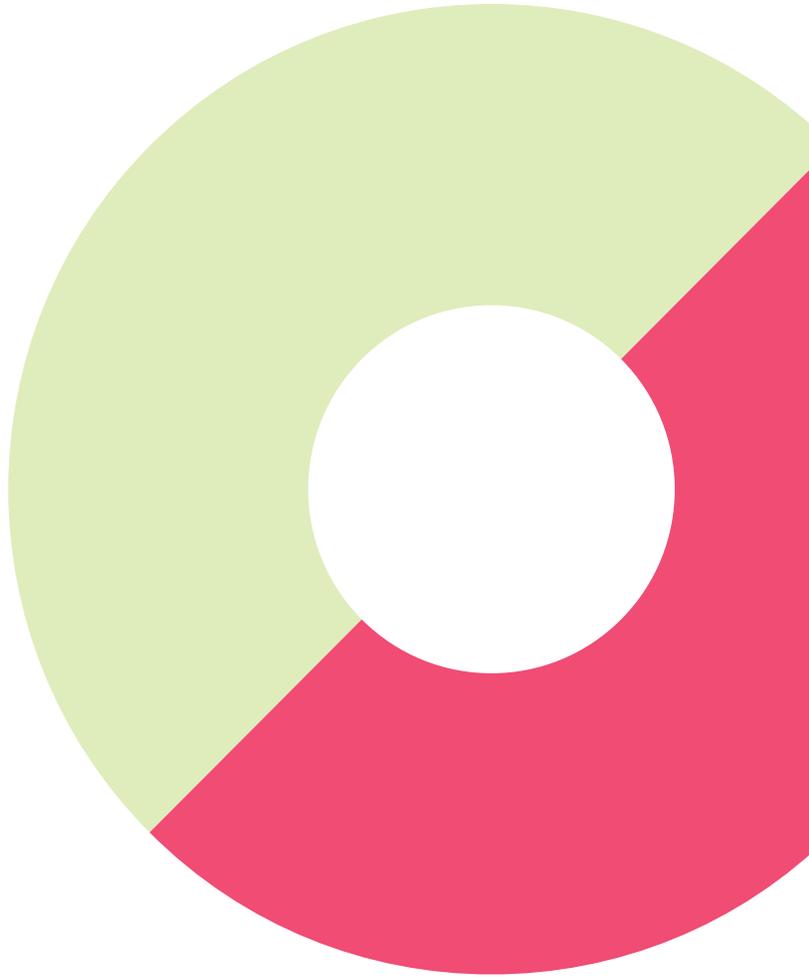


European
Forum *for*
Urban
Security



European Local Authorities
are mobilising against
radicalisation

Editorial



In the last few years, the question of radicalisation has become an increasingly central issue in the field of research and public policy making. At international and local levels, preventing radicalisation leading to violent extremism has become a key priority.

For 30 years, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) has led or participated in more than a dozen projects on this issue and has established long-term or one-off partnerships with major players in the prevention of radicalisation (Radicalisation Awareness Network -

RAN -, Strong Cities Network, etc).

Our network has published analyses and guidebooks, including *Prevention of violent radicalisation - Methodological guide for the development of a local strategy* (2017) and *Preventing and Fighting Radicalisation at the Local Level* (2016).

Through exchanges, Efus build a network of professionals as well as strong convictions on the ways of intervening on the subject.

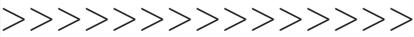
The European forum for urban security considers that local authorities have a central role to play in preventing and combating radicalisation leading to violent extremism. To fight such radicalisation, repressive responses do not suffice. It is also necessary to act preventively to tackle the root causes of the radicalisation process and to strengthen the resilience of individuals exposed to the risk of radicalisation. Because they are close to citizens, local authorities are strategically placed to implement such actions and mobilise all the relevant local stakeholders.

In the face of violent extremism, expressed at the international level, European cities must give a concerted and coordinated response. They must be able to build on their mutual experiences in order to design together preventive responses.

This publication presents some of the initiatives taken by our members. We hope that it will be for you a source of support, help and inspiration and that it will foster the exchange of experiences.

Willy Demeyer
President of Efus
Mayor of Liege

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>>>>> European Local authorities are mobilising for the prevention of and fight against violent radicalisation

► Alexandroupoli (Greece)

Raising awareness among local actors

The city of Alexandroupoli has become a point of entry for refugees and migrants who wish to reach other European cities. These arrivals combined with the economic crisis had led to a rise in xenophobia and extremist anti-migrant movements. The city has therefore recognised the necessity of working with professionals and young people in order to alleviate the negative impact of extremist discourses at a local level, by enabling them to better understand the phenomenon and become more resilient. Awareness-raising sessions were organised within the municipal departments as well as in schools. A methodology for an educational approach through preventive actions targeting young people and citizens has been developed.

Participation in European project(s) : Liaise 2 (2016-2017)

Member of Efus since : 2007

► Augsburg (Germany)

Network for the prevention of Salafism

This network was created in 2016 with the objective of protecting young people against ideologies that could lead to violent extremism. It seeks to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders about issues of radicalisation and how to avoid it by improving knowledge on this phenomenon. The network is based on strong cooperation between municipal services, including the local mayor-led prevention council, and specialised non-governmental organisations (NGOs). It delivers awareness-raising trainings for local actors and coordinates with the municipality and the NGO Violence Prevention Network when de-radicalisation activities are carried out.

Participation in European project(s) : Bounce (2015-2017) /

Liaise 1&2 (2014-2017) / Local Voices (2017-2019) /

Loud (2019-2021) / Practicies (2017-2020)

Member of Efus since : 2009

► Dusseldorf (Germany)

Wegweiser programme

In 2013, the State of Westphalia launched the Wegweiser programme in several cities. It is designed to help young people stay away from Salafist radical organisations and to help those already engaged to escape. It is managed by an association that gathers schools, social, youth and care services as well as associations close to mosques and imams.

The objectives of the association are to provide information about the potentially radical dangers of neo-Salafism, its doctrine, structures and recruitment strategies; to make young people aware of their responsibilities, to reinforce their resilience to these ideologies of injustice and to prevent and avoid radicalisation through qualified support. A centre was established to offer counselling in the city, particularly with young people.

Participation in European project(s) : Bounce (2015-2017) / Bridge (2019-2021) / Liaise 1&2 (2014-2017) / Loud (2019-2021)
Member of Efus since : 2009

► The Hague (Netherlands)

Prevention of radicalisation in prison and during the probation period

In 2017, The Hague organised a seminar on the challenges and opportunities of partnerships between communities and stakeholders of the justice system regarding the prevention of radicalisation and recidivism. Policy makers are increasingly interested in the role prison services can play in preventing violent radicalisation, both in prison and during probation. The latter are prevention strategy partners in the implementation of programmes and interventions designed to reinforce the resilience of offenders to extremist influences or to support them in a disengagement process.

Participation in European project(s) : Liaise 2 (2016-2017) / Prepare (2017-2019)
Member of Efus since : 2015

► L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Spain)

Service of mediation in the community

Since 2006, the city of L'Hospitalet de Llobregat created a municipal service of Community Mediation, which is notably tasked with resolving initial conflicts among young people and reducing their vulnerability to the influence of gangs. The Community Mediation's prevention and intervention activities are of three kinds. The first seeks to raise awareness among community leaders about preventing conflicts among young people by providing them with prevention and mediation tools and techniques. The second is the management of conflicts and intervention by 6 full time mediators who intervene in case of conflict in public spaces and occasionally within families. The last is empowering young people through training on mediation techniques.

Efus support activities : Support in the design of their strategy for the prevention of violent radicalisation (2017)
Participation in European project(s) : Liaise 1&2 (2014-2017) / Local Voices (2017-2019) / Loud (2019-2021) / Practicies (2017-2020)
Member of Efus since : 2003

▶ Liege (Belgium)

Local strategy for the prevention of radicalisation

In 2014, the municipality of Liege appointed a civil servant responsible for the preventive aspect of radicalisation and set up a multi-disciplinary working group to organise a quarterly consultation. The following year, the means enabling a municipality to implement its pilot projects were budgeted in the “National Impulse Plan” (plan national d’impulsion). The activities developed from 2016 onwards encompass several aspects: educational prevention, raising awareness among the general public, training front-line workers and officers, and psychological and social support to young radicals.

Participation in European project(s) : Bounce (2015-2017) / Liaise 1&2 (2014-2017) / Local Voices (2017-2019) / Pactesur (2019-2022) / Practicies (2017-2020)

Member of Efus since : 1995

▶ Málaga (Spain)

Plan for conviviality and the prevention of violent radicalisation

The city adopted for the period 2017-2020 its first “plan for conviviality and the prevention of violent radicalisation”. The municipality, in partnership with the University of Málaga, designed various indicators corresponding to each aspect of the plan: quantitative indicators measuring in figures the evolution of the situation, and qualitative indicators based on the opinion and perception of the people being evaluated. This allows for understanding changes in the process, attitudes, beliefs, motivation and behaviours; result indicators that compare, in a quantitative or qualitative manner, the forecast objectives and the results achieved.

Participation in European project(s) : Local Voices (2017-2019) / Prepare (2017-2019) / Protect (2018-2020)

Member of Efus since : 2017

▶ Malmö (Sweden)

“Mammakraft” (“The power of mums”)

Upon an initiative of their municipal social services, the city of Malmö set up groups of mothers where they help each other guide their children away from violent extremism and worrying behaviours such as drug consumption. In order to avoid a feeling of shame and stigmatising some participants, radicalisation and violent extremism are not the only issues discussed in these meetings. Drug consumption, eating disorders and crime are also often discussed. Mothers can also share their feelings and exchange on the education of their children. Partner associations were selected and trained on how to manage and organise groups of mothers.

Participation in European project(s) : Bounce (2015-2017) / Liaise 1&2 (2014-2017)

Member of Efus since : 2014

Montreuil (France)

Local strategy for crime prevention

Between 2016 and 2018, the city trained a dozen youth service professionals about the use of tools to reinforce the resilience of young people and their entourage to radicalisation. It also participated in 5 European seminars on the prevention of violent radicalisation during which it exchanged with experts and partners on issues such as counter-narratives, the prevention of reoffending and the evaluation of radicalisation prevention policies. Since late 2017, the youth service of the deprived neighbourhood of “La Noue” is working with a group of a dozen teenagers who are creating a fresco on the different forms of extremism. A video clip will also be available online.

Participation in European project(s) : Bounce (2016-2018) / Liaise 1&2 (2014-2017) / Local Voices (2017-2019) / Loud (2019-2021)

Member of Efus since : 2000

Reggio Emilia (Italy)

Prevention is better than cure: the role of young people in preventing radicalisation

Through the project, 7 awareness-raising sessions targeted at young people were organised. This training included long periods during which youngsters could share their experience, express their point of view and work together towards a solution to hypothetical problems such as: what if an acquaintance becomes more and more radicalised? The project participants also took part in a festival organised in the region during the International Africa Day to share their knowledge. Furthermore, the youngsters organised the screening of an Italian documentary, Dustur, as part of the city’s summer film festival.

Participation in European project(s) : Liaise 1&2 (2016-2018)

Member of Efus since : 1996

Riga (Latvia)

Municipal crime prevention strategy

The municipal strategy seeks primary prevention of radicalisation among citizens and refugees. The municipality works together with the “Safe House” shelter, which seeks to reduce the risk of radicalisation by developing support services to victims of human trafficking, immigrants, refugees and those who benefit from subsidiary protection services. An information service for immigrants has also been set up to support people arriving in Latvia. They are given information about the country, its political system, its culture as well as practical information about job opportunities, the education system, etc.

Participation in European projects : Practicies (2017-2020)

Member of Efus since : 2016

Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

Radicalisation Contact and Advisory Point

The city designed in 2005 its policy on the fight against radicalisation and created the “Standard of Information on Radicalisation” which became the “Information Point” in 2011. It teaches volunteers of local and religious associations as well as health care, educational and social sector professionals the attitude to adopt when faced with someone who is in a radicalisation process. A group of experts examines individual cases and determines the type of intervention best suited to each case. The discussion involves all relevant partners to best interpret case information and design an individualised approach.

Participation in European project(s) : Bridge (2019-2021) / Liaise 1&2 (2014-2017) / Prepare (2017-2019)

Member of Efus since : 2007

Solna (Sweden)

Global strategy against violent extremism and radicalisation

This strategy was adopted by Solna’s municipal council in 2017. It includes several action points, or directives, such as cooperation between local, regional, national and international actors, and training and information for municipal staff. When the strategy was first implemented, the municipality realised that the methods used for detecting Islamist extremism are similar to those used for all other types of violent extremism. The municipality thus relied on the experience of the local social services and educational authorities.

Participation in European project(s) : Practicies (2017-2020)

Member of Efus since : 2009

Toulouse (France)

Mobilisation and consistency of the local partnership

The city of Toulouse organised awareness-raising and working meetings that mobilised many municipal departments and public institutions: youth services, the department of education, the department responsible for the “politique de la ville” (urban policy, i.e. in the French system the set of policies aimed at helping deprived neighbourhoods around the country), sports, leisure, culture, municipal police, the Prefecture, the justice system, the departmental council, the National Education system, the family welfare system, social housing landlords and other/related associations. In these meetings, participants were able to share their practices, identify the local needs in terms of prevention of radicalisation, and work towards better harmonisation and consistency across all the activities being implemented in Toulouse. The municipality is currently developing and experimenting innovative tools to improve prevention and inclusive citizenship education (“Citizen Agoras”, serious game and media education project...)

Participation in European project(s) : Liaise 2 (2016-2017) / Practicies (2017-2020)

Member of Efus since : 1993

Vilvoorde (Belgium)

Second Wave Project

Focus groups are organised between the police and young people, the agenda of which is determined by the youngsters. Participants of both groups discuss their concerns. The main objective of these meetings is to prevent polarisation by addressing existing conflicts between public authorities, represented most of the times by the police, and youngsters who are at risk of radicalising. Such meetings foster critical thinking and improve relationships between participants. They are managed by the municipal youth department and a practitioner from a local association that works with young residents of Vilvoorde.

Participation in European project(s) : Laise 1 (2014-2016) / Prepare (2017-2019)

Member of Efus since : 2013

>>>>> European projects that gather local authorities against violent radicalisation

Projects led by Efus

Bridge - Building resilience to reduce polarisation and growing extremism (2019-2021)

The overall objectives of this project are to raise awareness among local actors and strengthen their capacity to reduce individual and collective vulnerability to radicalisation while at the same time mitigating the phenomenon of polarisation. The specific objectives are to: reinforce tools for the detection and management of the local phenomenon of polarisation in order to help local authorities design actions aimed at curbing tensions and civil unrest; promote community initiatives that involve cooperation between various public services and private actors; gather European local authorities and experts willing to locally counter polarisation.

Local authorities : Departmental council of Val d'Oise (FR), Düsseldorf (DE), Government of Catalonia (ES), Genk (BE), Igoumenitsa (GR), Leuven (Belgium), Region of Umbria (IT), Rotterdam (NL), Terrassa (ES), Stuttgart (DE), Vaulx-en-Velin (FR)

Organisations : BRAVVO (BE), Fondazione Mondinsieme (IT), Ufuq (DE), Real Instituto Elcano (ES)

Liaise - Local authorities against violent extremism - Liaise 1&2 (2014-2017)

Liaise is a project that seeks to foster exchange and build the capacities of European local authorities in implementing measures to prevent violent radicalisation.

In the first phase of the project (2014-2016), trainings were delivered to the partner local stakeholders, and the role of local authorities in preventing radicalisation was determined. The knowledge, training modules and recommendations produced were gathered in the publication *Preventing and Fighting Radicalisation at the Local Level* (2016).

In the second phase of the project, Liaise 2 (2016-2017), the partnership was consolidated and the recommendations were deepened. The project also accompanied the partners to help them roll out 17 prevention pilot actions. Practice sheets and a methodological guide for designing a local strategy for the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism were published.

Local authorities : Alexandroupoli (GR), Augsburg (DE), Bagneux (FR), Barcelona (ES), Bologna (IT), Bordeaux (FR), Brno (CZ), the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (internal security) of Bremen (DE), State of Bavaria (DE), Brussels (BE), Charleroi (BE), departmental council of Val d'Oise (FR), Dusseldorf (DE), Essen (DE), Government of Catalonia (ES), The Hague (NL), L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (ES), Liege (BE), Leuven (BE), Malmö (SE), Montreuil (FR), Reggio Emilia (IT), Rotterdam (NL), Sarcelles (FR), Setubal (PT), Toulouse (FR), Vilvoorde (BE)

National forums : German, Belgian, French and Italian forums for urban security

Organisations : Confederation of European Probation, Cultures Interactive (German association), Institute for Strategic Dialogue (British think tank specialising in extremism), Ufuq (German intercultural exchange association).

Local Voices - Local communication strategies to prevent extremism (2017 - 2019)

The Local Voices project supports 8 local communities in designing local online campaigns that propose alternatives to violent extremism. It recognises the key role played by local authorities as facilitators fostering the emergence of credible voices from the local civil society who can create campaigns adapted to local needs and target audiences. The campaigns will thus be created by citizens, notably young people. Efus organises exchanges among the partners, the accompaniment of local actors by experts in the phenomenon of radicalisation and online communication, as well as trainings.

Local authorities : Augsburg (DE), Montreuil, Lyon, Strasbourg (FR), Molenbeek, Liege (BE), Málaga, Madrid (ES).

Loud - Local young leaders for inclusion (2019-2021)

The objective of the project is to prevent intolerance and extremist behaviours among young people. For this, it looks to counter all forms of intolerance and extremist propaganda amongst this group of population by proposing counter-narratives, which are created by young people themselves at a local level, in the cities that are partner in the project.

Partner organisations : AVP (DE), EUROCIRCLE (FR), Mondinsieme (IT)

Local authorities : Augsburg (DE), Dusseldorf (DE), L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (ES), Lille (FR), Leuven (BE), Montreuil (FR), Pella (GR), Rosny-sous-bois (FR), Valenciennes Metropole (FR)

Prepare - preventing radicalisation through probation and release (2017 - 2019)

The project contributes to the prevention of radicalisation through disengagement and reintegration programmes at the time of release from prison and during probation, which are implemented through partnerships between various organisations, including local authorities. These programmes, whether focused on disengagement or reintegration, require coordination between diverse institutions and organisations in order to give radicalised individuals the best chance to reintegrate into society and to reduce the risk of reoffending. This project looks principally to develop pilot local activities for disengagement and reinsertion during release from prison and probation.

Specialised organisations : Violence Prevention Network and Denkzeit (DE), Fryshuset (SE), European forum for restorative justice (BE), Agir contre l'Exclusion foundation (FR) and European local and regional authorities. The Confederation for European Probation (CEP) is an associate partner of the project.

Local authorities : Málaga and the Justice Department of the Government of Catalonia (ES), Rotterdam and the Hague (NL), Bagnolet (FR), Vilvoorde (BE)

Projects in which Efus is a partner

Bounce - Methodological toolbox for resilience (2015-2017)

The Stresavoria II (BOUNCE) project trained professionals from 10 pilot local authorities about the BOUNCE methodological toolbox, which is used to strengthen resilience among young people and their entourage and prevent them from falling into a radicalisation process. The Forum took part in selecting the participating local authorities, provided support and identified European practices in the field of the prevention of radicalisation, which were featured in the guidebook produced by the project.

Local authorities : Amsterdam (NL), Augsburg (DE), Bordeaux (FR), Düsseldorf (DE), Groningen (NL), Landskrona (SE), Liege, Leuven (BE), Malmö (SE), Montreuil (FR)

Pactesur - Protecting cities allied against terrorism by securing urban areas (2019-2022)

Pactesur, led by the city of Nice, seeks to empower cities and local actors in the field of the security of urban public spaces that can be targeted by terrorism. It has four main components: a reflection on norms, jurisdictional frameworks and local governance; the development of specialised training for local security operators; raising awareness among citizens and political decision makers about their role regarding prevention; identifying by sharing on-the-ground experiences the most suitable local investments to secure open and touristic public spaces.

Local authorities : Liege (BE), Nice (FR), Turin (IT), Association of Italian municipalities of Piedmont (ANCI Piemonte) (IT)
10 associate cities are also taking part in the project

Practicies - Partnership Against Violent radicalisation in Cities (2017-2020)

The objective of Practicies is to better understand the “human roots” of violent radicalisation and to characterise these processes from their origin in order to build more effective prevention tools and practices.

This project principally seeks to: document the risks and protection factors of violent radicalisation among young people in Europe; identify best practices of intervention and prevention at local, national and European level; create a dynamic of dialogue between universities and social actors in order to better understand the phenomenon of violent radicalisation, and develop recommendations based on State-City partnerships in order to draw up pragmatic policies and solutions to the problem.

Efus coordinates a working group gathering local authority representatives to help them implement pilot projects as well as disseminate the results of the project.

Local authorities : Amadora (PT), Augsburg (DE), Berlin (DE), L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (ES), Liege (BE), Madrid (ES), Metropolis of Nice (FR), Regione Calabria (IT), Riga (LV), Salzburg (AT), Schaerbeek (BE), Solna (SE) and Toulouse (FR)

Protect - Public resilience using technology to counter terrorism (2018-2020)

The Protect project is led by the Dutch Institute for Technology, Safety and Security (DITSS). It aims to strengthen local authorities' capabilities in public space protection by putting in place an overarching concept where tools, technology, training and field demonstrations will lead to situational awareness and improve direct responses to secure public places.

Efus contributes to Protect by designing training materials for local authorities and law enforcement agencies that are based on the European Commission's Soft Target Site Assessment tool, which is a set of operational guidelines on on-site assessments of the vulnerability of public spaces.

It also helps the project's five partner cities to conduct a local vulnerability assessment so they can adopt tailor-made technological solutions and best practices to enhance the protection of their local public spaces.

Specialised organisations on the subject : Led by the Dutch Institute for Technology, Safety and Security (DITSS), Protect gathers, apart from Efus, the Lithuanian Centre for Cybersecurity (Lietuvos Kibernetiniu Nusikaltimu Kompetenciju Ir Tyrimu Centras) (LT), the Meleton Asfaleias Centre (GR), the Romanian police Inspectorate (RO), the Spanish Ministry of the Interior (ES), the Dutch Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO, NL) and the Catholic University of Brabant (NL).

Local authorities : Brasov (RO), Eindhoven (NL), Lariseon (GR), Málaga (ES), and Vilnius (LT)

>>>> Recommendations of the “Security, Democracy and Cities” Manifesto.....

The “Security, Democracy and Cities: Co-producing Urban Security Policies” Manifesto, adopted in November 2017, is a political platform on urban security designed by Efus, which expresses the values and principles that underpin the activities of Efus and its members. It includes recommendations and commitments to “Prevent radicalisation leading to violent extremism”.

► **We, European local authorities, make the following 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 prevention strategies should be balanced and based on a local diagnosis specific to the polarisation and violent radicalisation phenomena (profiles of people 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.
- 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.

- 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.

In the coming years, we are committed to:

- Basing our policies on an approach that guarantees individual liberties in order to avoid stigmatisation, which can be a breeding ground for violent extremism.
- Mobilising politically at European level and supporting local initiatives to make local radicalisation prevention actions legitimate and visible.
- Strengthening cooperation between European local authorities on our preventive and repressive policies as well as developing international cooperation, particularly with Middle Eastern and North African countries.
- Promoting the mobilisation of civil society, recognising their key role in building resilience and identifying credible voices in order to spread alternative narratives.
- Continuing the training of elected officials and technicians to strengthen political mobilisation and ensure this issue is included in local security policies.
- Assessing the preventive programmes implemented in order to measure the impact of local interventions in this field.

>>>>> Support and Services

Publications

Efus has published several books on the issue of radicalisation leading to violent extremism, such as *Prevention of violent radicalisation - Methodological guide for the development of a local strategy* (2017), and *Preventing and Fighting Radicalisation at the Local Level* (2016). They are available online on <https://issuu.com/efus> and can be ordered from Efus.

Online platform

Efus has an online resource platform for cities, providing access to a wealth of information such as academic studies, institutional reports, press articles, fact sheets on innovative practices, and more. In addition, Efus members can exchange through the platform.

Training

At your request, Efus can develop and manage training courses / workshops for different types of public: elected officials, executives, technicians, associations and volunteer sector, etc. These trainings aim at strengthening the strategic and operational capacities of these actors. These can take place over one or more days, with groups of 10 to 20 people. Themes can be general or specific.

Supporting cities and local authorities

Efus has been assisting local authorities in developing, implementing and evaluating their local urban security policies for more than 30 years. Efus can help you conduct an assessment of your local radicalisation situation and implement specific actions.

Visits and study tours

At your request, Efus can organise visits or thematic study tours in Europe, allowing you to see first-hand a global scheme or a specific project successfully implemented in a city that has similar issues to yours. Equally, you can host a delegation from another European city in order to present your local activities and exchange with peers.

About Efus



Founded in 1987 under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) is the only European network of local and regional authorities dedicated to urban security. It includes nearly 250 local and regional authorities from 16 countries. Its objectives are to:

- promote a balanced vision of urban security, combining prevention, sanctions and social cohesion,
- support local and regional authorities in the design, implementation and evaluation of their local security policy,
- help local elected officials get recognition for their role in the development and implementation of national and European policies.

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