

# Action Plan

## Urban Agenda Partnership

### Security in Public Spaces

*Disclaimer*

*Views expressed in the Action Plan are purely those of the Urban Agenda for the EU and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission. The selection of the actions reflects the main priorities of the partners in line with the objectives of the Urban Agenda, but cannot be considered as a complete and comprehensive view on the security in public spaces topic. The Commission and the Partners do not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained therein. The Pact of Amsterdam states that the Action Plan "can be regarded as non-binding". Therefore, the actions presented in this Action Plan are not compulsory.*

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Objectives

### Objectives of the Partnership

Urban security is still an emerging political topic at the European level and European initiatives in this domain are quite recent. Often, security is considered as a sensitive multifaceted topic, source of ideological disputes and skewed positions.

However, security issues are extremely topical and have gained momentum over recent years. They represent a major source of concern for citizens according to local, national and European opinion polls. Notably, according to Eurobarometer 2017, “Europeans’ attitudes towards security”, while a large majority of Europeans feel secure in their immediate city and neighbourhood, they are less convinced that the EU is a secure place to live in. A large majority of respondents regard terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime as key challenges to the EU security.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, according to *Parlemeter 2019*, the majority of European citizens call for concrete European action against terrorism. Concerning the list of policy priorities, citizens want the European Parliament to focus on, 24% of respondents chose the fight against terrorism and organised crime (3rd priority after climate change/environment and social exclusion/poverty).<sup>2</sup>

For scoping reasons, the Partnership will use “security” as a general term to include pure security aspects as well as safety aspects.<sup>3</sup> The difference between safety and security lies in the nature of the threat: safety refers to the condition of being protected from accidental harm (e.g. earthquake, pandemic) whereas security refers to the condition of being protected from harm caused by intentional human action or behaviour (e.g. criminality, terrorism).

Today, in addition to the scourge of terrorism, local and regional authorities are in the frontline to cope with the health crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. This unprecedented crisis affecting all cities is severely impacting people’s security and well-being, but also challenges the capacity of cities to react, survive and thrive in the face of the Covid-19 disaster. Indeed, this crisis exacerbates urban vulnerabilities and local security issues, but also demonstrates the central role of cities in protecting citizens and that building cities’ resilience is key for the future.

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1 Eurobarometer 464B. Europeans’ attitudes towards security, 2017

[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/europeans-attitudes-towards-security\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/europeans-attitudes-towards-security_en)

2 Parlemeter 2019: Heeding the call beyond the vote. A stronger parliament to listen to citizens voices

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/parlemeter-2019-heeding-the-call-beyond-the-vote>

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the definition provided by Leiden University (NL), “Security & Safety Challenges in a Globalized World”

<https://www.coursera.org/lecture/security-safety-globalized-world/what-is-safety-and-security-VXD42>

In this context, the Partnership has a duty to act and an opportunity to explore solutions in response to citizens' worries and needs. To do so, it aims to offer an encompassing and holistic vision of urban security, in all its diversity and complexity, based on an integrated approach and on local field experience.

The Partnership wants to ensure that the role of local and regional authorities in security is better recognised at all levels and enshrined in the European Internal Security Strategy and other relevant European political initiatives or frameworks. This is crucial in order to develop the urban dimension of EU policies in the field of security and in this way to contribute to harness the potential of the EU Urban Agenda as a whole.

Taking account of their experiences in delivering policy on the ground, Europe's cities and regions can provide valuable and innovative answers to security challenges and are essential links in the security production chain, hence the importance to ensure multi-level coordination and support from the EU and the Member States to local and regional initiatives.

Even though the governance of security issues varies from one Member State to another depending on the levels of decentralisation, local and regional elected representatives consider that increased cooperation to coproduce security (notably concerning the sharing of information) between the sovereign power of the state and local and regional authorities is more than necessary, in particular because it would make it more effective in preventing risks and threats, but also in providing concrete holistic, cross-sectorial, innovative solutions co-designed and co-implemented with its citizens.

Through the Partnership, cities and regions aim also at reinforcing the relationship between citizens and Europe (knowing that around 75% of EU Citizens live in cities) by showing the added value of the European Union on the questions of urban security and protection of people and public spaces.

The Partnership aims to provide concrete European responses to real needs identified at the local level, to encourage the exchange and dissemination of best practices and to allow better targeting of interventions as far as legislation or funding instruments are concerned.

The Partnership considers that local and regional authorities are full-fledged actors in improving security in Europe and must work hand in hand with the European and national levels, as well as with private operators at the local level, within a security continuum based on a multilevel governance.

Therefore, European urban authorities deserve tangible and straightforward support from the EU to be empowered to fight against real threats and to use innovative means as well as the most advanced technologies. Ensuring security in



public spaces includes reinforcing social cohesion, preserving the open and welcoming character of our cities and our public spaces in general, while protecting them and creating a positive culture of security and resilience among European citizens.

Through the Partnership, local and regional authorities aim to ensure an effective exchange of knowledge and best practices, better regulation and better funding at the European and national level to support innovative security-related Actions.

In particular, the Partnership is committed to responding to key challenges such as:

- Address major safety and security threats with which local and regional authorities have had to cope;
- Protect and rethink public spaces against terrorism and develop security by design;
- Preserve the openness of European cities;
- Find a shared vision and understanding of security;
- Ensure convergence of urban security policies while respecting city differences;
- Enhance the feeling of security of the EU population;
- Ensure security through social cohesion;
- Improve the use of smart and safe technologies to secure cities;
- Empower society to be responsible of its own security and better involve citizens.

### **Objectives of the Action Plan**

The Partnership is committed to delivering a concrete Action Plan that will be endorsed by the European Commission, the Member States, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and other relevant stakeholders.

The aim of this Action Plan is to propose Actions that are useful to local and regional authorities, realistic, in line with the challenges of our time, easily understandable by citizens and bringing real European added value.

Three concrete priorities have been defined in the Orientation stage and continue to guide the spirit of the Action Plan:

1. Urban planning and design 'to create safer cities';
2. Technology for smart, sustainable and safe cities;
3. Managing security and sharing public spaces in urban and peri-urban areas.



## 1.2 Governance of the Partnership

Ensuring the security of public spaces and improving the feeling of security for citizens is a priority for all local and regional players, regardless of their size. The Partnership brings together capital cities, large and small cities but also regions and ministries. We present below the Partnership governance structure and main roles and configurations.



*Kick-off meeting in Paris, 24 January 2019*

### Coordinator(s)

- Coordinators include the City of Nice (FR), the European Forum for Urban Security - Efus, which comprises 250 members across Europe (cities, metropolitan areas, regions) and the Madrid City Council (ES).

The Partnership currently comprises, in addition to the Coordinators, 10 more Partners which are:

### Local authorities:

- City of Helsinki (FI);
- City of Mechelen (BE);
- Métropole Européenne de Lille (FR);
- Union of Romagna Faentina (IT);
- Regione Toscana (IT);
- Brussels-Capital Region (BE);
- Riga City Council (LV);

National authorities:

- Ministry of Transport (CZ);
- Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning (HR).

Other participants include the European Commission (DG REGIO, DG HOME, JRC, DG CONNECT, DG EMPL, ...) and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Finally, other actors and observers include Eurocities, the URBACT secretariat, the City of Toruń (PL); UN Habitat and the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).

### Background information

The Partnership has its origin in the Nice Declaration of September 29, 2017 on the prevention of radicalisation and the protection of public spaces against terrorism, drafted by the City of Nice (on behalf of the Euromed Cities Network<sup>4</sup>) and the European Forum for Urban Security, and co-signed by more than 60 mayors<sup>5</sup>.



Nice Declaration, 29 September 2017

Other milestones for the Partnership creation are represented by the mobilisation of cities led by the European Commission by adopting the EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces<sup>6</sup> in October 18, 2017 and the EU Mayors' Conference "Building urban defences against terrorism" hosted on March 8, 2018 in Brussels.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.reseau-euromed.org/en/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nice.fr/fr/actualites/declaration-de-nice?type=articles>

<sup>6</sup> COM (2017) 612 final, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20171018\\_action\\_plan\\_to\\_improve\\_the\\_protection\\_of\\_public\\_spaces\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20171018_action_plan_to_improve_the_protection_of_public_spaces_en.pdf)

The Partnership is also in line with the recommendations listed in the Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions on the Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces, 4-5 July 2018 (Rapporteur Jean-François BARNIER).<sup>7</sup>

### Working method of the Partnership

The general working method of the Partnership is based on the key milestones set in the Pact of Amsterdam. Here we briefly present its main components and elaborate on the phases through which the Partnership has gone in order to define the Actions presented in this document.

The Partnership was established in January 2019, with a kick-off meeting held in Paris.

The three abovementioned priority areas have been the foundation upon which the work of the Partnership has been built. Commencing from these, the Actions identification and shortlisting process (Scoping Phase) has been initialised.

In the scoping phase, a long list of Actions was drafted based on inputs provided by all Partners. The full list comprised 21 Actions across the three thematic areas and Urban Agenda objectives (Better Regulation, Funding and Knowledge). For each, information was collected in order to define the Action profile and level of interest by the Partners and determine whether it would meet the 4 criteria identified, presented in the table below.

**Table 1 Criteria for Actions selection**

Criteria
The Action is well placed in the UA context
The Action is realistic and can be implemented (feasibility)
It brings added value to what has already been done
The Partnership has expertise and capacity to implement it

Based on these, and the interest shown by the different Partners on the various Actions, a final shortlisting and clustering exercise was completed at the fourth Partnership meeting, held in October 2019 (Actions definition).

Table 2 summarises the main activities undertaken for each phase of the Partnership lifespan thus far and the respective deliverables.

**Table 2 Overview of phases and related activities and deliverables**

Phase	Time span	Activities	Outputs and milestones
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<sup>7</sup> CIVEX-VI/031



Inception	January - February 2019	Launch of the Partnership Definition of the Partnership scope and main working arrangements Definition of key milestones and timeline	Kick off meeting in Paris Roadmap
Orientation	February – May 2019	Mapping exercise to identify main challenges to security in Public Spaces and clustering Survey to determine priority areas and subtopics Definition of three Working Groups for the three priority areas	Second Partnership meeting, in Nice Analysis of survey results Mapping of relevant initiatives, policies, legislative framework Orientation Paper
Scoping	June - November 2019	Identify long list of Actions Shortlisting process Clustering and validation of final Actions selection Definitions of task forces for each Action Development of Draft Action fiches	Third Partnership meeting, Florence and fourth Partnership meeting in Brussels. Action shortlisting methodology paper Actions Matrix Action Fiches
Actions Definition	December 2019 - March 2020	Approval and alignment on Action fiches Drafting of the Action Plan Public Consultation	Fifth Partnership meeting in Faenza Draft Action Plan
Consultation	March 2020 – September 2020	Consultations among Partners, European Commission and relevant Stakeholders	Internal consultation Interservice Consultation Public Feedback
Actions implementation	September 2020 - onwards		

Since its creation in December 2018, the Partnership organized six Partnership meetings: in Paris (January 2019), Nice (April 2019), Florence (June 2019), Brussels (October 2019) and Faenza (February 2020). The sixth meeting was organised virtually due to the COVID-19 related restrictions (June 2020).

In terms of internal coordination, a weekly teleconference is organised between the Technical Secretariat and the Coordinators. At minimum, monthly calls are organised with all Action Leaders. Action Leaders are responsible to communicate and coordinate with the Partners who are involved in their Action.

Decisions are made in a collegial manner in agreement with the Coordinators. The Partnership also works in close cooperation with the European Commission, notably DG REGIO, DG HOME and the Joint Research Centre and other bodies (for instance EU Data Protection Board, European Agency for Fundamental Rights, UN HABITAT, URBACT Secretariat).

The Partnership is flexible and reactive in order to adapt its reflection to current events and new forms of threats, such as the coronavirus outbreak, whilst staying within its agreed initial remit<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> Concerning the COVID-19 crisis, it has to be noted that a specific reference to cross-border health threats was made in the Orientation Paper (page 10) and the link between security and health was quoted many times in the document.

## Consultations carried out

In addition to the public consultation (which is a procedure common to every UA Partnership), the Action Plan has also been opened to the consultation of the 250 members of Efus through the internal platform of the Efus network (“Vie du Réseau”) and the CEMR network.

### 1.3 What has been done already?

As mentioned above, the Partnership has completed an extensive mapping exercise on existing legislation, funding opportunities, as well as projects and initiatives undertaken in Europe in the domain of security in public spaces. Below is an overview of those initiatives deemed as most impactful for the Partnership.

#### Strategies and policies

- The European Agenda on Security (2015);
- EC Communication “Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces” (18 October 2017) and opinion by the Committee of the Regions (4-5 July 2018);
- EC Communication “Towards an effective and genuine Security Union - Twentieth Progress Report” (30 October 2019);
- Commission Staff Working Document “Good practices to support the protection of public spaces” (20 March 2019);
- Efus Manifesto “Security, Democracy & Cities” (2017);
- Nice Declaration (2017) and Covenant of Mayors on the protection of public spaces (2018);
- UN system-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements (2020).

#### Legislation

- Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation);
- Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA;
- Directive (EU) 2017/541 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA;

- Proposal for a regulation on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF), 29 May 2018.

### Working Groups and networks

- [Efus](#);
- [European Crime Prevention Network \(EUPCN\)](#);
- [RAN LOCAL](#);
- [EU Cities Against Radicalisation](#) (DG HOME initiative);
- [EU Forum on the protection of public spaces](#);

Other relevant initiatives and networks include:

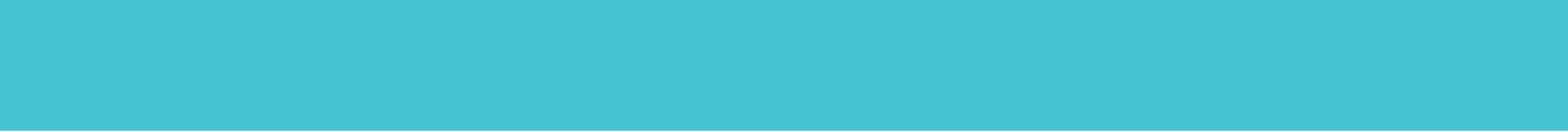
- Strong Cities, Nordic Safe Cities, ICLEI, Global Resilient Cities Network at the international level;
- High Risk Security Network and ATLAS Network of Police Special Intervention Units;
- Eurocities, CEMR, ENOLL (European network of Living Labs).

### Projects

- ISF projects on the protection of public spaces, some of which are further presented in Chapter 3, include:
  - Pactesur;
  - Securcities;
  - Safeci;
  - Protect;
  - Pericles;
  - Skyfall;
  - Stepwise;
  - Secu4All;
- 3 Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) projects on urban security - BeSecure-FeelSecure (City of Piraeus, EL), TOnite (City of Turin, IT), SURE (City of Tampere, FI);
- URBACT Action Planning Network (“UrbSecurity – Planning safer cities”);
- H2020 projects (Call Infra 02 “Security for smart and safe cities, including for public spaces”).

### Databases

- Efus database;
- Cordis;
- Eurostat;
- Eurobarometer.



## 2 Actions

### 2.1 The Actions and the three objectives

Due to the intertwined global and local challenges, local and regional authorities emerge as essential players in ensuring the security of European citizens.

Indeed, the topics of the management of public spaces and the protection of European citizens have never been more relevant than now. Major safety and security issues such as terrorism or the more recent coronavirus outbreak have also contributed to this factor.

In addition, since the urban dimension of security is a new political priority that generates a lot of attention and expectations, the Partnership has a unique opportunity to propose new ideas bringing real added value, at a key moment when a new Security Union Strategy is adopted by the European Commission<sup>9</sup> and while the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 is still under negotiation.

It is in light of these considerations that the Partnership has selected the Actions presented in the table below as a contribution to the three objectives of better knowledge, regulation and funding.

It should also be noted that all activities implemented under this Action Plan will respect and will be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and will promote gender equality, applying a full gender mainstreaming perspective, and the rights of the child and will be disability inclusive and accessible in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Further details are provided in the sections that follow.

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<sup>9</sup> The European Commission published on 24 July 2020 a communication (COM 605) related to the EU Security Union Strategy. The Partnership for Security in Public Spaces is mentioned on page 10.

Table3 Overview of selected Actions

Action	Objective	(Co) leaders	Participating Partners
1	Developing a Framework for a Self-Assessment tool dedicated to Urban Authorities	Better knowledge	Helsinki Madrid, Unione della Romagna Faentina (URF)
2	Recommendations on EU security strategy, multi-level, participatory and innovative governance and funding	Better funding <b>and</b> better regulation	Nice, Efus, URF
3	Evaluate the application of AI inclusive technologies	Better regulation	Nice Madrid, Lille, Riga
4	Develop a capacity building training scheme about integrated sustainable urban security	Better knowledge	Regione Toscana, URF Efus, Mechelen
5	Measure the impact of social cohesion and inclusion on security in public spaces of urban and peri-urban areas	Better knowledge	Mechelen URF, Efus, Regione Toscana, Madrid
6	Develop guidance for architectural spatial design and planning (security by design)	Better regulation	Brussels, Croatia, Mechelen, Helsinki, Madrid

The participative approach adopted by the Partnership to identify the most relevant Actions also provided an opportunity to realise and appreciate how much these Actions are closely interlinked. If this is particularly true for Actions 4 and 5, where coherence is ensured by the fact that they have been designed by the same Partners, it has become increasingly clear that the coordination and synergies are also important for Actions 1 and 5, which deal respectively with the benchmarking tool for policies (including R&I) and measuring impact of social cohesion, social inclusion and innovation. The same applies to Actions 2 and 4 which relate to the need to elaborate innovative and sustainable Action plans on security linked to training for urban authorities, as well as Action 5 and 6 where the promotion of social cohesion and inclusion go hand in hand with security by design.

## 2.2 Presenting the Actions

### 2.2.1 ACTION N° 1 – Developing a Framework for a Self-Assessment tool dedicated to Urban Authorities - Pilot

#### Description of the Action

The objective of this Action is to develop and pilot a framework for a self-assessment tool for urban authorities, with which urban security may be assessed from multiple points of view. The focus is on creating a framework that is usable, sustainable and functional for urban authorities of different sizes and population density and one that will take into account the vastness of the concept of safety and security within the scope of this Partnership, while being concise enough to ensure ease of use. Urban security is a complex issue and can be related to various threats and forms of crime, as well as an actual or perceived lack of security. Security relates and depends on aspects such as social cohesion, social innovation, proximity, law enforcement, society's resilience and community empowerment against any forms of violence and hazards. It also concerns enhancing the protection of buildings and infrastructures.

This Action aims to create a framework for a self-assessment tool that urban authorities can utilise. The framework will be piloted and, if successful, scaled up in a way that it will be accessible to urban authorities across Europe. The long-term ambition of the Action is to pave the way for the creation of a joint dashboard with which urban authorities would be able to reflect on their own status interactively.

The aim of the self-assessment dashboard is to work as a benchmarking tool for urban authorities, and as such is not intended to be a ranking device classifying safest or unsafe cities. Such indices already exist at an international level.<sup>10</sup> The Partnership would prefer to avoid ranking, and rather encourage peer-learning and efforts in tackling the urban dimension of security and safety. By indicating the fields in which European urban authorities are active, the tool could promote good practices and encourage exchanges. The Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor could be the most accurate reference point to the dashboard for which the Framework piloted within this Action could be used.<sup>11</sup>

*Responsible Partners:* Helsinki (lead) with the support of Madrid and URF

<sup>10</sup> The Economist, Safe Cities Index 2019 <https://safecities.economist.com/safe-cities-index-2019/>

<sup>11</sup> JRC, Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor <https://composite-indicators.jrc.ec.europa.eu/cultural-creative-cities-monitor/>

### **What is the specific problem**

Around 75% of the EU population has chosen urban areas in which to live. Nevertheless, knowledge about how urban and peri-urban areas evolve in terms of safety and security is fragmented. Sustainable urban development and management of urban and peri-urban spaces play a fundamental role in defining the quality of life (including health and well-being). A key element of this is the ability of cities and other urban areas to provide security and sense of safety to their residents and visitors.

Security is a complex issue affected by aspects such as social cohesion, social integration (access to good quality and non-segregated basic services including for example health care), innovation, proximity, law enforcement, resilience, and protection of buildings, infrastructure and greenery. Terminology, definitions and broader understanding of safety and security differ across Europe and globally. Currently several indices approach security from various points of view. There is, however, great disparity amongst the indices and most of them fail to serve the needs of smaller cities or take into account the vastness of the concepts of safety and security, concentrating heavily on crime and law enforcement. Additionally, no comparable database is available to use in urban authorities within the European Union that would include medium-sized and smaller urban authorities.

There is, therefore, a great need for broader knowledge and a harmonised common framework for assessing and evaluating urban security. Moreover, there is a need for improved collaboration among European urban authorities and the exchange of best practices from those cities which have found innovative and effective solutions to common challenges.

### **How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?**

The EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces (COM(2017) 612) sets a number of strategies to improve the security of citizens in cities. The Action Plan could benefit from the definition of novel indicators and indices, more specifically in the areas of increased awareness of managing authorities. A self-assessment tool allowing for an increased understanding of each city's progress, encouraging the exchange of best practices and city-to-city cooperation and identifying which cities are leading and innovating (e.g. adoption of innovative and sustainable technologies or security by design principles) while providing insights and guidance in the areas of improvement would greatly increase the capacities of local authorities and citizens in the field of protection of public spaces. New indicators and an innovative self-assessment tool will therefore support better decisions for the adoption of systemic, cross-sectorial solutions in urban security and associated Digital Transition.

In terms of existing statistical instruments, Eurostat, the EU's official data-gathering body, gathers a range of statistical information covering the quality of life. The data gathered, unfortunately, does not add up to form a holistic picture of

safety and security. Additionally, Eurostat has a data visualisation tool for European urban areas, called Regions and Cities Illustrated.<sup>12</sup> This tool shows some indicators at city and regional level and allows their comparison and analysis, including indicators such as crude death rate, unemployment rate, life expectancy at birth and people killed in road accidents. Yet, it does not allow for a holistic assessment of safety. The tool, however, is useful to visualise the vast array of urban areas with regards to population size and the different challenges the regions and cities face. The Action aims to best utilise the data gathered by Eurostat and establish collaboration with the entity.

### Which Action is needed?

There are multiple existing indices and rankings measuring, for instance, aspects of safety, security, liability and technical advances of cities around the world. One such index is the Safe Cities Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which ranks 60 cities around the world, covering digital security, health security, infrastructure security and personal security.<sup>13</sup> University of Navarra's IESE Business School has created the IESE Cities in Motion index (CIMI), which covers 174 cities worldwide. Regarding Security in Public Spaces, the CIMI includes a pillar on Social Cohesion measuring among others crime rate and the number of terrorist acts of vandalism<sup>14</sup>. Additionally, a team of researchers from the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Brabant Centre for Sustainable Development (Telos, Tilburg University) have created "The 2019 SDG Index and Dashboards Report for European Cities", with the aim to provide data to gauge the performance of 45 European cities on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>15</sup> Under the SDG 16 the dashboard presents indicators such as homicides, robberies and perception of neighbourhood safety.

Most of the existing tools target only metropolitan cities and capital regions, leaving a large number of urban authorities without tools to benchmark their own status within the field. By developing a joint, shared and holistic framework that is adjustable to meet the needs of urban authorities of all sizes, and EU citizens, European urban authorities would be able to enhance their knowledge and understanding of peer cities and their own level of safety and security. In the future, European urban authorities should be able to increase their capacities in knowledge-based decision making and planning and respond to security and safety issues that cross the borders of regions and urban areas.

This Action focuses on creating and piloting a self-assessment framework for urban authorities of all sizes. If the pilot phase, which will focus on the Partnership members, is successful, the framework will pave the way for a joint dashboard that can be scaled up to urban authorities and cities of all sizes. The dashboard, which would be based on the framework, will be a useful tool for urban

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<sup>12</sup> Eurostat, Region and Cities illustrated <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/RCI/#?vis=nuts2.labourmarket&lang=en>

<sup>13</sup> Safe Cities Index <https://safecities.economist.com/safe-cities-index-2019/>

<sup>14</sup> IESE Cities in Motion Index 2019 <https://blog.iese.edu/cities-challenges-and-management/2019/05/10/iese-cities-in-motion-index-2019/>

<sup>15</sup> The 2019 SDG Index and Dashboards Report for European Cities <https://sdghub.com/project/the-2019-sdg-index-and-dashboards-report-for-european-cities-prototype-version/>

authorities to measure how they are progressing in terms of safety and security, for instance regarding prevalence of crime, security by design or legislation. As a self-assessment tool, it could also be used in evaluating what kinds of efforts make an urban region and area safe in terms of actual and perceived security. Urban authorities using the benchmarking tool would be able to view what others are doing and reflect on their own needs, which in the long term will increase safety and security. For instance, the dashboard could work as a tool for seeking models of tackling joint issues or as a way to benchmark and seek guidance on specific efforts, such as procuring new technologies or creating a program to prevent radicalisation.

### How to implement the Action?

The Action implementation would foresee three main sub-tasks.

#### 1) *Mapping of current indices used within the EU and globally:*

The Action begins with a thorough mapping of indices and benchmarking and self-assessment tools already used within the fields of security, safety, technical advances and liveability. Through mapping, the current gaps in safety and security indices and benchmarking tools can be identified. After the mapping phase, an informed process of defining a framework for the pilot can be carried out.

#### 2) *Defining a conceptual framework:*

Defining a conceptual framework to support the creation of a self-assessment tool is the core objective of this Action. Creating a joint, holistic framework is key, as it sets the aim and focus of the self-assessment tool to be piloted in the third sub-task. The process of defining a framework will involve surveying and mapping what themes are of interest to all Partners and other actors within the EU, using as the basis the joint understanding of safety and security agreed upon in the beginning of this Partnership and stated in the Orientation Paper and the findings of the mapping of existing tools described above. Possible consultations of external actors (health and social sector, civil society partners included) and experts can be carried out in the form webinars or workshops, during which the indicators are chosen and their operationalization is discussed. The Partnership members will be used a pilot-group for data collection to assess the relevance of chosen indicators. This process will be carried out through questionnaires in the third sub-task of this Action.

The framework must be holistic, sustainable and actionable, as well as relevant to regions and urban and peri-urban authorities of different population sizes and economic development, and such that can be used for self-assessment purposes. A framework will provide indicators, their assessment and their operationalisation, definitions and an understanding of how the indicators should be clustered. The chosen indicators must be sufficiently modular so that they can be utilised by urban authorities of all sizes, and all parameters need to be taken into account (such as population density, number of inhabitants, etc). Aspects of safety and

security that could be included in the framework relate to, among others, inclusivity, preparedness for crises and large events, perceived safety, use of technologies, crime prevalence, security by design, and others. The focus, however, should be on what the urban authorities are doing to maintain or improve their safety and security situation and how they could learn from others.

### 3) Pilot and data collection:

On the basis of the conceptual framework, data collection could be carried out by looking for and taking stock of already existing data (including from EU funded projects) and creating an online survey or template (in English) on which representatives of European urban authorities can provide their responses. Sufficient data can be gathered by using both open source data and data provided by urban authorities.

Further, a thorough analysis of the findings of the pilot-phase will need to be carried out and reported. These findings will indicate whether the designed self-assessment framework is successful and should be scaled-up to create a joint dashboard or not.

#### *Deliverables:*

- Report on the Pilot and Feedback collected;
- Framework for safety and security themed self-assessment tool, and the online survey-form to be used in the pilot;
- Report on existing indices, benchmarking tools and self-assessment tools related to safety and security.

#### *Possible additional activities after the pilot-phase:*

- Developing the piloted survey and translations into multiple languages;
- Creating a prototype dashboard where the urban authorities would be able to perform self-assessments and review their own results;
- Communicating the findings by creating a Report presenting the policy context, methodology and main findings.

#### **Which additional actors and Partners?**

Joint Research Centre (JRC), All Partners, Other urban authorities within the EU, Member States, Universities, Eurostat.

## Which timeline?

Activity	Deliverable/result	Deadline
Mapping	Report	Q 3-4 2020
Creating the Framework (external support)	Framework Online Survey Form	Q 1 2021
Pilot within the Partnership, including analysis of data obtained from the Pilot	Overview of referential material Summary/Report on the Findings	Q 2 2021
Communication of results and possible Scaling-up	Next steps	Q 3 2021

## 2.2.2 ACTION N° 2 – Recommendations on EU security strategy multi-level governance and funding

### Description of the Action

From a *governance* perspective the Partnership will promote the role of local and regional authorities to integrate them into the governance of security-related issues at national and European level.

The Partnership should advocate for the recognition of the role that urban authorities/cities play in the broad field of urban security - including prevention activities - through a holistic approach. As experience has shown, in case of terrorist attacks or crimes, urban authorities are the key stakeholders at the local level which are able to face and coordinate prevention activities supporting the national security activity. Further, the perception of security within local communities is one of the most challenging issues for Mayors as it also reflects quality of life and attractiveness of territories. It is necessary to enhance the role of urban authorities and the effective cooperation and synergies with national authorities to develop more effective urban security action on the territory. Creating a network between urban authorities involved in UA Partnership will assist in sharing experiences, knowledge and best practices and also in finding shared innovative solutions to challenges.

The role of local and regional authorities in the security continuum could be further reinforced through:

- A specific mention of the role of local and regional authorities in protecting public spaces in the European Agenda on Security after 2020;
- The creation of a Covenant of Mayors on the protection of public spaces to ensure the continuity of the Partnership in the long term. This would, bring together cities with extensive experience and greater ambitions in the field of urban security, to acknowledge, monitor and encourage the efforts undertaken by local and regional authorities with a dedicated website to display best practices and commitments, as well as an annual convention gathering Mayors to discuss about political initiatives, achievements and challenges.

This idea was originally presented by the Mayor of Nice at the EU Mayors' Conference “Building Urban Defences Against Terrorism” on 8 March 2018 and welcomed by the Commission and the Committee of the Regions “as an important contribution to the EU's efforts to protect citizens in public spaces and counter radicalisation”<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> See [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT\\_18\\_1661](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT_18_1661)

*Regarding funding*, the European Commission already offered several opportunities for local and regional authorities:

- Under the Internal Security Fund (ISF), especially in 2017, a large budget was made available for cities to enhance the protection of public spaces;
- The 4<sup>th</sup> call for proposals of the Urban Innovative Action in 2018 opened to projects in the field of urban security;
- The Horizon 2020 topic SU-INFRA02-2019 “Security for smart and safe cities, including for public spaces” that led to two projects ([IMPETUS](#) and [S4AllCities](#)), as well as several relevant topics within the Horizon 2020 Secure Societies areas Fighting Crime and Terrorism as well as Disaster Resilient Societies.

Such funding opportunities should be relaunched in the future to meet the evolving needs of local and regional authorities.

In the context of the [2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework](#), the Partnership will draw from and convey lessons learned on how to improve funding opportunities for Urban Authorities across all EU policies and instruments, including Cohesion Policy. Complementarity between the various sources of funding should be guaranteed in a multilevel approach for a coherent implementation of EU policies at local level. The Action will be carried out, in line with point 5.2 of the Pact of Amsterdam establishing the UAEU, that states that “[t]he Urban Agenda for the EU will not create new or increased EU funding aimed at higher allocations for Urban Authorities. However, it will draw from and convey lessons learned on how to improve funding opportunities for Urban Authorities across all EU policies and instruments, including Cohesion Policy.” Hence, the Partnership seeks to improve funding opportunities for Urban Authorities foreseen under the 2021-2027 multi annual financial framework

The Partnership will also better inform local and regional authorities on how to mobilise appropriate funding for security in public spaces and communicate towards citizens on EU funded projects. Two funding tools will be covered:

#### *Grants under different funding programmes:*

The Partnership aims at exploring and maximising all the funding opportunities offered by the proposal for a regulation laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF+), the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument (COM(2018) 0375).

#### 1. Structural Funds:

- For the first time ever, security is targeted in the proposed **ERDF regulation** which is a major evolution.

The preamble states that “investments under the ERDF should contribute to security in areas where there is a need to ensure safe and secure public spaces and critical infrastructure, such as transport and energy” and Article 2 “Specific objectives” for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund establishes that the ERDF shall support, among others, the following specific objective:

*(e) 'a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives' ('PO 5') by: (i) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage and security in urban areas; (ii) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas also through community-led local development.*<sup>17</sup>

The Partnership will therefore strongly recommend managing authorities to allow local and regional authorities to include security in integrated sustainable urban development strategies, through the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) tools.

- **The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) regulation (recital 5),<sup>18</sup>** recognises that the EU is confronted with structural challenges, for instance arising from the increased security threat. Social inclusion and urban security are inseparable from each other and the role of local and regional authorities in prevention policies is key to create a safer and more cohesive society. For the period 2021-2027, the new and stronger ESF+ will be the main financial instrument to strengthen Europe’s social dimension, by putting the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights into practice. One of the key elements of a strengthened social dimension is the enhancement of social inclusion, strongly and undeniably linked to security. As stated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Poverty of the United Nations, “the goal of social integration is to create “a more stable, safe and just society for all”, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play”.<sup>19</sup> The World Bank also reckons that social “exclusion can rob individuals of dignity, security, and the opportunity to lead a better life”<sup>20</sup>. Likewise, the link between social inclusion and security is demonstrated in scientific articles.<sup>21</sup> Therefore thanks to its prime mission, which is to foster employment and social inclusion, ESF+ will contribute to increase citizens’ security, and vice versa.
- **The European Territorial Cooperation:** the notion of security without borders should be scaled-up in the different Interreg programmes for the new

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<sup>17</sup> Proposal for a regulation on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF), COM(2018) 372, 29.05.2018

<sup>18</sup> COM(2018) 382, 30.05.2018

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/issues/social-integration.html>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/social-inclusion>

<sup>21</sup> For instance, the expert and scholar Markus PAUSCH in ‘Polarisation in pluralist democracies: Considerations about a complex phenomenon’ states that inclusion and dialogue can help combating pernicious polarisation - a key factor of insecurity- in societies ([https://efus.eu/files/2020/07/Contribution-Markus-Pausch-EN\\_georgia.pdf](https://efus.eu/files/2020/07/Contribution-Markus-Pausch-EN_georgia.pdf))

programming period; In addition to urban security, URBACT could also address cooperation between cities for crisis preparedness, crisis management and resilience strategies.

- **Main community action programmes**
- Internal Security Fund - Police: local and regional authorities should continue benefiting from EU funding in the framework of Union Actions (to support the exchange of best practices at the European level, their experiments and capacity-building of municipalities and local security forces) but also through National programmes (to foster the security continuum between national and local security forces);
- Horizon 2020 “Secure societies”/Horizon Europe “Security cluster”) and Urban Innovative Actions: request for calls for proposals to support research and innovation (technological and social innovation) in the area of smart and safe territories. The UA Partnership and the future Covenant of Mayors could be consulted to make strategic suggestions to the Commission and the Member States on what to include into Horizon Europe funding. In the short term, as part of the current negotiations on the first work programme of the future Horizon Europe programme, the Partnership is already declaring itself in favour of targeted research to support the protection of public spaces.

## 2. Other programmes:

- Rights, Equality and Citizenship (for prevention and inclusion) ; Justice (for victims) ; Erasmus + (request for a mobility and training programme for municipal police forces) ; TAIEX or similar programmes (request for peer-to-peer exchanges between local and regional administrations across Europe, for instance for the prevention of radicalisation in the framework of the initiative “EU Cities against Radicalisation” and the Radicalisation Awareness Network) ; European Defence Fund (request to finance investments in dual technologies for both civilian and military purposes as well as R & D projects);
- More generally, additional support will be sought in the framework of the new European Urban Initiative.

### *Loans (advising, lending and blending)*

EIB has an extensive experience in working with cities, regions and countries in terms of advisory services and financing (about 1/3 of all EIB lending has an urban dimension) and its contribution to the EU Security and Defence Agenda. EIB already supports investments by EU security and defence companies in R&D and Innovation where civilian technologies are concerned and is financing security investments as components of large projects and programmes to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure and IT systems.

In the framework of the guidance on funding, EIB will describe its areas of intervention and funding conditions: security related components within infrastructure projects (transport, building, ICT); dedicated security investments, part of an integrated programme (civil protection and disaster risk reduction, physical protection measures in urban areas).

Upon request, EIB will assist local and regional authorities to identify strategic investment programmes, provide advice and ensure complementarity with ERDF Funds.

**Responsible Partners:** Nice, Efus (lead) with the support of URF. Efus, Nice and URF will work together on Governance & Policy. Nice will lead on the funding aspects (in cooperation with EIB).

### **What is the specific problem?**

Security was long considered as an exclusive prerogative of Member States. Over the last decades, the crucial role of local and regional authorities has become more and more obvious especially in security prevention at the local level which entails the necessity of a multilevel governance approach to address local needs and promote local solutions. Through the Mayors, the EU will further develop the direct connection with citizens on security issues.

EU funding opportunities to ensure security in public spaces should be made more widely known and mobilised more easily by local and regional authorities, especially to finance the whole range of prevention activities which allow a more efficient prevention activity, including investments and equipment.

### **How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?**

The European Agenda on Security of 28.04.2015, that replaced the previous Internal Security Strategy (2010-2014), implements for a period 2015-2020 the Political Guidelines of the President of the European Commission in the area of security. It already recognised the crucial role local authorities should play in tackling radicalisation and organised crime, even though Member States are in charge for security at national level. As far as protection of public spaces is concerned, the necessity to involve local and regional authorities is clearly mentioned in the EU Action to support the protection of public spaces of 18.10.2017: *“Local and regional authorities are also important stakeholders in the protection of public spaces. The Commission will reinforce the involvement of these stakeholders and initiate a dialogue with both regional and local authorities, such as mayors of major cities, to share information and best practice in protecting public spaces”*. The dialogue established by the EC with regional and local authorities has taken a substantial step thanks to the creation of the Partnership, with the support of the Member States.

The 2017 EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces is an important milestone and two new fora have been created to foster the multilevel dialogue, the EU Mayors' Conference (08.03.2018) co-organised by the EC and the CoR and the meetings of the EC initiative "EU Cities against radicalisation".

### **Which Action is needed?**

Through the Partnership, Urban Authorities' involvement and political mobilisation in the field of security at EU level should become permanent and stable.

The eligibility for funding under ERDF is a key question because it will enable to finance security investments and equipment. Even though the possibility now exists in the regulation, Member States and managing authorities have to be encouraged to finance security-oriented projects and to allow local actors to include security in their integrated territorial or local development strategies. As far as ISF Police is concerned, targeted lobbying efforts are required towards Member States to finance measures at the local level in the framework of National programmes (in addition to what Union Actions already offer).

### **How to implement the Action**

The Action will be primarily implemented through consultations with key decisionmakers at national and EU level (European Commission, European Parliament, Council, Committee of Regions), advocacy activities in bilateral and multilateral meetings as well as events, and preparation of statements and positions which will inform on local practices and needs, contribute and guide key decisions on both the governance and funding front. The Action will also foresee a careful screening of all EU funding opportunities, which can be mapped and clearly presented to interested urban authorities.

### ***Deliverables:***

- Official letters and position papers to European and national authorities on political priorities (such as the Leipzig Charter, the Security Union Strategy) and funding issues (such as guidelines to include security in integrated urban strategies financed by ERDF and develop local action plans);
- Mapping of EU funding opportunities in the field of security for local and regional authorities;
- Preparatory work for the creation of a website for the Covenant of Mayors to ensure the continuity of the Partnership in the long term.

### **Which additional stakeholders and Partners?**

Member States, EUPCN, EC representation offices in Members States to promote the funding opportunities.

### Which timeline?

Most activities foreseen for these Actions will be continuous. More specifically the following indicative timeline is foreseen:

- 2020 for the lobbying Actions on the MFF 2021-2027 and ERDF operational programmes (guidance on funding to be completed after the completion on the negotiations on the funding programmes);
- 2020 for the lobbying Actions concerning the preparation of the future EU Security Agenda post 2020;
- 2021 for the preparation of the Covenant of Mayors platform.

### 2.2.3 ACTION N° 3 – Evaluate the application of Artificial intelligence technologies

#### Description of the Action

To combat the threats of the 21st century to which they are exposed on the front line and to reduce their vulnerability more particularly against terrorism, local and regional authorities must be able to use the last generation technological means and benefit from a legal framework favourable to innovation. New technologies also offer opportunities to better involve citizens in the protection of public spaces, to empower them and to encourage security co-production and ownership.

However, the use of security-related technologies to protect public spaces remains controversial. As shown by several examples, national data protection authorities across the EU have sometimes considered it to be contrary to the principles of proportionality, consent and data minimisation enshrined in the GDPR (General data protection regulation). Moreover, the use of the technologies is also frequently presented as too intrusive with high risks for privacy and individual freedoms (especially for vulnerable groups) and likely to create a feeling of reinforced surveillance in the population and societal control (often on the basis of examples of experience from third countries).

In this context, the Partnership would however seek to ensure a proper articulation between: protection against threats including terrorism, support to innovation and European technological sovereignty, respect for law, privacy and fundamental rights.

The Partnership identified the need to carry out an analysis on safe and smart cities' approaches developed across Europe whereas a debate is on-going on the use of surveillance technologies in public spaces (for instance concerning the facial recognition technology).

*Responsible Partners:* Nice (lead) with the support of Madrid, Riga and Lille Métropole.

#### What is the specific problem?

In order to better protect public spaces and citizens against threats, public administrations at national, regional and local levels as well as law enforcement agencies request data protection authorities for more flexibility to experiment and deploy innovative tools. However, different views and sensitivities exist across Europe regarding the use of security-related technologies. Also, different technologies are at stake and might require different assessments:

- Intelligent video surveillance systems (including the use of artificial intelligence, facial recognition technology) and sound detection;

- Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies;
- ICT and IoT platforms;
- Unstructured data processing (e.g. analysis of short messages on social networks...);
- Crime forecasting and predictive Policing Tools;
- Citizen-to-Law Enforcement Communications Mobile Applications.

### How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

The Action would build on material at EU level. Notably:

- Study on Face Identification Technology for its implementation in the Schengen Information System by the Joint Research Centre, 2019;<sup>22</sup>
- The European Data protection bureau's guidelines 3/2019 on processing of personal data through video devices on 10 July 2019:  
*"In addition to privacy issues, there are also risks related to possible malfunctions of these devices and the biases they may induce. Researchers report that software used for facial identification, recognition, or analysis performs differently based on the age, gender, and ethnicity of the person it's identifying. Algorithms would perform based on different demographics, thus, bias in facial recognition threatens to reinforce the prejudices of society. That is why, data controllers must also ensure that biometric data processing deriving from video surveillance be subject to regular assessment of its relevance and sufficiency of guarantees provided;"*<sup>23</sup>
- The position of the European Data Protection Supervisor (28 October 2019)  
*"There is no consensus in society about the ethics of facial recognition, and doubts are growing as to its compliance with the law as well as its ethical sustainability over the long term. (...) It would be a mistake (...) to focus only on privacy issues. (...) Now is the moment for the EU, as it discusses the ethics of AI and the need for regulation, to determine whether- if ever - facial recognition technology can be permitted in a democratic society. If the answer is yes, only then do we turn questions of how and safeguards and accountability to be put in place";*<sup>24</sup>
- The Fundamental Rights Agency's 2019 paper on fundamental rights implications of the use of facial recognition technology;<sup>25</sup>
- Reports from the multi-stakeholder Expert Group (business, civil society, academics) established by the Commission to support the application of

<sup>22</sup> Study on Face Identification Technology for its Implementation in the Schengen Information System - JRC34751, 2019  
[https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC116530/sis\\_face-jrc\\_science\\_for\\_policy\\_report\\_22.07.2019\\_final.pdf](https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC116530/sis_face-jrc_science_for_policy_report_22.07.2019_final.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> Guidelines 3/2019 on processing of personal data through video devices  
[https://edpb.europa.eu/sites/edpb/files/consultation/edpb\\_guidelines\\_201903\\_videosurveillance.pdf](https://edpb.europa.eu/sites/edpb/files/consultation/edpb_guidelines_201903_videosurveillance.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> Facial recognition: A solution in search of a problem?  
<https://edps.europa.eu/node/5551>

<sup>25</sup> Facial recognition technology: fundamental rights considerations in the context of law enforcement  
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/facial-recognition>

## Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and stakeholders' feedback on the implementation of the GDPR

The position of the European Commission has been specified at the time of the publication of the White Paper on “Artificial Intelligence - A European approach to excellence and trust” on 19 February 2020 by the Commission<sup>26</sup>. The gathering and use of biometric data for remote identification purposes, for instance through deployment of facial recognition in public places, carries specific risks for fundamental rights. The fundamental rights implications of using remote biometric identification AI systems can vary considerably depending on the purpose, context and scope of the use.

EU data protection rules prohibit, in principle, the processing of biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, except under specific conditions. Specifically, under the GDPR, such processing can only take place on limited grounds, the main one being for reasons of substantial public interest. In that case, the processing must take place on the basis of EU or national law, subject to the requirements of proportionality, respect for the essence of the right to data protection and appropriate safeguards. Under the Law Enforcement Directive, there must be a strict necessity for such processing, in principle an authorisation by EU or national law as well as appropriate safeguards. AI may only be used for remote biometric identification purposes where such use is duly justified, proportionate and subject to adequate safeguards.

In order to address possible societal concerns relating to the use of AI for such purposes in public places, and to avoid fragmentation in the internal market, the Commission will launch a broad European debate on the specific circumstances, if any, which might justify such use, and on common safeguards.”

In the White Paper, the Commission also states that Artificial Intelligence is developing rapidly and will change our lives, for instance, by increasing the security of Europeans. It is said that Europe can combine its technological and industrial strengths with a high-quality digital infrastructure and a regulatory framework based on its fundamental values to become a global leader in innovation in the data economy and its applications as set out in the European data strategy. This would include the creation of a “European single data space”, a genuine single market for data, as well as of sectoral data spaces (such as in law enforcement), as a manner to increase Europe’s technological sovereignty in key enabling technologies, whereby data could be safely shared and data availability increased. Indeed, according to Commission Vestager, Europe should not give up its “willingness to protect the fundamental values”. Europe can develop an Artificial Intelligence ecosystem that brings the benefits of the technology to the

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<sup>26</sup> Excellence and Trust in Artificial Intelligence

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/excellence-trust-artificial-intelligence>

whole of European society and economy in particular for services of public interest, for example, by equipping law enforcement authorities with appropriate tools to ensure the security of citizens, with proper safeguards to respect their rights and freedoms.

In the context of the coronavirus outbreak, the debate has taken on a new dimension as many governments around the world have mobilised digital surveillance technologies to track and contain visitors and citizens alike. On 8 April 2020, the European Commission adopted a recommendation on a common Union toolbox for the use of technology and data to combat and exit from the COVID-19 crisis, in particular concerning mobile applications and the use of anonymised mobility data,<sup>27</sup> to make the best use of innovative technologies in limiting the spread of the pandemic without compromising European values and privacy requirements.

### **Which Action is needed?**

It should be assessed whether the data protection framework sufficiently covers all aspects of the new technologies, including the facial recognition, or some targeted amendments are needed. In addition, the application of the data protection framework in relation to new technologies should be further harmonised, in order to avoid new barriers for innovation and technological developments.

The Partnership on Security in public spaces will contribute to the current public consultation and the future European debate by bringing examples from the ground, challenges, concrete needs and encountered obstacles in the use of AI technologies to enhance the level of urban security.

### **How to implement the Action?**

The Partnership will achieve the objectives above through the following activities:

- Contribution to the public consultation on Artificial intelligence by the European Commission;
- A mapping exercise of relevant examples of safe and smart cities' experiments carried out in Europe (with a special focus on artificial intelligence and facial recognition), including a compendium of EU funded projects at local and regional levels;
- Survey on the problems/bottlenecks faced by local authorities when using and experimenting artificial intelligence technologies;
- Overview of legal challenges, relevant opinions issued by data protection authorities and recent national bills, including the identification of potential disparities between Member States; recommendations to support cities'

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<sup>27</sup> C(2020) 2296 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/recommendation\\_on\\_apps\\_for\\_contact\\_tracing\\_4.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/recommendation_on_apps_for_contact_tracing_4.pdf)

innovation in the field of security A comparison with third countries' approaches (for instance UK, USA, China, India, Russia).

#### *Deliverables:*

- A position paper for the attention of EU institutions on the question of security-related technologies and more specifically artificial intelligence and facial recognition;
- Answer to the EC public consultation on artificial intelligence;
- A position paper to request a European framework to foster state-of-the-art innovation in safe and smart cities, in compliance with the law;
- A study on bottlenecks encountered by local actors.

#### **Which additional stakeholders and Partners?**

EU Data protection bureau, EU Data Protection Supervisor, EU Fundamental Rights Agency, DG HOME, CONNECT, EMPL and Justice, JRC, EU Operators' forum and industry sector, Member states, national data protection authorities. Law experts will be involved, for instance from the academic project "Deep Law for Tech" and the FabLex DL4T of the University Côte d'Azur.<sup>28</sup>

#### **Which timeline?**

- 14 June 2020 for the contribution to the public consultation on Artificial intelligence by the European Commission;<sup>29</sup>
- End of 2020 for the mapping exercise;
- Possible acceleration of the work if an EU legislation on facial recognition is proposed.

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<sup>28</sup> See <https://www.droiteconomique.org/dl4t/> and <https://www.droiteconomique.org/la-fablex-dl4t/>

<sup>29</sup> This activity has already been completed

## 2.2.4 ACTION N° 4 – Develop a capacity building training scheme about integrated urban security

### Description of the Action

As a cross-cutting issue, urban security requires integrated policies and consequently a new integrated approach to the definition of competences required to deal with it for the different actors involved. These comprise both actors within both the “city” (Local police, health and social services, urban planners, etc), as well as other stakeholders involved such as volunteer associations, community representatives, social housing providers and representatives of other institutions involved (healthcare system, education). The Partnership is then willing to contribute in defining at EU level a capacity-building framework on integrated security activities, including skills and competences for different actors dealing with urban security and cooperating on the same area. It is worth pointing out that the proactive role of Urban Authorities in involving other institutional stakeholders in the definition of competences to share when dealing with security policy on same area can be considered as a nudging activity to foster the definition of a common shared competence scheme thanks to institutional cooperation. It is also worth reminding that cross-cutting issues/policies entails different sectoral competences to be aligned and work in synergy.

The Capacity Building scheme presented in this section reflects this approach as such: the mapping exercise to define main stakeholders/target groups and the competence set required in the integrated approach to security shows that only by developing a horizontal governance cooperation it will be possible to reach the widest public. Such a scheme could work as a common standard to refer to when defining various profiles at local level (i.e. the urban planner, the social worker, the local policeman, the volunteer, the member of the neighborhood watch group etc...). Further, this common standard - recognised and shared at EU level - would be shared at EU/national/regional level (better knowledge) and could offer enhanced possibilities of funding – for example, by European social funds (better funding).

*Responsible Partners:* Regione Toscana, Unione Romagna Faentina (lead), Efus, Mechelen.

### What is the specific problem?

Security is considered a principal challenge for EU citizens, and urban authorities are required to improve their responsiveness and ability to adopt the right, hybrid approach to solving emerging threats. Even if crime repression generally remains a core competence of national ministries of internal affairs, security policies implemented by local authorities very much focus on crime prevention activities and must tackle the need to improve citizens’ perception of security. As a

consequence, this means that urban authorities should activate a set of interrelated policies, where for instance the work of local police has to be integrated with other departments. Security policies implemented at local level should be integrated, especially when it comes to crime prevention and promotion of social cohesion. Local authorities should implement security policies that are transversal to all other relevant domains, such as housing, social issues, youth, urban planning.

New professional positions such as "Security and Prevention Coordinator," "Public Security Coordinator" or "Urban Security Coordinator" have emerged in local communities, public transport companies, social housing providers and businesses across Europe. However, in general, these professionals do not have specific training or education in the field of integrated crime prevention prior to taking on such positions, or more specifically on the European dimension of their work. There are few areas in public service with recognised qualifications at a national level, and even fewer at European level. In addition, actors who work on urban security and crime prevention are often not sufficiently trained to respond to new challenges, and to work in partnership with actors from other fields. The integrated approach aims to focus on the complexity, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity of the concept of "security". The development of such a capacity-building scheme on integrated urban security would help all operators that, in local urban contexts, have "to deal" with security from different points of view.

#### **How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?**

During the 2014-2020 European Union programming period, the European Structural and Investment Funds have financed a broad range of investment projects and programmes. For a better management of these resources, European Commission identified administrative capacity as a fundamental factor behind the performance of EU funds. By investing in institutional capacity building, which is in line with the Thematic Objective 11 of the 2014-2020 programming period, will also contribute to a greater focus and a strategic approach towards longer-term competency development, ultimately improving the functioning of the entire administration and the quality of the services it provides for citizens and businesses. It will be possible to achieve a more efficient public administration at local level – particularly in Urban Authorities - requires skilled public servants working in efficient organisations capable of effectively managing complex projects with a complex ecosystem of actors in a multilevel governance context. In 2018, the Commission launched a pilot Action to provide hands-on support to national and regional administrations in their efforts to strengthen further their administrative capacity for management of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund through strengthening their professional and operational competencies. Afterwards, a brand-new tool was designed to identify and address competency gaps and adapt training strategies. The tool, designed by the Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) consists of an EU Competency

Framework. This tool recognises the need to contribute to a greater focus and a strategic approach towards longer-term competency development, ultimately improving the functioning of the entire administration and the quality of the services it provides for citizens and businesses.<sup>30</sup>

### Which Action is needed?

It is crucial that urban authorities adequately train staff at different levels and in different domains (local police, urban planning, health and social services etc.), so that they are able to:

- Support the urban authority in the creation and consequent implementation of its integrated urban security policy;
- Provide qualified opinions and advice from an overall integrated urban security perspective;
- Activate and consequently implement the policy;
- cooperate and develop joint Actions both with local stakeholders and other institutional stakeholders involved in the implementation of an integrated urban security policy;
- Involve and train local stakeholders (volunteers and neighbourhood watch members for example).

To this purpose, it will be necessary to identify and agree on a set of topics (and competences) that characterise an integrated urban security policy, as well as the target groups involved in key knowledge areas (learning to know/learning to do/learning to be). This will be the basis to determine the necessary skills and competences for various profiles working on integrated urban security whether in urban authorities or in the private sector/civil society. This common framework, shared at EU level, will contribute to defining the set of competences for integrated urban security at EU level in a multilevel governance context.

The matrix below summarises the general framework:

**Table 4 General framework for topics and targets to deliver adequate training on integrated urban security policy**

Topics	Knowledge level	Knowledge Urban security as prevention activity	Knowledge level	Know-How Urban security as integrated approach	Knowledge level	(Inter)personal Urban security and community involvement
<b>Urban authority departments and services</b>						
Local Police	Advanced	National and regional regulation framework about security and security prevention; Local police and Urban security prevention; National and regional regulation framework related to security prevention in - urban planning and infrastructure - youth - education and training	Advanced	Social change and social conflicts; Public spaces organization and perceived insecurity; Working in team for social security; Cooperation with national institutions in charge for security i.e. national police	Intermediate	Perceived insecurity; Techniques and tools to engage citizen in security preventions; Working and teaching how to make qualified warning
Social services	Advanced		Advanced		Intermediate	
Urban planning and public infrastructure	Advanced		Intermediate		Basic	
Youth policies	Advanced		Intermediate		Intermediate	
Education and training	Basic		Basic		Basic	

<sup>30</sup> More info at: [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/competency/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/competency/)

Topics Targets	Knowledge level	Knowledge Urban security as prevention activity	Knowledge level	Know-How Urban security as integrated approach	Knowledge level	(Inter)personal Urban security and community involvement
		- ICT, CCTV and video surveillance - GDPR				
<b>Political stakeholders</b>						
City administrators	Basic	National and regional regulation framework about security and security prevention; Local police and Urban security prevention; National and regional regulation framework related to security prevention in - urban planning and infrastructure - youth - education and training - ICT, CCTV and video surveillance - GDPR	Intermediate	Social change and social conflicts public spaces organization and perceived insecurity; Working in team for social security; Cooperation with national institutions in charge for security i.e. national police	Intermediate	Perceived insecurity; Techniques and tools to engage citizen in security preventions; Working and teaching how to make qualified warning
Social and economic associations/ representatives	Basic		Basic		Intermediate	
<b>Other public institutions/agencies</b>						
Healthcare system	Intermediate	National and regional regulation framework about security and security prevention; Local police and Urban security prevention; National and regional regulation framework related to security prevention in - urban planning and infrastructure - youth - education and training - ICT, CCTV and video surveillance - GDPR	Intermediate	Social change and social conflicts; Public spaces organization and perceived insecurity; Working in team for social security; Cooperation with national institutions in charge for security i.e. national police	Intermediate	Perceived insecurity; Techniques and tools to engage citizen in security preventions; Working and teaching how to make qualified warning
Education	Intermediate		Intermediate		Intermediate	
Public transport	Intermediate		Intermediate		Intermediate	
<b>Local community/neighbourhood watch groups</b>						
Organised local community	Basic	National and regional regulation framework about security and security prevention; Local police and Urban security prevention; National and regional regulation framework related to security prevention in - urban planning and infrastructure - youth - education and training - ICT, CCTV and video-surveillance - GDPR	Intermediate	Social change and social conflicts; Public spaces organization and perceived insecurity; Working in team for social security; Cooperation with national institutions in charge for security i.e. national police	Intermediate	Perceived insecurity; Techniques and tools to engage citizen in security preventions; Working and teaching how to make qualified warning
Neighbourhood watch groups	Basic		Basic		Basic	
Volunteers	Basic		Basic		Basic	
<b>Community trainers/mediators</b>						
Community trainers/mediators	Intermediate	National and regional regulation framework about security and security prevention Local police and Urban security prevention National and regional regulation framework related to security prevention in - urban planning and infrastructure	Intermediate	Social change and social conflicts public spaces organisation and; Perceived insecurity; Working in team for social security; Cooperation with national institutions in charge for security i.e. national police	Intermediate	Perceived insecurity; Techniques and tools to engage citizen in security preventions; Working and teaching how to make qualified warning

Topics Targets	Knowledge level	Knowledge Urban security as prevention activity	Knowledge level	Know-How Urban security as integrated approach	Knowledge level	(Inter)personal Urban security and community involvement
		- youth - education and training - ICT, CCTV and video-surveillance - GDPR				

The matrix contents were shared within the Partnership and may be integrated with additional elements. Methodology and trainers should be defined at local level depending on the targets to be trained. Competences will be graduated depending on training target to be reached (basic/intermediate/advanced).

### How to implement the Action?

This Partnership is ideally suited to elaborate training modules taking into consideration good practices and experience of each Partner and also building on the needs emerging from the Partnership itself.

The implementation will entail the following steps:

#### 1) Define some pilot/testing profiles

Partners find and share most relevant target profiles to be tested. It will be possible to draw some inspiration from existing experiences, however these should be checked and integrated/adjusted to comply with the matrix.

#### 2) Define testing Partners

Partners involved will define the training target according to the matrix. Subsequently they will develop testing training curricula for target(s) of interest. In case more Partners are interested in the same target, the curricula will be developed jointly thus allowing a more coherent ex post evaluation

#### 3) Share a common methodology to evaluate the training activities.

A basic satisfaction questionnaire could be elaborated to be submitted to participants; questionnaires will be collected analysed and a short report should be prepared for each training in order to:

- Implement the pilot training by interested Partnership members,
- Produce an evaluation report including feedback Actions,
- Develop/test results from pilots such as self-assessment tools to see the level of competences.

### **Which additional stakeholders and Partners?**

Experts, universities and private sector.

### **Which timeline?**

2020 for the definition some testing training including methodology.

2021 will be dedicated to the implementation of the training modules and their evaluation.

## 2.2.5 ACTION N° 5 – Measure the impact of social cohesion on security in public spaces

### Description of the Action

This Action can contribute to building a more secure, safe and resilient local community by providing local policy makers and security managers with a hands-on method that enables them to measure the impact of local social cohesion actions on urban security and feelings of insecurity within the local community. In particular, it aims at:

- Creating a common method for local security managers to measure the impact of existing local social cohesion Actions on (the feelings of) insecurity in order to make visible to local decision makers (council members) what already is “good value for money”;
- Providing a new method that local security managers can implement to find new solutions for complex social or insecurity issues on which the existing projects don't seem to have an impact.

*Responsible Partners:* City of Mechelen (lead) with the support of URF, Efus, Regione Toscana, Madrid.

### What is the specific problem?

There is a broader support within the Partnership for the idea that social cohesion measures should be part of an integrated urban security policy. Aspects of inclusion, social capital, social mobility, citizen participation, empowerment, etc. can help to create safer environments or as safe perceived environments. A strong and broadly shared statement about urban security and resilient cities can be found in the 2017 Efus Manifesto: Security, Democracy and Cities: Co-producing Urban Security Policies.

In addition to protecting and safeguarding the public domain, a major challenge for urban authorities is also restoring the feelings of security among citizens. A security policy merely based on social control measures will not be able to provide secure, safe and resilient communities. Urban security policies are based on efficient social control measures, but they also need to provide people a strong sense of control. The challenge is to provide local policy makers and security managers with a method that enables them to build secure, safe and resilient local communities. In such communities, objective threats are under control, people feel comfortable in the public domain and trust the government. They rely on and relate to their fellow citizens and the community as a whole.

What does it mean for policy makers and local security managers? How can they create more social cohesion and how can they, by doing so, have an impact on urban security? There is no common framework to translate those vague concepts into concrete local security policies. By consequence, the results and the social

impact of social cohesion initiatives and inclusion efforts or non-problem-oriented approaches are extremely difficult to show.

### **How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?**

Several best practices and toolboxes are available at EU level, often as a result of EU funded projects.

Expert networks on security such as Efus and the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN), the URBACT programme or UN Habitat can refer to resources and experts on impact measurement.

However, most best practices and developed toolboxes stay undiscovered by local security managers or, when discovered, they aren't used because of lack of training, time, (policy) support or other reasons.

Not every EU city has a good evaluation culture. There is a lack of knowledge on what works (measure), why does it work (mechanism) and who makes it work (skilled staff).

### **Which Action is needed?**

In order to provide local policy makers and security managers with a method that enables them to build secure, safe and resilient local communities there are 2 major Actions with several sub-Actions to be developed:

1. Create a common method for local security managers to measure the impact of existing local social cohesion Actions on (the feelings of) insecurity in order to make visible to local decision makers (council members) what already is “good value for money”;
2. Provide a new method that local security managers can implement to find new solutions for complex social or insecurity issues on which the existing projects don't seem to have an impact.

The image below is a visualisation of an integrated urban security policy. The same model is used in the project ORPHEUS<sup>31</sup> and starts from the basic idea that a stable and effective security policy (levels 3, 4 & 5) is based or built upon a broader wellbeing, which in turn is the result of a fundamental inclusion policy.

This also means that the acceptance and thus the effectiveness of more harsh security and controlling measures depend on how strong a local community is. For instance, people will not provide any (correct) information to police officials in disrupted and social disorganised neighbourhoods. This model could help to create a common language and understanding about integrated or holistic urban security policy.

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<sup>31</sup> Online and Offline Radicalization Prevention holding back Extremism and Upholding Security  
<https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en/ORPHEUS>



Figure 1 Integrated urban security policy

Clearly, it is not necessarily the case that every social cohesion measure has a positive impact on feelings of insecurity. It is not excluded that, in the worst case, well-intentioned policy initiatives could increase the feeling of insecurity. For instance, a local authority can use CCTV to prevent people from committing a crime in that place, but at the same time that can increase the feelings of insecurity, as people may have the feeling of being watched continuously, or a perception of unsafety, because of the continues presence of security camera's in a certain area.

In short, evaluation can assist policy makers to look for new solutions.

The Collective Impact Model is a framework for progress in specific social problems. It is the organised commitment of a group of people and institutions to a common agenda. No single organisation alone has the ability to solve the world's most challenging problems. Collective Impact occurs when actors from different sectors commit to a common agenda for solving a specific social or environmental problem.<sup>32</sup>

#### Five Conditions for Collective Impact



Figure 2 Integrated urban security policy

<sup>32</sup> More information is to be found here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/assess\\_uaeu\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/assess_uaeu_en.pdf)

## How to implement the Action?

### Implementation Action 5.1. Create a common method for local security managers to measure the impact of existing local social cohesion

The focus of this sub-Action is on (the feelings of) insecurity in order to make visible to local decision makers (council members) what already is “good value for money”. To do so, the local situation has to be mapped and structured using the prevention pyramid. After mapping, concrete measures for impact evaluation can be selected.

The following steps are necessary and can be implemented without extra funding. The involvement of an external expert who can support the Action could be an extra added value to increase quality.

Step 1. Mapping the existing policies regarding the reduction of feelings of insecurity at local level in 3 to 5 EU cities using the model of prevention pyramid

1. Preparation of the Action, through (a) formulation of expectations concerning mapping and the creation of guidelines (user manual) on how to use the prevention pyramid. Definition of the concepts of social cohesion, social inclusion, polarisation, feeling of unsafety, quality of life, engagement, pride for the exercise; (b) invitation and selection of the participating EU cities within or through The Partnership for mapping their existing local measures for reduction of feelings of insecurity;
2. Executing the mapping in selected EU cities, through (a) Making the exercises in 3 to 5 cities, (b) Analysis of exercises and written conclusions, (c) Selection of 1 initiative for impact measurement in every participating city.

#### *Step 2. Impact measurement of social cohesion*

1. Preparation of the sub-Action, through: (a) formulation of expectations concerning the impact measurement for the participants, (b) creation of guidelines on how to use the EUCPN- toolbox for this exercise, (c) check and advise on these experiments by external expert;<sup>33</sup>
2. Execution of evaluation, through: (a) Making the exercises in 3 to 5 cities, (b) Analysis of exercises and written conclusions;
3. Recommendations to further development of evaluated projects.

### Implementation of Action 5.2. Provide a new method that local security managers can implement to find new solutions for complex social or insecurity issues on which the existing projects don't seem to have an impact

Following activities are necessary and can be implemented without extra funding.

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<sup>33</sup> See [https://eucpn.org/sites/default/files/document/files/20140310\\_toolboxmanual\\_translationl\\_0.pdf](https://eucpn.org/sites/default/files/document/files/20140310_toolboxmanual_translationl_0.pdf) and [https://eucpn.org/sites/default/files/document/files/be\\_impact\\_evaluation.pdf](https://eucpn.org/sites/default/files/document/files/be_impact_evaluation.pdf)

1. Exploring the possibilities of new methodology 'collective impact model' for EU cities as a means to find new solutions for complex social issues for which existing policy measures have shortcomings;
2. Bringing together qualitative resources on Collective Impact Model;<sup>34</sup>
3. Writing of an Executive Summary on Collective Impact Model;
4. Making a SWOT on Collective Impact Model for EU by a multi-stakeholders group.

In further elaboration, we will have to look for sufficient and correct data to properly understand the purpose of particular policies and actions, but also to measure its effects on social cohesion and feelings of insecurity, also taking into account other variables (gender, age...). The definition of social cohesion, urban safety and other related concept in this action plan will be based on the Safer Cities Guidelines from UN Habitat and the EFUS Manifesto: security, democracy and cities. Examples of measures that did not work must also be included in order to determine why they didn't work, and what should be done (stop or adjust). It will also be important to involve the right experts: for example university researchers in the chosen cities as well as the frontline workers in the city and neighbourhoods.

#### Implementation Action 5.3. Further development of both sub-Actions is advisory but require extra funding

1. Further development of the sub-Action concerning the impact measurement of existing policies (5.1), through: (a) Bringing together the lessons learned over the participating cities in a written document for dissemination during Partnership meetings for example (or broader), (b) Translate lessons learned into a toolbox for the training course that can be integrated in Action fiche 4 on training local security managers.
2. Further development of the sub Action concerning the new solutions (5.2): collective impact model, through:
  - Implementation of 1 to 2 experiments in EU cities using the 'collective impact model'. Most initiatives are found in Canada and the United States. Different organisations provide training and consultancy on this matter exist;
  - Invite experts of participating cities within the UA network to jointly train local city administrators in the implementation of Collective Impact Model;
  - Determine the city/cities who will be piloting projects in this framework and impact model;
  - Execution of pilots;
  - Evaluation of pilots;

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<sup>34</sup> See <https://www.collectiveimpactforum.org/getting-started>, <https://innoweave.ca/streams/collective-impact/> and <http://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/collectiveimpact>

- Bringing together the lessons learned over the participating cities; which can be done during Partnership meetings for example, through shared documents, (e.g. answers to questions such as ‘was the model useful’, ‘did local multidisciplinary group create change of positive impact’, ‘where was time lost’, ...);
- Translate lessons learned into a toolbox for the training course that can be integrated in Action fiche 4 on training local security managers.

### Which additional stakeholders and Partners?

- Knowledge Partners with expertise in social innovation and the implementation of the collective impact model in particular:
  - Innoweave, which was established by the McConnell Foundation and Partners to support Canadian non-profits and charities in addressing these challenges by being more impact-oriented and continuously innovative;
  - Tamarack community: The Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement is a registered Canadian charity organisation supported by member contributions, foundations, businesses and government, as well as through revenue generated from consulting, coaching, and custom workshops and learning events.
- Local Universities for volunteering the supervision of impact measurement exercise;
- Knowledge centre (to be examined);<sup>35</sup>
- EUCPN – for the toolboxes on impact evaluation;
- There could be European projects, especially aiming at promoting job opportunities and social integration of disadvantaged people, that could be taken in consideration. Especially those supported through ESF funds;
- Representative of DG Employment of EC (cf. ESF-opportunities).

### Timeline & Deliverables

Activity	Deliverable/result	Deadline
Preparation mapping exercise	User manual and guidelines	Q4-2020
Mapping execution (pyramid) selected cities	Report from selected cities	Q2-2021
Mapping report (pyramid)	Analysis report and recommendations on the method	Q3-2021
Preparation impact measurement	User manual and guidelines	Q4-2020
Measurement selected cities	Report selected cities	Q2-2021

<sup>35</sup> University of Antwerp and University of Brussels will kick-off a knowledge center in Mechelen about diversity, urbanism and citizenship. The overall goal is to link academic knowledge with ‘administrative’ (practical) knowledge and create new urban experiments around the aforementioned topics.



Activity	Deliverable/result	Deadline
Impact measurement exercise	Analysis report and recommendations on the method	Q3-2021
Feasibility for the import of collective impact model in EU context	Executive summary on the model & SWOT-analysis	Q2-2021

## 2.2.6 ACTION N° 6 – Develop guidance for architectural and spatial design (security by design)

### Description of the Action

The implementation of a ‘security by design’-based approach to enhance security in public spaces is an innovative practice in which local and regional authorities, to date, often have little experience/expertise.

While several initiatives have been undertaken in recent years to better secure vulnerable public spaces against natural disasters such as earthquakes or vehicle-ramming attacks in the case of terrorism, often these efforts have not been integrated in a holistic approach towards safety and security. As a result, there is still a need to ‘connect the dots’ when it comes to the integration of prevention and security features in the structural architectural and spatial design of urban areas. The current COVID-19 pandemic has further emphasised the need to incorporate a prevention paradigm in our conception of urban and suburban areas as well as post-pandemic housing developments.

This approach is relevant for both smaller and larger (capital) cities: Security by design solutions can help balance efforts to increase urban resilience whilst promoting the open and inclusive character of the public sphere. As such, they can contribute to the quality of life in cities and improve the conviviality and attractiveness of these areas.

Besides physical protection measures, other aspects of safety and security can also feed into the existing security by design framework, including the notions of inclusivity, security-co production, efforts to counter a perceived lack of security, the use of new technologies, CPTED and nudging practices to prevent criminality, incivilities and nuisances, and others.

Practitioners need to be involved in a bottom-up approach to improve the design of streets, pedestrian areas, public squares and parks. Elements such as lighting, street furniture and vegetation can help tackle the feeling of insecurity in vulnerable spaces and facilities for public use, such as sports courts, gardens, passageways and narrow places with poor visibility.

Given the cross-cutting nature of this approach and the need for location-specific and tailor-made solutions, local and regional authorities (LRAS’s) are best placed to coordinate these efforts to secure public spaces, in close synergy with national entities in a multilevel governance approach.

The proposed activities of Action 6 are twofold.

- Action 6.1 would entail centralising and inventorying existing documentation on a resource platform regarding the protection of public spaces;
- Action 6.2 would focus rather on promoting and mainstreaming the notion of security by design by creating hands-on leaflets/promotional material in the form of ‘rules of thumb’, to sensitize how to include safety and security considerations into the design of urban spaces.

The overall objective of Action 6 is to stimulate LRA’s to share experiences and knowledge related to security by design and to inspire their peer authorities with innovative solutions. Particularly in a novel and innovative domain such as security by design, it is fundamental that urban authorities can exchange good practices and learn from others that face similar vulnerabilities/problems so they can foster their skills, knowledge and expertise.

*Responsible Partners:* Brussels-Capital Region (lead), City of Mechelen, City of Helsinki City of Madrid, Croatian Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning.

### What is the specific problem?

Public spaces play a vital role in the day-to-day life of citizens. However, due to their open and accessible nature, these places are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, nuisances, incivilities and criminal behaviour. In recent years, recurrent terrorist attacks in the public sphere have more than ever exposed the intrinsic vulnerabilities of these soft targets/crowded places. Local and regional authorities across Europe are now facing the challenge of improving security in those public spaces whilst striking a balance with their fundamental liveability and inclusive character.

The lack of guidance material, including good practices and substantiated ‘promotional material’ that showcases the benefits of including a safety and security perspective in the planning and design phase is identified as a recurrent shortcoming.

### How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?

Below are some of the most relevant EU initiatives and how they provide a basis for this Action.

- The *European Agenda on Security* implements the Political Guidelines of European Commission President in the area of security for the period 2015-2020;
- The *EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces* sets a number of strategies to improve the security of citizens in cities.<sup>36</sup> The Action Plan specifically underlines the central role of local and regional authorities as important stakeholders in the protection of public spaces. The Action Plan equally stresses the Commission’s position to reinforce the involvement of

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<sup>36</sup> COM (2017) 612 final

these stakeholders and the willingness to initiate a dialogue with both regional and local authorities, such as mayors of major cities, to share information and best practices in protecting public spaces;

- *The Commission Staff Working Document on Good practices to support the protection of public spaces*<sup>37</sup>, following up on the Action Plan, compiles a list of good practices identified to improve the protection of public spaces. The document is the result of an extensive consultation process and can serve as reference for operators and public authorities that wish to take further steps to protect public spaces, including practices regarding assessment and planning, awareness and training, physical protection and cooperation;
- The *Joint Research Centre of the European Commission* developed different *guidance materials* and compiled available guidance in the area of protection of public spaces. The Joint Research Centre equally compiled a *trimestral newsletter on the topic of protection of public spaces* and has offered *trainings*, including a first training on ‘security by design’, to local and regional authorities;
- In the field of crime prevention through urban and/or environmental design, the *European COST TU 1203 Action* has brought together practitioners and academic experts to establish *guidance material* and compiled *good practices/case studies* across Europe;
- Several *funding instruments* have stimulated Actions in the field of the protection of public spaces, including - but not limited – to:
  - ISF projects (Pactesur, Securcities, Safeci, ...)
  - Horizon 2020 Projects (for example: LETSCROWD, IMPACT, RESOLUTE)
  - 3 UIA projects on urban security
  - URBACT project (“Urbsecurity”)

Unfortunately, many of these initiatives have remained undiscovered by local and regional authorities, due to a lack of a visibility and a centralised information platform. When discovered, they are often not used due to lack of capacity or time.

## Which Action is needed?

### *Action 6.1 Mapping relevant platforms and choice of platform*

During the past few years, several projects relating to the protection of public spaces have been initiated, at local, national and EU-level. However, cities and local authorities miss a global overview of the objectives/progress of these Actions, hence missing out on ‘lessons learned’.

Action 6.1 envisages the collection and centralization of documentation regarding the protection of public spaces. Such an inventory can both valorise the progress of these existing initiatives and serve as an inspiration to other local and regional

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<sup>37</sup> SWD (2019) 140 final

authorities. LRAs are equally interested to learn from their peers, but currently these testimonials are hard to find.

Any such action should be developed in close collaboration with DG Home / DG Regio / JRC.

In order to maximise the reach and impact of this action, preference will be given to incorporate this documentation into an already existing platform (Efus platform, CIRCABC platform on Protection of public spaces). Attaching the platform to an existing one will be beneficial so as to limit the risk associated with its maintenance and ownership, and to ensure its continuity. The Protection of Public Spaces newsletter and the Efus newsletters can be used both as a means to attract interested participants and audience and to ask input from LRA's.

In first instance, the members of the Partnership will be mobilised to identify good practices in their city. Ideally, these case studies should be visual and SMART (before-after) and focusing on both outcome (result), partnership-approach (process) and difficulties encountered. In a second stage, additional input can be gathered via the above-mentioned newsletters/networks.

#### *Action 6.2 Identify Rules of thumb*

Action 6.2 focusses on the development of promotional material / leaflets / guidance outlining 'rules of thumb' for urban planners and designers, based on scientific principles and substantiated by facts and figures. While security by design measures need by default to be location-specific and integrated in the larger spatial environment, outlining those considerations can serve the purpose of awareness-raising and sensitising urban planners and designers, as well as mainstreaming the principles of 'security by design' towards local and regional authorities.

The general objective of this Action is to enhance the knowledge of LRA's related to security by design and to inspire and enable them to build secure, safe and resilient local communities. The JRC and CEN-CENELEC will be closely associated with this exercise.

#### **How to implement the Action?**

Here summarised are the main phases that this Action will imply:

#### *Action 6.1*

A first step in the Action implementation would entail the mapping of existing platforms that would best suit the aim of putting the acquired knowledge at the disposal of LRAs. If deemed feasible, the idea will be to attach the platform to an existing forum in order to facilitate reaching the target audience. The possibility will be explored as well to take part in the newsletter 'Protection of Public Spaces' of the JRC, the Efus newsletters and to make use of the CIRCABC platform on Protection of public spaces created by DG HOME.

### *Collection of existing practices*

In parallel, a first collection of existing practices will be carried out. This activity will take the form of a survey<sup>38</sup>, which will be sent in first instance to the members of the Partnership. In order to obtain enough input, other LRA's can subsequently be approached as well to share their practices, either directly or via the JRC Newsletter and the Efus newsletters. The exercise will be complemented by the collection of referential material used by the participants and by testimonials in which LRAs share their experiences /problems encountered/lessons learned. The methodology to identify 'good practices' will be determined in close collaboration with the JRC.

### *Action 6.2*

Based on the input from the surveys (as part of action 6.1), the obtained data will be cross-examined in order to identify a limited number of rules of thumb to respect while planning and designing urban areas.

These rules of thumb ("what are 10 steps to undertake based on the best practices") constituting the main guiding principles and collected referential material will be consequently illustrated in visual format and shared as inspirational material (newsletter for short-term, storage on the platform in the long term).

Possible additional activities could include communication and promotional activities in order to increase the impact of the Action.

### *Deliverables:*

This Action should contribute to the pillar of 'better knowledge' through:

- Project fiches + Action monitoring table;
- Operational platform / information inventory;
- A template to showcase visual case studies;
- Guidance and information material ("10 rules of thumb").

### **Which additional stakeholders and Partners?**

To achieve this goal, and in order to avoid duplication of efforts, a close collaboration with the European Commission DG Home, DG Regio and the JRC should be envisaged.

The active involvement of the Actors of the Partnership is a critical success factor, but the input of other EU LRA's should also be envisaged.

It would also be beneficial to include other relevant stakeholders such as academia, networks (EU Operators' forum and industry sector, Efus network,

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<sup>38</sup> inspired on the model of the national survey launched by the Croatian Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning in 2019

Eurocities, network of the JRC Newsletter on Security in Public Spaces), expert organizations on urban planning and design, social stakeholders and partners such as NGOs and social enterprises.

It is important to involve architecture and design schools across Europe in this exercise, hence the Partnership will actively engage with universities to include their expertise, most notably regarding architecture and design.

In order to establish a scientific approach to the best practices' selection and definition, the Action Partners will establish a close collaboration with the EU JRC and CEN-CENELEC.

### Which timeline?

Activity	Deliverable/result	Deadline
Scoping existing platforms / forums	Inventory platform	Q 4 2020
Preparation of the methodology / survey for the mapping of existing practices and referential material	Clear working methodology framework Survey template	Q 4 2020
Survey	Overview of referential material Analysis of existing practices Identification and prioritisation of 'rules of thumb'	Q 1 2021
Analysis of data obtained	Collection of good practices Guidance roadmap 'how to design in security by design'	Q 2 2021
Communication of results	Visual manual based on '10 rules of thumb'	Q3 2021

## 3 Good policies, governance and practices

### 3.1 Policies

The Partnership requests that the future European Security Strategy reflects the pivotal role of local and regional authorities and that the Cohesion Policy and the future EU community programmes beyond 2020 support the urban dimension of security through the funding of local initiatives.

### 3.2 Governance

The multifaceted aspects of security and the increasing role of multiple stakeholders such as private security providers, non-governmental organisations and civil society bodies, appoint the question of the co-production of security now has come to the fore. All level of governance is confronted to adapting working methods in order to further the sharing and exchange of information, and efforts to reinforce transparency and accountability.

Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to reinforce the cooperation between the European Institutions, national, regional and local authorities. Cities can provide innovative and effective responses. It is crucial to identify the most appropriate actor (subsidiarity principle) for each stage of the working process (conception, implementation...). However, the subsidiarity principle must not lead to disconnect between the actors and the various stages of the decision-making process (principle of participation).

In order to apply the principle of participation, it is necessary to strengthen collaboration between all level of governance:

- Bottom-up collaboration: through the exchange of information, cities must actively take part in identifying urban challenges. In addition to their consultative roles, cities must also have proactive roles and take part in the construction of indicators and the conception/implementation of programmes;
- Top-down collaboration: it is necessary to develop better tools so that cities can correctly apply European urban programmes. In particular, the European Union should support cities to evaluate such programmes in order to improve them. As such, the Partnership recommends a multi-level (EU, national and subnational) and multi-stakeholder (public and private) approach to promote the security continuum.

### 3.3 Practices

Good Practices that are developed and tested under different ongoing projects and initiatives serve as key tools that can be disseminated at the EU level and

tailor made to different urban context, taken into account the specific needs of the city or region in question.

### **PROJECT A – PACTESUR (Protecting Allied Cities against Terrorism by Securing Urban areas)**

Initiated in January 2019, this is an ISF funded project (call Protect), led by city of Nice in Partnership with the cities of Liege and Torino. Partners also include ANCI, Efus, NCA.

Its objective is to improve the ability of cities to secure their urban areas against terrorism. The main project outcome will be a well-structured framework defining how cities and local police forces can better protect their vulnerable public spaces. In particular the project is based on 4 pillars: in-depth- reflection, specialised training, awareness raising and identification. Funding is provided by European Union's Internal Security Fund-Police.

It is a 36 month-long project, 3,2 Mio. EUR, 90% funded by the DG HOME's (European Commission) Internal Security Fund– Police programme (ISFP).

#### *Key success factors*

Under the project, a **Working Group of European cities** was created. The cities which are part of this Working Group (Athens, Edinburgh, Essen, Gdansk, Leeds, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Munich, Riga, Xàbia) have a specific knowledge regarding the protection of urban public spaces.

An **expert committee of 15 experts** was set up under the project. This committee take part in all the major project activities including the European Security Weeks, field visits in the pilot cities, and the Working Groups.

**Working groups on European standards and transnational cooperation**, set up with the Partners from 10 associated cities and the expert advisory committee, equally operates under the project. This Working Group facilitates knowledge and experience exchange as to EU level standards in the field of the protection of public spaces.

**3 local governance workshops** are organised in each of the 3 partner cities (Nice, Liege, Turin) with the participation of local civil society. These workshops foster knowledge and experience exchanging between the representatives of the civil society and the local authorities. Thus, they highly contribute to the elaboration of good urban governance.

#### *Experience to be transferred / knowledge*

PACTESUR draws conclusions from lessons learnt and create: training materials for security forces, information tools for citizens and guidelines for local authorities to build up knowledge on how to design better policies to secure public spaces. This knowledge with the relevant 'support-materials' can be disseminated at the EU level, tailored to the relevant local context and implemented in that context in question.

The key activities that serve as the basis for good practices that are to be disseminated are the following:

- reflection on standards, legal frameworks and local governance for the elaboration of common standard guidelines, response protocols and soft laws;
- development of specialised training programmes for local security operators;
- awareness-raising of citizens and politicians on their role on prevention and as security actors;
- identification of the most adapted local investments for securing open and touristic public spaces by sharing field experience;
- setting up local pilot sites equipped to prevent and promptly react to terrorist threats while preserving the urban environment.

*Further information*

<https://www.pactesur.eu/>

### **PROJECT B – PROTECT (Public Resilience using Technology to Counter Terrorism)**

The objective of this project is to strengthen local authorities' capabilities in public 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 prior to, during, and following a terrorist threat. This cross sectoral project is an initiative of the Core group of the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services (ENLETS). The consortium is led by the Dutch Institute for Technology, Safety and Security (DITSS) and gathers: 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 cities of Brasov (RO), Eindhoven (NL), Lariseon (GR), Málaga (ES), and Vilnius (LT), the Dutch Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO, NL) and the Catholic University of Brabant (NL).

It is a 26 month-long project, 1,5 Mio EUR, 90% funded by the DG HOME's (European Commission) Internal Security Fund– Police programme (ISFP)

#### *Key success factors*

This project is in line with the [European Commission's 2017 Action Plan](#) to "provide guidance and support to Member States at national, regional and local level in protecting public spaces," which states that the EU "can foster the exchange of best practice across borders through targeted funding as well as networks of practitioners and guidance material," and that it can "involve a wide range of stakeholders both from the local level and the private sector in this work."

It is a cross-sectoral project that highly build on public and private sector cooperation, as it is clearly mirrored by the composition of the consortium. Due to the diverse expertise of its consortium members, which is one of the key success factors of the project, PROTECT puts in place an overarching concept

where tools, technology, training and field demonstrations will lead to situational awareness and improve direct responses to secure public places before, during and after a terrorist threat.

#### *Experience to be transferred / knowledge*

The project seeks to raise awareness among municipal authorities on security concepts and the need to adapt technology for the protection of public spaces, as well as to share best practices and lessons learned. The project will provide the partner local authorities with tools, technology, training and field demonstrations that will improve situational awareness, i.e. the capacity to assess the level of safety in a given place or situation, as well as the measures taken to strengthen the safety of public places, prevent a terrorist attack and mitigate its consequences, should it occur.

Moreover, the project develops a practical implementation Manual for the European Commission's Soft Target Site Assessment tool, which is a set of operational guidelines on assessments on-site concerning the vulnerability of public spaces. Such a Manual will help local authorities to carry out vulnerability assessments in their respective local contexts.

Once the vulnerability assessments are carried out in the respective local contexts local authorities can adopt tailor-made technological solutions and best practices to enhance the protection of their public spaces.

#### *Further information:*

<https://protect-cities.eu/project-Partners/>

### **PROJECT C – COST - TU1203 - Crime Prevention through Urban Design and Planning**

The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) is a funding organisation for the creation of research networks, called COST Actions. These networks offer an open space for collaboration among scientists across Europe (and beyond) and thereby give impetus to research advancements and innovation. The objective of this specific Action is to contribute to structuring existing knowledge and develop innovative approaches on how to build more secure and safe cities. The Action will develop new knowledge and innovative approaches putting together theoretical thinking and practical experience. Thus, the scientific program forecasts to work simultaneously on one hand on the innovative approaches deriving from research and experts, on the other hand on the know-how acquired through best practical experience of participating countries.

#### *Key success factors*

Actions under Cost-TU1203 build on the effective combination of theoretical and practical tools when it comes to crime prevention through 'urban design and planning solutions'. Hence, the aforementioned Actions combine practical expertise and know-how with innovative research.

Multi-country Actions create a platform for the above mentioned 'experience, expertise and know-how'-sharing in the framework of lectures, seminars, Working Groups and workshops.

The training of young people is at the heart of these Actions, thus the creation of a Junior network, as well as the elaboration of specific training, are foreseen.

#### *Experience to be transferred / knowledge*

On the one hand, dissemination of innovative 'urban design and planning' approaches based on research carried out by the relevant experts and on the other hand, the dissemination of know-how acquired in the different participating countries.

#### *Further information*

<https://www.cost.eu/Actions/TU1203/#tabs|Name:overview>

### **PROJECT D – UrbSecurity - from planning to safer cities**

UrbSecurity intends to analyse strategies, concepts of urban design and planning that could contribute to prevent segregation and anti-social behaviour, and in turn improve citizen's quality of life and their perception of urban security and safety. It is a network of 9 cities including the Municipality of Leiria (PT) - Lead Partner, the Municipality of Michalovce (SK); Municipality of Pella (GR), SZABOLCS 05 Regional Development Association of Municipalities (HU), Comune di Parma (IT), Unione Della Romagna Faentina (IT), Longford (IR), Madrid City Council (SP), Mechelen (BE).

UrbSecurity aims at implementing an integrated a participatory approach to urban security by involving all relevant stakeholders in the process of co-creating an Integrated Action Plan for each participating city. The project is co-financed by URBACT.

#### *Experience to be transferred / knowledge*

There is a close connection between the Urbsecurity project and the Partnership as three Partners of the project are also member of the Partnership. This will allow a better networking on the issue of urban security and the testing of some Actions mentioned in the Action Plan (the elaboration of local plan for integrated security and capacity building Actions).

#### *Further Information:*

<https://urbact.eu/partner-search-tool/urbsecurity-urban-planning-urban-security>

### **PROJECT E – BSFS (BeSecure-FeelSecure)**

The BeSecure-FeelSecure (BSFS) project promotes a holistic approach towards urban security to tackle security issues in Piraeus (GR). The project aims to develop tools and strategies that are to be used both in the physical and cyber space in

order to reinforce urban security. The duration of the BSFS project is 36 months. The project is 80% financed by the Urban Innovative Actions of the European Commission's DG Regio (the fund that is dedicated to these UIA Actions is the ERDF).

### *Key success factors*

BSFS is a local project that concentrates on specific, well identified urban areas of the City of Piraeus. Apart from Efus - which is responsible for the dissemination of the project's lessons learned – all other Partners are local Greek Partners with specific urban security related expertise: the Municipality of Piraeus (MoP), the SingularLogic SA (SLG), the Panteion University (PANT), the University of Piraeus Research Centre (UPRC), the SPACE Hellas (SPACE) and the Ministry of Citizen Protection POLICE (MCP).

Therefore, in the framework of this project, local expertise and know-how is combined with an EU-level dissemination potential.

### *Experience to be transferred / knowledge*

The BSFS solution will be elaborated and evaluated in the City of Piraeus (CoP) - one of the most populated cities in Greece which has faced systemic long-lasting corruption and problematic criminal situation - and will develop a set of 'replication guidelines' for the wider adoption of BSFS solution in other cities. These guidelines allow other cities to 'tailor made' the BSFS-solutions to their own respective local context.

The proposed 'BSFS-solution' consists of three interrelated elements:

1. a governance innovation through the creation of a Local Council for Crime Prevention (LCCP);
2. an ICT system for Collaborative Urban Risk Assessment (CURiM) for the collection and analysis of crime-related data;
3. a number of social interventions (trainings and sports activities) and spatial measures (Prevention Through Spatial Design) to improve security.

Efus contributes to BSFS, by being the project's main transferability channel. Based on its expertise and network of local and regional authorities Efus offers great dissemination potentials at the EU-level and thus plays the role of an impact multiplier. Hence, Efus will play a critical role in communicating the project's results to urban security stakeholders across the EU.

Efus leads the activity on the "standardisation and best practices" of the project. This activity, comprises the replication potential and practices to be followed in order to achieve the BSFS' transferability to different urban environments. As main output, a BSFS 'Best practices implementation tool' will be produced under the form of an 'Implementation Manual' and 'Implementation Webinars'.

### *Further information*

<https://www.bsfs-project.eu/> (not officially launched yet)

### **PROJECT F – Pericles ‘Prevent terrorist vehicle attacks’ (ISFP-2017-AG-PROTECT)**

Vehicle-ramming attacks against human targets in public spaces still constitute a threat. Therefore, measures need to be taken in order to prevent such attacks and to safeguard European citizens. Some initiatives are currently ongoing, but are mainly focused on installing temporary vehicle barriers.

The general objective of the PERICLES project is to better prevent and respond to vehicle-ramming attacks by improving physical security measures in vulnerable public spaces, as well as the knowledge and skills of law enforcement on how to respond to vehicle-ramming attacks. The project will also raise the awareness of the public on how to react in case of such an attack.

In order to achieve its general objective, the project will develop a comprehensive European vulnerability tool that will allow local authorities to assess their local public spaces. The project is implemented by Antwerp Police Department (lead partner), city of Mechelen, Local Police PZ Mechelen-willebroek, Police federale belge, Madrid Municipal Police, Jandarmeria romana, Ministero za notranje zadeve – Slovenia, City of Antwerpen, municipality of Ljubljana.

It is a 36 month-long project, with a budget of € 2,3 mio, 90% funded by the DG HOME’s (European Commission) Internal Security Fund– Police programme (ISFP).

Deliverables will include:

- A common European Vulnerability Tool;
- Tested newly developed easy-to-deploy, cost-efficient and aesthetic protective products that respect the open & economic nature of public spaces;
- A white book with tested & validated physical protective measures;
- A document listing products that can be used in police response to stop a vehicle;
- A common training curriculum;
- A Train the Trainer to implement the training curriculum in all EU member states;
- A public awareness video on how to respond during vehicle attacks.

### *Experience to be transferred / knowledge*

In order to improve the physical security of public spaces, a white book will be produced. The latter will list different possible physical security measures and create new ones. This will be done by bringing together European specialist in the field of security as well as urban landscaping in order to exchange good practices and ideas. There will be a focus on security by design in which aesthetics and the public, open and economic nature of public spaces are taken into account.

The project aims also at improving the knowledge and skills of EU LEA's on how to respond to vehicle-ramming attacks. A focus will be laid on SIU's and first line police officers. Hereby we will not only focus on neutralising terrorist threats, but also on ensuring the safety of EU citizens.

Lastly, a public awareness campaign for the members of the general public will be created. This information campaign will inform EU-citizens about what to do when a vehicle-ramming attacks occur. The public awareness campaign will provide clear guidelines and instructions for EU-citizens how to react and how to seek safe shelter.

*Further information*

<http://project-pericles.eu/news/project-activities/>

### **PROJECT G Urban MAESTRO project**

Through this project, UN-Habitat, University College of London and the Brussels Bouwmeester Maître Architecte aim to explore innovative ways European Cities could be better-designed and financed. The project will foster high-quality urban design and building culture, urban design governance tools and support policy uptake focused on the drive to urban quality across Europe and globally.

*Further information*

<https://urbanmaestro.org/>

### **PROJECT F - LETSCROWD**

In this Horizon 2020 funded project several partners from academia, industry and law enforcement (including local Police force address challenges in protecting mass gatherings. This will be achieved by providing specific tools and procedures to Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs):

- A dynamic risk assessment methodology for the protection of crowds
- A policy making toolkit for the long-term and strategic decision making of security policy makers
- A set of human centred tools for LEAs, including real time crowd behaviour forecasting

The project includes several practical demonstrations involving seven LEAs and relevant emergency services units.

*Further information*

<https://letscrowd.eu/>



## 4 Links with other commitments

### 4.1 Links with cross-cutting issues

As indicated in the ‘Orientation Paper’ in all project phases, the Partnership will take into account the cross-cutting issues recognised by the Pact of Amsterdam, and notably:

- Good urban governance;
- Urban-rural, urban-urban and cross-border cooperation;
- Sound and strategic urban planning;
- Integrated approach;
- Innovative approaches;
- Impact on societal change, including behavioural change;
- Challenges and opportunities of small- and medium-sized cities;
- Urban regeneration;
- Adaptation to demographic change;
- Availability and quality of public services of general interest;
- International dimension (Habitat III and the Sustainable Development Goals);
- Health security;
- Accessibility;
- Non-discrimination;
- Equal opportunities

*Good urban governance* is considered by the Partnership as necessary but not sufficient to address crime and violence and must be accompanied by other risk-based interventions that target particular problems in specific places, with support from subnational and national government agencies. Thus, the Partnership promotes a vision according to which, “coordination at the different levels of governance (local, regional, national) is a key issue at both horizontal and vertical level. The main priority is to exchange data, which is property of local administration. There is a need to create better coordination mechanisms, such as the designation of one authority that coordinates all safety and security services for large events. It is also necessary that the collaboration mechanisms between local and national authorities are formally recognised, including by having a clear mandate for local police forces”.

The Partnership takes into account the need for ‘*Urban-rural, urban-urban and cross-border cooperation*’, as it promotes a transversal approach (meaning

transversal cooperation and coordination). Both urban and rural areas face security challenges as demonstrated in the radicalisation issue (terrorists can hide in remote places but also commit attacks in small municipalities). Therefore, territorial approaches must be promoted to avoid security gaps. In addition, the principle of security without borders should be applied in the context of cross-border threats in order to ensure the cooperation between security forces and public authorities in general.

When it comes to a crosscutting issue such as *'Sound and strategic urban planning'*, the Partnership has identified specific sub-themes led by Partners who have an interest and expertise in that specific sub-theme. These include: security by design, situational prevention, large events venues and security equipment/barriers and common standards, urban regeneration and architectural design.

An *'integrated approach'* including *'urban regeneration'* is highly promoted by the Partnership. A holistic approach is necessary, “where security is embedded into wider integrated urban development strategies/objectives (e.g. urban regeneration, prevention, inclusion)”.

As highlighted in the 'Orientation Paper', “[t]he management, design, the regeneration and the protection of public spaces are key areas of concern when it comes to security at the local level”.

Hence, 'urban regeneration' is one of the key sub-themes that the Partners focusing on 'Sound and strategic urban planning' seeks to address.

When it comes to *'Innovative approaches'*, the Partnership aims to promote the need at the EU-level for innovative urban design projects that integrate security measures into the urban structures without creating a perception of insecurity. In light of these considerations, several Partners will follow-up future opportunities under “Urban Innovative Actions”, throughout which the European Commission provides cities with funds and incentives to identify and test new solutions at urban scale.

In light of the cross-cutting issue of the *'Impact on societal change, including behavioural change'*, Partners stated in their 'Orientation Paper' that “[i]t is important to recognise the link between security and the principle of legality, based on the acknowledgement of a system of rules that balances individual freedoms, guiding behaviour towards the common good. The existence of clear and legitimate rules of coexistence and their full and correct application guide us towards the creation of a fair society [...]”.

Moreover, in correlation with this cross-cutting issue, the Partnership shed light on the interlinkages between the lack of social cohesion and the feeling of insecurity that citizens and local authorities experience on a day-to-day basis. Such a feeling of insecurity affects the quality of life of the citizens. Therefore, the Partnership aims to address this problem by putting an emphasis on Actions that can strengthen social cohesion and decrease the level of social polarisation.

When it comes to the '*Challenges and opportunities of small- and medium-sized cities*', the Partnership claims that differences from city to city must be considered and respected and thus we shall not look for 'one-size-fits-all' solutions. The cities' specific needs are to be taken into account in the framework of each specific Action. After the implementation of these Actions, based on the specific results, good practices are to be disseminated at the EU-level so they can be tailor made for different urban contexts. One of the Partnership's Coordinators, Efus, has a specific potential for such dissemination due to its network of more than 250 EU cities and regions.

*"Adaptation to demographic change"* is highly taken into account by the Partnership, as mentioned in its 'Orientation Paper'. Such challenge is to be considered in the wider context of the global challenge of migration and integration. The sharing of knowledge and exchange of good practices can be particularly useful in this regard. Activities focused on the fight against 'radicalisation' and 'growing extremism and violence' can play a key role in enhancing social cohesion and the feeling of security among citizens and can ultimately contribute to improving adaptation to 'demographic change'.

The cross-cutting issue of '*availability and quality of public services of general interest*', is in perfect correlation with the definition of 'public space' provided by the 'Orientation Paper' of the Partnership. According to this definition: "[t]he essence of public space as a common good implies its accessibility to all with no direct cost to the user, and also its spirit of « public service without » any purpose other than contributing to the overall quality of urban life." Therefore, the cross-cutting issue in question is by definition at the heart of each Action carried out by the 'Partnership on Security and Public Spaces'.

The '*International dimension*' is very present under the Partnership on Security and Public Spaces. As indicated in the 'Orientation Paper', "the work of the Partnership should be consistent and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and namely SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), [...] [concretely, the Partnership should seek to contribute to the SDG localisation processes by proposing solutions to design, implement and monitor the security dimension of public spaces, in particular regarding dedicated set of indicators"]".

Finally, to be topical, effective and properly attuned to the current needs, the Partnership Actions will seek to bring a positive contribution to the management of the cross-border health crisis caused but the coronavirus outbreak. This crisis affects citizens' security and well-being and raises questions regarding the use of technologies, the management of public spaces, security culture in the population. Therefore, health security will be targeted by the Partnership recommendations on Better Regulation, Funding and Knowledge.

## 4.2 New Urban Agenda & Sustainable Development Goals

As stated in the Orientation Paper, the Partnership seeks to ensure consistency and possibly contribute to the relevant global agendas, in particular to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as well as the New Urban Agenda.

As underlined in the Council conclusions Building a sustainable Europe by 2030, the role of cities is critical for achieving the SDGs. With this purpose, “The Council invites the Commission and the Member States to support regional and local authorities and cities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda, inter alia by means of the Urban Agenda for the EU and cohesion policy.”<sup>39</sup> This has been reinforcing the EU commitment to deliver the New Urban Agenda within the EU, through the Urban Agenda for the EU and its Partnerships and finds full continuity with the recent EC post 2020 proposal, on the European Urban Initiative (EUI) that will be linked to the efforts in localising SDGs in cities.

In addition, the recent European Commission Assessment Study of the UAEU reports “the monitoring data showed that the UAEU cross-cutting issues relating to the UN New Urban Agenda, were referred to 50 or more times in the TP’s Action Plans. In relation to this, a few interviewees highlighted that almost all Actions under the UAEU are consistent with the targets of SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities.”<sup>40</sup>

Concretely, the Partnership seeks to contribute to the 2030 Agenda by proposing solutions to design, implement and monitor the security dimension of public spaces regarding dedicated set of indicators.

As for the other Partnerships, the Action Plan contributes to the Policy objectives of the NUA and to the targets of SDG 11. Nevertheless, it is essential to highlight the cross-cutting essence of the Actions proposed, reflected in the interlinked nature of the SDG. Besides the direct contribution to SGD 11 on making cities safe, resilient and concretely to target 11.7 which aims to provide universal access to safe public spaces by 2030, the Partnership will have an important contribution to SDG 16 which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies and in particular target 16.1 as it sets a global ambition to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related deaths by 2030. Eventually, the most ambitious and important one.

Then, several other SDG are addressed by the Action Plan: enabling conditions to enhance security in public spaces as SDG 5 on Gender Equality, SDG 4 on

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<sup>39</sup> Building a sustainable Europe by 2030 – Progress thus far and next steps  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/41693/se-st14835-en19.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> Assessment Study of the Urban Agenda for the European Union (UAEU)  
[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/assess\\_uaeu\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/assess_uaeu_en.pdf)

Education and SDG on growing economic opportunities as well as SDG 10 on addressing discrimination.

It is important to recall the conceptual relation between the New Urban Agenda and UAEU with the Action Plan. As the implementation of the New Urban Agenda supports the implementation of the urban dimension of 2030 Agenda and its SDG, similarly, the Urban Agenda for the EU is an urban policy initiative, which aims to implement EU objectives through multi-level governance into action.

The consistency of this policy processes has to be substantiated through an approach which explicit the concrete contribution of the Partnership and its Action Plan to the targets of the 2030 Agenda. This approach has been defined as localisation process, which means, following the definition of the United Cities and Local Government, “implementing global agendas in cities and territories to achieve local and global goals. More than a technical process, localising is a political process based on harnessing local opportunities, priorities and ideas”<sup>41</sup>. Applied to the specific topic of the Partnership, while overarching public safety policies are defined at national level, the operationalisation of security in public spaces is mainly done by cities through spatial design, law enforcement, capacity development, in particular related to the use of new disruptive technologies, of provision of public services or community engagement.

Therefore, it is crucial for the Partnership to establish a framework of implementation and monitoring which can fully grasp one of the main added values of the 2030 Agenda which is its universality, namely in the set of targets and indicators related to each SDG.

With this perspective, the Partnership aims not just to ensure a consistent policy approach between the EU and the global agendas, but also to implement and monitor its Action Plan establishing inter-linkages between the single Actions and the existing initiative at global level that are formally contributing to the achievement of the SDG targets.

Thus, the implementation of the Action Plan will take into consideration and seek synergies, where applicable, the relevant global initiatives and Actions where the EU is actively engaged through different intergovernmental processes, in particular related to the UN wide system.

The design of a monitoring framework which integrates, at EU scale, relevant and localised SDG target and indicators, could provide useful insights along several lines and in particular in a policy coherence perspective. Ideally, it could contribute to the official reporting document of the EU Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in the EU context, which is prepared by the European

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<sup>41</sup> Localizing the SDGs <https://www.learning.uclg.org/localizing-sdgs>

Commission.<sup>42</sup>

As an additional note, this work could be supported by existing works developed by individual cities, city associations, like the guidelines for Local Voluntary Reviews of UCLG, or International Organisations as the OECD or the European Commission DG REGIO Handbook for SDG local review supported by the JRC.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/9940483/KS-02-19-165-EN-N.pdf/1965d8f5-4532-49f9-98ca-5334b0652820>

<sup>43</sup>SDG Voluntary Local Reviews

[https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC118682/european\\_handbook\\_for\\_sdg\\_voluntary\\_local\\_reviews\\_online.pdf](https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC118682/european_handbook_for_sdg_voluntary_local_reviews_online.pdf)

## Annex I Public Feedback results

The Action Plan was launched for Public Feedback on Futurium from the 23th of July until the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2020. During this period, a wide range of stakeholders were approached, amongst others through the Partnership member' networks, and were given the opportunity to provide their input on the draft Actions proposed by the Partnership. For the Public Feedback, we have added to Futurium a background paper on the Partnership , an introduction to the Actions as well as descriptions on the Actions. All information was provided in English.

It has resulted in a feedback response of in total, 18 comments. The respondents come from 6 different countries, which are Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

Action	Respondents
ACTION 1 - Developing a framework for a self-assessment tool dedicated to urban authorities	3
ACTION 2 - Recommendations on EU security strategy, multi-level governance and funding	2
ACTION 3 – Evaluate the application of AI technologies	1
ACTION 4 – Develop a capacity building training scheme about integrated urban security	1
ACTION 5 – Measure the impact of social cohesion on security in public spaces	7
ACTION 6 – Develop guidance for architectural and spatial design (security by design)	4

Public and NGOs; regional, national organisations but also European Institutions participated to the Public Feedback and provided valuable feedback on the Actions. The following three questions were asked:

- Would you agree with the Action proposed?
- Is there any element missing in the description?
- Would you have suggestions for further improvement?

Overall, the feedback was positive and the vast majority of respondents agree with the Actions developed by the Partnership. Some suggestions for improvement and constructive remarks were also provided. In addition, the document has also been reviewed by the UDG members and benefited from Inter-service consultation. All received comments have been assessed, and the Action Plan updated and revised accordingly.