economic, etc.): The emphasis is on the necessity of specialised training programmes facilitating a deeper understanding of the complexities of sexual and gender-based violence, aiming at improved victim support and perpetrator rehabilitation.
- Develop prevention for minors, by providing reception, care and follow-up for child victims, as well as primary and secondary prevention for younger children, to help them manage their frustrations and conflicts without violence.
- Take into account the diversity of couples (violence between women and men, men and men, women and women)
- Tackle the new threat of technology and artificial violence to domestic violence
- Ensure that government funding dedicated to gender-based and sexual violence is commensurate with the stakes involved. A rule of proportionality of funding could be envisaged with an evaluation every two years of the use made of budgets, as well as an assessment of the actions implemented. Make it compulsory to produce a gendered budget for annual delinquency prevention.
- Promote a gender approach in all urban security policies, which are not to be regarded as specific, separate policies.

Practices

- City of Mayotte, the #wamitoo scheme run by the HZW-CIDE association. The #wamitoo programme combats sexual violence against minors (winner of the 2023 Crime Prevention Prize awarded by the French Forum for Urban Security).

- CPVS in Brussels: Center for the care of victims of sexual violence, integrating doctors, nurses and police officers in one place to provide comprehensive care (medico-legal, psychological, social and legal) and avoid over-victimization. Police zones throughout the Brussels region must provide police officers on call to ensure that the CPVS operates 24/24. Police officers are specifically trained in approaching victims of sexual violence and the CPVS approach through a two-week training course.

- Emergency Victim Assistance - EVA Unit in the Police de Bruxelles Capitale Ixelles, Police officers specifically responsible for receiving victims of domestic and sexual violence within the police force. Workshops on decompartmentalising professions to provide better support for victims of violence, highlighting the importance of improving the inter-knowledge of professionals and the coordination of different services.

- VloGen Computer Platform (Spain's Ministry of the Interior) - Spanish approach

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to combating violence against women, which lists all victims who have contacted the police and assesses the estimated levels of danger and the police protective measures to be adopted. It can be consulted and added to by all those involved in the fight against violence against women: police officers, judges, social services and public prosecutors.

- 'A roof for her' (un toit pour elle) - Deparmental Observatory of Violence Against Women of Seine-Saint-Denis (France) - In order to improve the flow of accommodation for women victims of violence, every year each municipality in the department reserves accommodation, from the municipal or inter-municipal quota, for a woman housed in the shelters run by the Amicale du Nid 93 and SOS Femmes 93 associations, which specialise in housing women victims of violence. This scheme, coordinated by the Observatoire, has been extended to women in very serious danger who have a mobile alert telephone and to women who have a protection order. 24 towns and four institutions in the département (Seine-Saint Denis habitat, CAF, the Prefecture and Plaine Commune habitat) have signed the agreement. Since January 2010, this scheme has rehoused 319 women and 553 children, a total of 872 people.

- Exploratory walks already widely practised in many cities in Europe and beyond. During an exploratory walk, women go through the city, usually at night, to identify all the places where they feel unsafe (lack of public lighting, large empty public spaces, subways, presence of offensive graffiti, etc.). Police officers and municipal staff often take part in the exploratory walk.
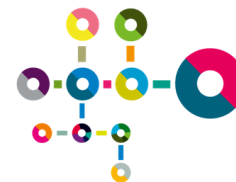
References:
- Manifesto of Aubervilliers et Saint Denis (Efus 2012)
- Manifesto 2017
- Livre Blanc FFSU
- Reducing citizens' feelings of insecurity with a gender-based approach

Crisis Management

Introduction
- Local and regional authorities are increasingly exposed to evolving climate-related, industrial, social and health risks. During the Covid pandemic, municipalities across Europe mobilised all their resources to protect and assist residents, enforce lockdown measures and ensure essential services kept going.

- Managing a crisis of this nature is just one aspect of what we call the 'crisis management cycle', which includes the following three phases: prevention/risk reduction, management of the incident, and recovery. Each phase requires seamless cooperation between civil protection and security actors.
- Local and regional authorities are also exposed to social risks such as radicalisation and violent extremism, risks linked to hosting major political, sporting or festive events, as well as cyber risks.
- Urban risk management methods are different from the management of daily security. However, risk prevention needs to be taken into account at a local level, including through cross-border cooperation, as the effects of such risks often transcend national borders.

Recommendations
- European local and regional authorities should provide coordinated and collaborative responses across administrative borders.
- Local elected officials should be fully recognised as actors in civil security, especially during crisis management.
- All levels of governance (local, national and European) should dedicate appropriate resources to strengthen society's resilience to crises. This requires comprehensive and joined-up efforts to build resilience that can transcend a range of risks, sectors and stakeholders.
- An integrated approach should be developed on the basis of forecast (diagnosis of risk areas), prevention to prepare citizens and public bodies for dealing with crisis situations, and crisis management (collaboration of all levels of authority from local to European). This integrated approach makes cities and local authorities more resilient and needs to be developed in close collaboration with national and international levels of governance.
- European cities should increase their exchanges and cooperation on risk. National states and the EU should be providing significant support to cross-border projects.
- A partnership culture should be promoted between public stakeholders (local, regional and national authorities) and rescue services (fire fighters, civil protection, the Red Cross, the police) as well as with civil society, private partners such as transport companies, SMEs, businesses and locals.
- Local authorities across Europe should be properly informed and trained in risk reduction and management.
- Citizens should be considered as relevant stakeholders and be associated and involved in crisis prevention and management measures (municipal civil protection reserve, civil society associations). Local authorities can make good use of existing information technologies to do so.
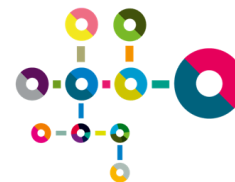
> **Practices**
> - Through the EU-funded <u>RiskPACC project</u> (2021-2024), seven European cities have been testing methodological tools to improve communication between civil protection authorities and citizens in case of natural or man-made disaster
> - The municipality of Setubal (Portugal) has set up information kiosks in various points of the town where citizens can find practical information on what to do and who does what in case of crisis.
> - The civil security reserves of Nice (France) and the province of Brabant Wallon (Belgium). The civil security reserve is made up of volunteer citizens who can be mobilised to support the public authorities in preventing and managing major risks in their local area in France, or in their province in Belgium.

References
- [Council of the European Union: How the EU responds to crises and builds resilience (2024)](#) [- UN Resilience Guidance (2020)](#)

Large Events

Introduction
- Active participation in sport and cultural activities represents an important tool for social cohesion and for criminal prevention, in addition to being a valuable means for leisure time and a platform for personal achievements.
- Major sport events represent both challenges and opportunities for local authorities.
- Sport brings together millions of people, regardless of their sex, colour, gender, age, nationality or religion. It breaks down barriers and builds bridges where boundaries usually exist. In other words, it has the potential to foster inclusion, mutual respect and acceptance of diversity, and also to promote social integration.
- However, large events (in sports, but also entertainment such as concerts and festivals) pose important security challenges for local authorities.
- Due to its welcoming and diverse nature, however, sport faces a number of challenges with regards to incidences of racism and discrimination. Acts of [discriminatory violence](#) on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or socioeconomic status sadly remain a daily reality in all Member States of the European Union.
- Hate-motivated violence and harassment often remains unreported. This leaves victims vulnerable and inhibits action to bring about positive change.
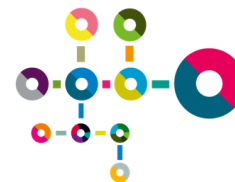- The lack of effective monitoring systems to record racism and discrimination in sport

makes it difficult for relevant authorities and organisations to identify, respond to and mitigate acts of discriminatory violence.

- Major events often involve lots of waste and ecological damage. They also require drug management (trafficking and problematic consumption).

- Sexual harassment, assault and prostitution also arise as problems during large events.

- The use of technology such as facial recognition to safeguard large events can pose ethical issues.

Recommendations:

- Undertake to develop accessible sport facilities in order that all citizens, including young people and minorities, make full use of them.

- Combine the development of amateur sport with an education in civic values in order to dispel violence, racism and hate among athletes, parents and spectators.

- Establish links between professional sport, amateur sport and the community through "open stadium" initiatives.

- Understand that supporters and their organisations are an important part of local communities and that sports events are organised not only for them but also with them.

- Facilitate open dialogue between sport supporters, their organisations and clubs with sport organisation management, (for example through "supporters charters"), and local authorities and the police;

- Consider the need and interests of local inhabitants when organising sport events and strive to involve them in the event;

- Ensure security forces enforce risk assessment and adopt a gradual response strategy.

- Roll out, together with local police and emergency services, geo-location technology to redirect the public in the event of an incident or saturation of the public space.

- Establish fair and sustainable relations with local supporters' groups, allow them to assume some responsibility for the safety and festivity of local sport events;

- Provide the necessary training to relevant staff responsible for sports events and developing a culture of sport in the city

- Consider the cultural and linguistic diversity of participating players at large events

- Integrate the use of technology and video surveillance such as artificial intelligence and algorithms for crowd management

- Ensure social and economic integration and cohesion through major events, making them inclusive

- <u>SENTRY SPORT</u> (January 2021 - September 2023) - Aimed to empower grassroots sport stakeholders in monitoring, preventing and mitigating acts of discrimination by providing them with suitable and adequate tools and methodology.

- City of Saint-Denis (FR) - <u>scheme to prevent prostitution</u> during the 2023 Rugby World Cup and the 2024 Paris Olympics, which includes support to young under age people.

- SURE - Smart Urban Security and Event Resilience Project (2022 - 2023), City of Tampere, helps the City Council to manage large crowd concentration and improve security at collective events.

References:
- [Manifesto of Aubervilliers and Saint Denis (Efus 2012)](#)

Drugs & addictions

Introduction
- Faced with increasing consumption of illegal and licit substances, which entails significant risks especially for the youngest, local authorities are seeing the drug markets evolve, notably with the arrival of new, cheap and extremely dangerous synthetic drugs. They are facing new challenges in terms of repression and the fight against drug trafficking, but also in terms of risk reduction.
- The existence of the drug market and its visibility has health consequences but also an impact on safety and the culture of legality.
- Risk reduction must not only be targeted towards users, but also involve the general population in both the physical and digital space.

Recommendations
- Any public drug prevention policy should be based on the European guidelines and principles described in the European Union's Action Plan on Drugs 2021-2025.
- Cooperation at local level should be strengthened both with institutions and civil society, notably user associations and specialised schemes, in order to improve the establishment of risk reduction programmes and facilitate access to them.
- Risk reduction programmes for drug users must be widespread and sustainable.

● A discussion should be undertaken at European level about new legislation and regulations on the use of cannabis, which should involve local and regional authorities. The impact of the various options (reducing it to minor offence, decriminalisation, legalisation, regulation of consumption and sale) on drug trafficking and the quality of life in cities must be assessed. This will include the option of directing tax revenue from legalisation towards prevention to reduce the consequences of the wider availability of certain drugs.

● Particular attention must be paid to drug addiction in prison, which is widespread, and to the consequences of this addiction when a prisoner is released and returns to his home community.

● The experience of safe drug consumption rooms must be continued and assessed in order to guarantee their success and sustainability. Cities that host such facilities must support the organisations that manage the facilities, ensuring that they consult with all the partners including local residents and businesses. Support from all these local actors will ensure public peace and allow local resident associations to take part in evaluating the local impact.

● Local authorities should have the capacity to design and implement their local drug prevention strategy according to their specific context and national legislations should give them sufficient leeway to do so. This should apply in particular to the establishment of safe drug consumption rooms.

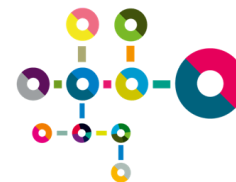● The fundamental rights of users should be respected in all circumstances.

Practices

- Establishment of safe drug consumption rooms in Paris, Strasbourg (France), Brussels and Liège (Belgium) as examples, among many others, of European cities that offer this type of facility.

- Brussels, asbl Transit, which provides help to users

- City of Bègles (France) - scheme to allow cannabis consumption within certain limits
https://efus.elium.com/tile/view/16761/?origin=broadcast_email

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References

● EU Agenda and Action Plan on Drugs 2021-2025 – European Commission (2020) - EU Drug Strategy 2021-2025 – Council of Europe (2020)
● EU Directorate for Migration and Home Affairs / Drugs
● Resolution of Efus' Executive Committee calling for a local policy on drugs based on harm reduction (2018)
● Publication resulting from the Solidify European project (2018-2019) on safe drug consumption rooms,Reinforcing harm reduction at the local leval – the role of supervised drug consumption facilities (Efus, 2020)

- [European Drug Report 2023: Trends and Developments](#) – European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

Mediation & Security sector professions

Introduction

- The implementation of local crime prevention and urban security policies requires an array of skills that draw upon criminology, sociology, law, political science, statistics, management and urban planning.
- Besides public authority professionals, other stakeholders are involved in designing and implementing security policies, such as the volunteer sector, civil society, businesses, and private security companies. All these actors have different cultures, modus operandi and purposes, but they should all be involved in co-producing security, in particular at the local level.
- Urban security is a constantly evolving field that requires prevention professionals to adapt. New challenges and professions are emerging. There are many factors at play: the complexity of the changes facing professionals, recognition of these professions, coordination of a range of professionals, etc. Prevention professionals now need to master multiple skills and be able to work across different disciplines.
- Recruitment criteria and training opportunities must evolve to keep pace with these changes.
- Cities, schools, families and businesses are all formed of positive relationships that create bonds through multiple emotional commitments or interests. But it is also important to be mindful of the disputes, tensions and conflicts, sometimes violent, that can occur. In such situations, mediation can contribute to restoring positive communication, creating and repairing those bonds, preventing violence, and peacefully managing and resolving conflicts.
- Mediation is considered to be both a powerful response to negative incidents and a culture in itself. It is a free, direct and rapid process that is inexpensive and effective. It can take the form of social, familial or legal mediation.
- Many cities across Europe use mediation to diffuse tensions and solve local conflicts, thus preventing escalation to violence.

Recommendations
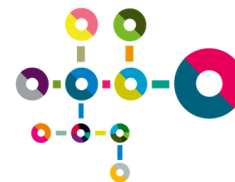
- The most efficient and democratic way to preserve security as a universal good and right is by working in partnership, and such partnerships should be coordinated by duly trained professionals.
- Crime prevention must be recognised as a profession per se at both national and European levels.
- It is important to take into account the growth of the private security sector, which remains fragmented and should be more professionalised.
- All security actors should be trained according to common criteria, principles and methods and European regulations on the role and competences of the private security sector should be harmonised.
    - In order to facilitate exchanges among crime prevention professionals from different cities and countries and thus professionalise the sector, a dedicated European network of professionals should be set up.
    - Local officials must publicly endorse mediation as an efficient method to defuse tensions and resolve local conflicts before they escalate into unlawful acts.
    - Training in and awareness of mediation are essential for it to be efficient, in particular in local communities and schools. It is therefore important to support and develop training courses in general and vocational education, as well as the organisation of work placements in the police, fire and rescue services for students training for careers in security.
    - An international initiative should be launched to promote mediation, which could be initiated by the United Nations, such as an international year of mediation.

Practices
- City of Luxembourg – À vos côtés - Inspired by the Zurich SIP model, is a scheme that operates at the interface between public order and social support. It is run by a non-profit association, Inter-Actions. The main aim is to make residents feel safe in neighbourhoods where there is public nuisance, such as noise pollution, drug dealing or begging. The scheme is based on a cooperation between the city's prevention professionals, who work in the public space, and the Grand-Ducal police.
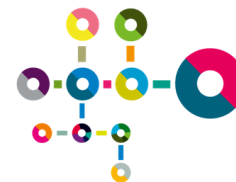

Innovation & Technology

Introduction
- The increasingly widespread use of new technologies has changed our lives and our cities, which are becoming digital and "smart".
- Cities are open to the opportunities that new technologies provide to improve

coexistence, security and the life of citizens, but are also aware of the risks posed to fundamental civil rights and ethics.
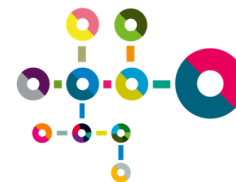
● Technology provides new tools for cities, which must be chosen to complement existing resources and according to their usefulness and efficacy in relation to a given situation.

● Organised crime and digital crime are very often related and interconnected, so it is necessary to look at the big picture and other types of criminality, because digital crime is almost always connected to other criminal activities.

● Municipalities are not and cannot be left alone when implementing provisions of national governance schemes. This will require investments from national governments directly to municipalities to comply with the provisions of the national cybersecurity plans. This is a very important dimension and municipalities and local authorities should reinforce their capacities in cyber threat and cybersecurity by having regular training for all employees and elected officials. Indeed, cyber threats are constantly developing, changing, moving and cyber criminals are becoming more and more professional and we need trained people to increase capacities

● Innovation, foresight and anticipation are still largely absent from local security policies even though they concern domains that are undergoing profound sociological and technological changes. New technologies in particular have a huge impact on urban security.

● Video surveillance, artificial intelligence, mobile apps, social networks, Big Data, Bitcoins, drones… new technologies have opened new fields of action for both security actors and criminals. Furthermore, as shown in many practices across Europe, they facilitate the participation of citizens in their own security. They allow for collecting new types of data and developing tools that can be used to analyse and prevent crime in innovative ways. These technologies provide other means of understanding the complex problems faced by local security actors. While offering real opportunities, they raise ethical questions with regard to the respect of privacy and fundamental rights.

● Public security policies remain largely static because they are produced in a system that has not yet fully adapted to our hyper-connected and informed societies. They must, however, fully embrace this new field in order to both monitor it and benefit from it.

● Intensifying production and information sharing has implications on the rights and freedoms of individuals. Ethical and legal issues, such as the handling of personal data or algorithmic biases, have an impact on decision making and the future of security.

● The accessibility and effectiveness of new technologies, such as social network platforms, create new risks and intensify existing threats, such as bullying or hate speech, both in cyberspace and in real life.

● As we enter an era where AI will play an increasingly significant role, the importance of communication, transparency, and citizen engagement in the development and regulation of AI is key and it is imperative to work together

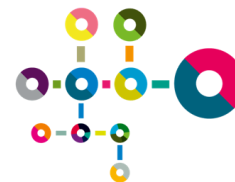to maximise its benefits while mitigating potential risks.

Recommendations:
- The use of these modern tools must be done in a manner that does not lead to ignoring the complex causes of underlying insecurity nor to limiting crime prevention to mere technical risk management. Local needs must first be diagnosed in order to define, from the results, the relevance of a response based on technologies and selecting the most suitable.
- Security actors should be better trained in new technologies and their implications. They must be able to adapt their working methods to the most recent needs and challenges they may face.
- These principles should be taken into account at the onset of a project that includes the use of new technologies, and at all stages of its implementation; measures for the protection of privacy should be included in the actual design of surveillance systems
- Opportunities offered by new technologies should be explored with the aim of strengthening communication with citizens and encouraging their participation and involvement, ensuring that these technologies are accessible to those categories of the public that are the least savvy.
- The cost-benefit ratio of technologies should be taken into account also in terms of protection of privacy, and the solutions that are less intrusive in such circumstances should be chosen
- The human factor in the use of new technologies should not be neglected and the training of the personnel who use them should be carefully considered
- Know-how should be developed on the actual efficacy and efficiency of security and surveillance technologies.
- Better evaluate the use of surveillance technologies and contributing to developing knowledge in this field
- Make use of the potential of new technologies for better security management, to strengthen social cohesion and to enable citizens to become more involved in the life of the community.
- Security actors must be present and visible in the digital space, which now has many links and repercussions in the physical reality.
- Promoting resilience strategies to ensure cities are ready to pursue new technology opportunities and challenges.
- Providing local and regional authority staff in charge of security and prevention with the required tools and knowledge to efficiently respond to the perverse uses of technologies.
- Allowing these actors to use technologies, including social network platforms, as a tool to support and amplify their prevention actions. For example, as a new channel of communication with citizens, to reach

audiences that are traditionally difficult to reach (such as the youth and minorities) and as a new source of information to understand the insecurity dynamics of the city.

- Developing and implementing protocols aimed at security actors for a sensible, weighted and justified use of information and communication technologies for prevention and security purposes respecting individual rights and freedoms.
- Improving cities' level of knowledge regarding data protection when using social networks for issues related to urban safety. This should be based on the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation.
- Raising awareness, informing and educating citizens on the opportunities and threats of new technologies in order to promote digital security in the city. It is important to pay particular attention to the older population who is often less accustomed to using these technologies and is more likely to become targets of cybercrime.
- Embedding security and privacy considerations in the design of smart cities.
- Better evaluating the use of surveillance technologies and contributing to the development of knowledge on the subject.
- Support AI adoption through cross-border commitment while ensuring its safe and responsible use in addition to the quality of produced information and adapting regulations to keep pace with technological advancements
- Include in the development and modus operandi of video-surveillance systems guarantees that protect citizen's privacy and fundamental liberties. This requirement is enshrined in Article 8 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
- Ensure that the local services using technology are accessible and do not increase social inequalities, especially for the most vulnerable and digitally marginalised populations

Practices

- City of Rotterdam (2017): As a municipality, together with partners such as the Port Authority and the police, Rotterdam were one of the founding fathers of FERM. It is a non-profit foundation committed to connecting companies and organisations in the context of cybersecurity and cyber resilience in the main port of Rotterdam.

- PRoTECT - Public Resilience using Technology to Counter TerrorismProject (November 2018 - June 2021): It aimed to strengthen local authorities' capabilities in public spaces 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 spaces before, during and after a terrorist threat.

- City of Mannheim: Use of AI for risk surveillance and prevention, addressing challenges in distinguishing between right and wrong.

- Trilateral Research, Ireland: Leveraging AI to identify trends and hotspots of child exploitation, integrating data from various sources to combat human trafficking.

- The aim of the European ALARM project was to develop operational cross border cooperation between those involved in civil protection and the French Belgian border. The project partners used geolocation technologies to identify risk areas and the resources available on each side of the border.

References

- Charter for a Democratic Use of Video Surveillance (Efus, 2010)
- Manifesto of Aubervilliers et Saint Denis (Efus 2012)
- Manifesto 2017
- The EU's Artificial Intelligence Act is the first comprehensive regulation on AI by a major regulator anywhere. The Act assigns applications of AI to three risk categories. First, applications and systems that create an unacceptable risk, such as government run social scoring of the type used in China, are banned. Second, high-risk applications, such as a CV-scanning tool that ranks job applicants, are subject to specific legal requirements. Lastly, applications not explicitly banned or listed as high-risk are largely left unregulated.

Organised crime

Introduction

- Organised crime is locally embedded in economic and social structures and operates as much internationally as locally.
- It is increasingly violent and professional, with criminals operating like multinational businesses. By nature international, agile and capable of swiftly adapting and expanding, organised crime has a direct impact on local territories and is prevalent even in places that have long considered themselves safe.
- Networks supporting organised crime and more specifically those involved in drug and human trafficking have demonstrated great agility and adaptability.
- The infiltration of illegal activities into the public sector and the development of illegal markets are harming the local economy and society.
- Local authorities have the duty to protect their citizens from organised crime and its impacts. This means protecting not only individual citizens but also the local administrative, economic and democratic processes.
- Given the infiltration of organised crime in multiple spheres of society, it is crucial to build resilient communities and to develop multi-agency practices and inter-agency cooperation to tackle its activities, such as police, civil society and social workers who are all well-placed to analyse and address these issues effectively.

Recommendations

- Organised crime operates across municipal, national and European borders. To sustainably fight it locally, synergies between local actors, including citizens, local and regional authorities, national governments and European institutions are crucial. Strategies must be thought out and implemented at the local, national, European and international levels, not only limited to the EU but also taking into account neighbouring countries.
- Local authorities, citizens, civil society and the private sector should be involved in the prevention of and fight against organised crime.
- Local authorities should be encouraged to combine social, economic and repressive measures to fight against organised crime. They must use all the measures available to them, in addition to the penal law, by using administrative and regulatory tools, as well as tools for prevention and education to legality.
- European institutions should involve local authorities in European strategies for the prevention of and fight against organised crime, and encourage an administrative approach.
- Assets seized from organised crime networks should be recovered. This is essential to rebuild trust and a sense of justice in cities with major corruption. The social reuse of

seized property can have a strong impact on the local community.

- Provisions made by EU law for seizing criminal assets and investing these in the community should be expanded.
- Cities should develop tools for the analysis of territories and risks, for the control of public markets, and for the establishment of a network of institutions that would monitor the transparency of local businesses. Furthermore, they should ensure that these are supported when approached by criminal organisations. In addition, they should ensure that these institutions are supported when they are approached by criminal organisations, and pay particular attention to the risk of corruption of elected representatives and civil servants.
- Local authorities should put in place schemes aimed at preventing young people from being recruited by criminal organisations. This should be done in partnership with schools and parents, and aim at showing young people that they have a place in society and can thrive away from drug trafficking or other illegal activity pursued by organised criminal groups.
- Identify and map, thanks to local audits, both drivers facilitating trafficking and the protective factors that could help increase resilience to be able to develop tailored and flexible prevention solutions based on concrete observations.
- Combine repressive responses and economical and social measures as well as solid integrated prevention actions by implementing innovative solutions involving a large diversity of different stakeholders (municipal police, local elected, business owners, employees, civil society organisations...).
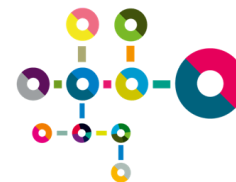

Practices
- Rotterdam (Netherlands): public-private partnerships to counter organised crime in the port

- Rimini (Italy): The Observatory on organised crime and for the the promotion of a culture of legality

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- Council of Europe, The EU's fight against organised crime
- European Network on the Administrative Approach (ENAA) tackling serious and organised crime
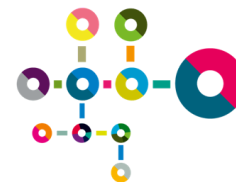
Polarisation & radicalisation

Introduction

- Europe has for many years been confronted with various extremist movements whose magnitude, media presence and level of priority in the political agenda vary across time. Such movements have both international and local dimensions and impacts. Underlying them and amplified by social media, polarisation is a threat that concerns local and regional authorities.

- In order to efficiently prevent such phenomena from drifting into violence, local governments seek to understand how 'us and them' thinking, social divisions and hostility are gaining ground in local communities, and how they can efficiently act to curb such extremist dynamics, build bridges and strengthen social cohesion.

- Even though the phenomenon of radicalisation has an international dimension, it also has local components and impacts.

- Local and regional authorities, through their proximity to citizens, their understanding of local issues and their power to shape public policies for the prevention of crime and for social cohesion, are strategically well positioned to implement actions and mobilise all relevant local stakeholders.

- Radicalisation leading to violent extremism needs to be tackled through a strong preventive approach in addition to repressive measures.

- It is essential to tackle violent radicalisation in all its forms because, whatever the motivations may be, they all threaten security and social cohesion and may strengthen one another.

- Effective prevention of radicalisation requires proactive engagement with diverse stakeholders, understanding local contexts, and leveraging both online and offline strategies. Collaboration, trust-building, and a holistic approach are key to addressing the multifaceted challenges of polarisation and radicalisation leading violent extremism at the local level.

Recommendations

- The prevention of radicalisation should be integrated into a global and local security policy because some risk factors are similar to those that can lead to crime.

- Local authorities can play an important role in mitigating polarisation and radicalisation by identifying warning signs and fostering robust collaboration with civil

society, religious and minority communities, and other governmental levels.

● Local prevention strategies should be balanced and based on a local diagnosis specific to polarisation and violent radicalisation phenomena (profiles of individuals who have been reported, identification and analysis of the extent of vulnerability and resilience factors in local communities, inventory of relevant resources, etc.). This diagnosis must be founded on a balanced approach and based on evidence collected and analysed in collaboration with local partners.

● Local and regional authorities should take into account all phases of the process: primary prevention (general population), secondary (people with risk factors identified as being part of a radicalisation process) and tertiary (radicalised people), while respecting jurisdictions in each country.

● Tailor evidence-based prevention interventions to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of local communities, considering factors and data such as demographics, cultural backgrounds, and socio-economic status, and relying on academic research and knowledge.

● Local communities should be systematically involved in the design and implementation of national policies, notably through better information on the extent of violent radicalisation in local communities and on the management of radicalised people.Invest in training and capacity-building initiatives for local authorities and frontline practitioners to enhance their understanding of radicalisation dynamics and equip them with the skills to effectively implement prevention strategies.

● Foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination based on trust and common understanding of shared values and objectives, with different actors including law enforcement, social services, education, and healthcare.

● Develop and implement community engagement programmes and counter extremist narratives that foster dialogue, build trust, and promote social cohesion within diverse communities.

● Local authorities can play a role in countering hateful and extremist discourses online by promoting inclusive discourses and wherever and whenever possible, both online and in the physical space

● Political reactions, especially after violent extremist acts, should be based on analysis and evidence rather than guided by emotions.

● The many European initiatives should be coordinated to ensure coherence and resource pooling.

● Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of local interventions, collecting data on key indicators to assess impact and inform future strategies

● Local authorities must be informed by the judicial authorities of the release from prison of individuals convicted of violent extremism before they return to their locality.

● Elected representatives, local authority staff, teachers and workers should be given

better training on forms of radicalism and political, social or religious extremism.
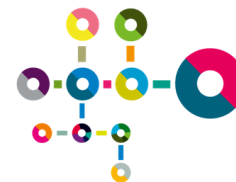
> **Practices**
> - The system of coordinators in Germany (assistance to returnees): working with new returnees including those in prisons and those who just got released from prisons. It is crucial to focus on each individual case.
> - Stuttgart (Germany), Trick17: this scheme is based on art and a mobile app through which the City Council warns users about the tricks that extremists play to woo young people.

> - Malmö (Sweden), mapping online hate speech & violent extremism - the city of Malmö developed an online tool which allows the creation of a digital map of their local digital sphere. The municipality's objective is to be aware of what is happening in Malmö's digital "streets and squares"

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- [LOUD – When local authorities and young people from nine European cities mobilise against intolerance and extremism (Efus, 2021)](#)
- [BRIDGE – Understanding and addressing polarisation at the local level (Efus, 2021)](#)
- [PRACTICIES – Partnership Against Violent Radicalisation in Cities, European project (Efus, 2020)](#)
- [PREPARE – Preventing Radicalisation in Probation and Release (Efus, 2019)](#)
- [Prevention of violent radicalisation – Methodological guide for the development of a local strategy (Efus, 2017)](#)
- [Preventing and Fighting Radicalisation at the Local Level (Efus, 2016)](#)
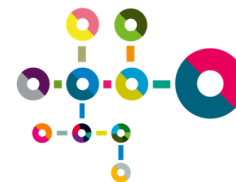- [Cities against Terrorism (Efus, 2007)](#)

Juvenile delinquency

Introduction

Youth delinquency is not a new phenomenon; it has consistently been at the forefront of public attention, and a concern for local, regional and national authorities. Over the past 40 years or so, the emphasis has been on prevention strategies, rather than rehabilitation and correctional approaches. These strategies focus on early intervention, community engagement, and preventing offending before it occurs. This phenomenon, however, remains complex and difficult to understand, while each violent episode attracts political and media attention. There is a growing intolerance towards young people's presence in public spaces, even when their behaviour does not involve delinquency.

Recommendations

- Improve the coordination among different municipal sectors (health, education, social services), the police, the judiciary system and local stakeholders, notably non governmental organisations.
- Use evidence-based models to design violence prevention programmes, while also taking into account the universality of the language of violence and understanding social dynamics for prevention.
- Encourage data collection from various actors connected with juvenile delinquency to help co-design interventions. This can be supported by a digital dashboard that visualises data relevant to the juvenile delinquency problem.
- Advocate for prevention strategies that improve relationships between young people, their local community and police officers.
- Engage young people in identifying and developing solutions to problems in their local community and promote a sense of ownership and active participation. This will also help them gain useful knowledge and life skills (particularly for those excluded from mainstream education).
- Implement actions to address violence and insecurity: take actions aimed at reducing young people's relationship with violence (loyalty and a certain form of virility) and feelings of insecurity, while also addressing the root causes of violence.
- Take gender into account in such prevention programmes, notably to debunk stereotypes on the respective role and place in society of boys/men and girls/women.
- Invest in resilience-building programmes: allocate resources to foster resilience among children and adolescents, addressing individual, familial, and community levels.
- Avoid stigmatising young people and groups of youths. Rather, they should be involved in seeking solutions, their skills should be valued, relations between boys and girls should be taken into account, and they should be supported in finding their way in

society.
- Families should be involved in the measures planned to deal with young offenders.
- Priority should be given to neighbourhood-based prevention initiatives by strengthening street social work.

Practices

- Lisbon - Jovem Design Lisboa (JDL] provides a design-oriented approach to engage the youth in identifying and developing solutions to problems in their local community and improve relationships between young people, their local community and police officers.

- Turin: the Turin Tool, Sbocciamo Torino, is a multi-stakeholder governance network model to deliberate and co-produce interventions around juvenile delinquency issues in the city of Turin.

- Stockholm: the Lugna Gatan ("calm street") project was first developed in 1995 by the Fryshuset Youth Centre in close cooperation with local communities, social authorities, the police and political decision-makers to counteract violence and vandalism in the streets and in public.

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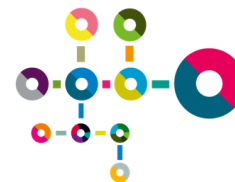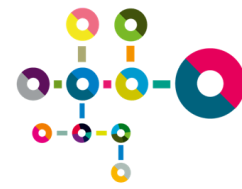
Public spaces

Introduction

The management and protection of urban public spaces remains one of the top priorities of local and regional authorities, and a key mandate from the electorate given their central role in the attractiveness of cities. They have become vital areas of urban life: places for communication, gatherings, political demonstrations, artistic and cultural performances and all sorts of entertainment. They represent places where people come together, interact and encounter differences. Because they are highly frequented and by nature open, public spaces can be the target of a number of threats, ranging from relatively mild public nuisance to extremely serious terrorist acts. Ensuring that such collective spaces remain safe, inclusive and open to all is a complex challenge for local authorities. As the level of governance closest to citizens, they have a key role to play in protecting public spaces, and as such should be better supported by national governments and European institutions.

Recommendations

- Improving and/or strengthening the security of public spaces should always be done while preserving their inherent openness, thus the possibility for all groups of the population to access and use them. There is a need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to making public spaces safer and more inclusive, and involving citizens is key.
- Prioritise the development of a prevention culture as regards security in order to improve public perceptions and strengthen citizen participation in the decision making process.
- Encourage data collection that includes citizens' priorities, experiences and feelings of insecurities to adapt and improve police doctrines in the management of public spaces.
- Consider technological solutions as part of an overall local security policy for the protection of public spaces, which should involve all the relevant local services and not only local security actors.
- Respecting privacy regulations, accountability, transparency and reliability in operating these technologies are the foundations for public trust.
- Encourage civil society initiatives by promoting solutions that are creative, add an artistic or cultural value, or are seamlessly integrated in the urban landscape, and by paying particular attention to solutions that have an impact on attractiveness, accessibility and openness.
- Implement robust evaluation and monitoring mechanisms. Regular assessments,

including feedback from residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to continuously refine and adapt these strategies. This will ensure that interventions remain responsive to the evolving needs of the partners and the community itself.

- 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.
- Changes in the use of public spaces over time and at different times of the day and the night must be taken into account.

Practices

- Riga (Latvia) - Par drošu Rīgu! (For a safe Riga) – this scheme provides an evidence-based approach to modifying and adapting neighbourhood policing tactics by analysing police records and citizens' perceptions.

- Nice and Bordeaux (France) - Demandez Angela. It is a scheme providing assistance to anybody who is being harassed in the street or feels insecure, whatever their age, gender or condition, either during the day or at night.

- Rotterdam (Netherlands) - Stadsmarinier ("city marines") programme. The city marines are individuals who are assigned to neighbourhoods determined to be most at risk (on the basis of data from the Rotterdam Safety Index). A specific budget is allocated to this scheme. The task of the marines is to tackle security issues and citizens' feelings of (in)security.

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