

Created in 1987, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) is the only European network of local and regional authorities that is dedicated to urban security.

Gathering **250 cities and regions from 17 countries**, the network has the following objectives:

- > **To promote** a balanced vision of urban security combining prevention, sanctions and social cohesion;
- > **To support** local and regional authorities in the design, implementation and evaluation of their local security policies;
- > **To reinforce** the role of local elected officials within national and European governance.

Efus is led by an **Executive Committee** of around thirty local and regional authorities, elected annually by the members, and currently presided by **Willy Demeyer, Mayor of Liège** (Belgium) and vice-presided by the cities of **Mannheim** (Germany), **Nice** (France), **Rotterdam** (Netherlands) and the **Government of Catalonia** (Spain).

Furthermore, **Belgian, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish** local and regional authorities also benefit from national representation through their respective national forums for urban security.

Recognised expertise and international influence

Recognised for its expertise by national and European institutions, Efus is a network that represents the diversity of territories and promotes the exchange of experience between local and regional authorities beyond political affiliations, according to the principle of 'cities helping cities'.

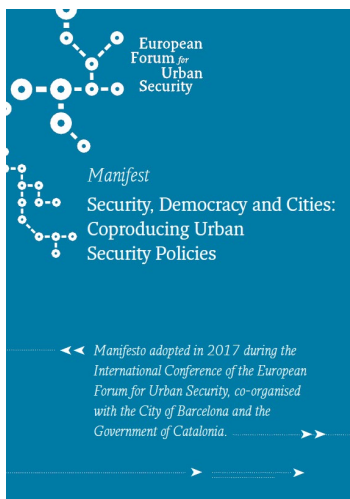
Strengthened by **an ecosystem of experts coming from universities, institutions and NGOs**, Efus also supports its members in drawing up innovative methods and tools.

Efus works with most of the 27 European Union countries. It has participatory status with the **Council of Europe** and consultative status with the **European Commission** and the **United Nations**. It is a member of the **Civil Society Forum on Drugs** and contributes to the work carried out by the **European Crime Prevention Network**. It coordinates, alongside the cities of Nice (France) and Madrid (Spain), the Partnership on security in public spaces of the **Urban Agenda for the EU**.

Efus is the Regional Vice-president of the **Global Network on Safer Cities**, led by **UN Habitat**, and regional partner of **Strong Cities Network**, representing Europe. It is also a member of the **Global Parliament of Mayors**, and co-founder of the **International Centre for Crime Prevention (ICPC)**. Finally, Efus is recognised by the **Organization of American States (OAS)** as a civil society organisation. On other continents, Efus supports the development of African and Latin American forums.

An engaged network of local and regional authorities

The principles that form the basis for the actions carried out by Efus members are laid out in the *Security, Democracy and Cities* Manifesto. Local and regional authorities can use this Manifesto as a source of support and inspiration for designing and promoting their security policies. This manifesto is also aimed at making the voice of cities heard in the national, European and international institutions. Updated on the occasion of Efus' international *Security, Democracy & Cities* conference, this document constitutes the network's roadmap.



In November 2017, Efus' sixth *international Security, Democracy & Cities* conference, concluded with the adoption of the latest edition of the Manifesto. Through this Manifesto, the member local and regional authorities affirm the central role of local elected representatives and the indispensable alliance of security and human rights. They claim the choice of prevention as a rational and strategic option that promotes social cohesion in the long term. They call for co-production with citizens to become a transverse principle of security policies. Twelve thematic recommendations complete the Manifesto.

The Security, Democracy and Cities Declaration, based on The Manifesto, was adopted at the 2021 conference. It calls for heightened and more agile cooperation as well as adequate financial support between the local, national and European levels of governance.

As actors in the network, Efus member local and regional authorities contribute to its development. Joining Efus means taking part in:

- > A European and international network of local and regional authorities, partners and experts;
- > Thematic working groups, cooperation projects, participation in publications and policy recommendations;
- > Support in the design, implementation and evaluation of local security policies;
- > Representation before national and European authorities;
- > Seminars and thematic conferences with a European and international dimension;
- > Thematic trainings, field visits and study tours to promote local experiences;
- > Efus Network, the collaborative web platform reserved exclusively for the network.

Cross-cutting work topics

The work topics that Efus covers are chosen according to member local and regional authorities' demands and local security issues. They are managed as part of cooperation projects that can be either local, national or European. For over 30 years, Efus has been working on cross-cutting topics linked to urban security such as nightlife, risky behaviours, gang violence, violent radicalisation, new technologies, violence against women, etc.

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