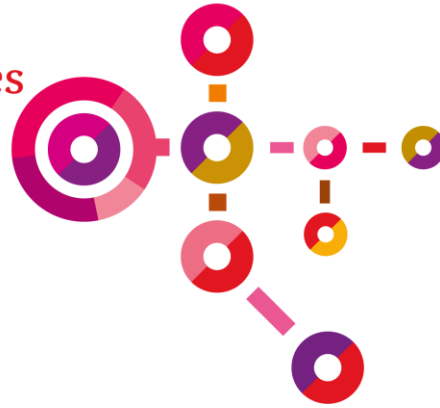


Deutsch-Europäisches Forum *für* Urbane Sicherheit



Objectives

The **Deutsch-Europäisches Forum für Urbane Sicherheit e.V. (DEFUS)** provides a platform for promoting better cooperation amongst the relevant stakeholders for public security in German cities. One of its main priority areas is to improve security and public order in towns and cities, primarily in the fields of prevention of and fight against crime as well as traffic safety at the local level, thereby enhancing the citizens' sense of security.

After taking stock of the challenges in German towns and cities, the Forum shall propose a set of measures aimed at successfully addressing these challenges. The Forum also aims at providing a national platform for sharing experiences and fostering mutual learning through inter-city dialogue, seminars and an exchange of good practices.

Furthermore, DEFUS supports policies aimed at fostering a climate or social conditions in which the prevention of and fight against crime are given a high priority as well as promoting partnerships among authorities, bodies and organisations whose task it is to enhance urban security and to increase residents' and communities' sense of security and safety.

Need for networks at the local level

While the police authorities at the federal and state level have reached a high degree of networking in the prevention of and fight against crime, there is clearly a lot of catching up to be done at the local level. Faced with similar challenges and at a time of dwindling financial resources, which has also had an impact on the police authorities, there is now an enhanced need for towns and cities to move closer together.



Founding of the Forum in 2010

The **Deutsch-Europäisches Forum für Urbane Sicherheit e.V. (DEFUS)** was founded on 10 May 2010 in Berlin at the German Congress on Crime Prevention by the cities of Augsburg, Heidelberg, Leer, Mannheim, Munich, Oldenburg and Stuttgart, by the German Congress on Crime Prevention and by the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony. The registered association has its legal seat and its office in Hanover, in close connection with the secretariats of the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony and the German Congress on Crime Prevention. Currently, the cities of Stuttgart and Munich are joint chairs of DEFUS.

Easy access to Community programmes and know-how

As the German member, DEFUS is part of the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS). Through its membership, DEFUS benefits from this network of the oldest NGO focusing on urban security which is made up of representatives from 300 European cities. Thanks to its outstanding competence and its Europe-wide network, the European Forum for Urban Security has been officially recognized by the European Commission and can provide its German members with an easy access to Community programmes and an updated know-how in the areas of prevention of and fight against crime. As the new common European area of freedom, security and justice is becoming more and more a reality, both German and European security must no longer be regarded separately. For further information on EFUS, please visit: www.efus.eu.

How do I become a member of DEFUS?

Any city interested in joining DEFUS can do so by application (requirement is the membership of EFUS). For further information please contact Dr. Claudia Heinzemann at the DEFUS office.



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