

DEFUS- JAHRESBERICHT



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Introduction

This year marks the end of another crisis year. In January 2022, we all hoped for an end to the Corona pandemic that was already in sight. The war in Ukraine and the resulting change of times as well as the worsening climate crisis forced and still force us all into crisis mode again.

It really has not been an easy year for cities and municipalities. But this year also highlights in no uncertain terms the important role that municipal governments play in crisis management. Municipalities are also the key players in preventing anti-democratic tendencies, designing safe and pleasant public spaces for everyone, and ensuring that people can get along with each other on a day-to-day basis and as smoothly as possible.



DEFUS has worked with and for its members also this year with a wide variety of activities on many topics of urban security, processed and discussed. Despite and precisely because of the crises, we continue to pursue an optimistic approach to urban security that balances social cohesion, sanction and prevention. Prevention is at the heart of our approaches to further developing public spaces and municipal action for even fairer, more livable and safer cities.

Das Deutsch-Europäische Forum (DEFUS) ist ein Städtenetzwerk mit aktuell 18 Mitgliedern. DEFUS ist Teil des Europäischen Forums für Urbane Sicherheit (Efus), das 220 Städte und Gebietskörperschaften aus 16 europäischen Ländern zu seinen Mitgliedern zählt. Neben DEFUS gibt es auch in Belgien, Frankreich, Italien und Spanien nationale Foren.



AUGSBURG - BERLIN - DÜSSELDORF - ESSEN - FREIBURG - GELSENKIRCHEN - GLADBECK
GÖTTINGEN - HANNOVER - HEIDELBERG - KARLSRUHE - KÖLN - MANNHEIM - MÜNCHEN
NÜRNBERG - STUTTART - DEUTSCHER PRÄVENTIONSTAG - LPR NIEDERSACHSEN

I. Exchange

DEFUS General Meetings

In June 2022, the Berlin Senate Department of the Interior invited DEFUS members to the German capital. Over the course of two days, in addition to the re-election of Christian Kromberg and Christian Specht to the DEFUS board, there was a joint inspection of Görlitzer Park, as an example of the innovative handling of difficult places, a presentation of the current projects of the network and the members, as well as discussions on the strategic direction. Many thanks to Berlin for the great hospitality!

[Video clip with impressions of the DEFUS general meeting](#)



Efus Events

DEFUS participated in the **General Assembly in Riga** in May 2022 as well as in preparatory online meetings and finally the face-to-face meeting of the **Executive Committee in Rotterdam** in November 2022.

[Video clip with impressions of the Efus General Assembly](#)

Thematic exchange

DEFUS internal web exchange

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the uncomplicated exchange online has established and proven itself. In 2022, DEFUS again organized three online events for its members. The thematic focus was the **safety of women** in our cities:

- Violence against women web exchange (May 2022)
- Web exchange on knife violence & participation in a round table in Hannover (September 2022).
- Web exchange on sexual assault prevention in nightlife (October 2022).
- Safe Cities for Women Web Exchange - Gender Transformative Urban Planning (November 2022).

Open Thematic Web Exchange

DEFUS was a research partner in the project **Sicherheit im Bahnhofsviertel (SiBa)**, which ended at the end of 2020. The interest in safety and order issues around Bahnhofsviertel is occupying many cities. After the training conducted in September 2021, the idea emerged to serve the demand for more exchange through a loose series of webinars. In 2022, three online events were held on the following topics:

- Offers for addicts in station districts with addiction researcher Prof. Dr. Heino Stöver (March 2022)

- Neighborhood management in station districts using the example of Münster with neighborhood manager Stefan Scholz (June 2022)
- Offers for mentally conspicuous persons in public space using the example of Berlin's Zoo train station with Betina König from the Berlin City Mission (November 2022).

All three offerings were very well received and had between 30 and 55 participants. The demand is unbroken and the series is to be continued in the coming year.

Specialized events

- DEFUS organized the **panel discussion: Do we need new strategies for urban security?** as part of the 27th German Prevention Day. The panel included Christian Specht (First Mayor of Mannheim), Prof. Dr. Rita Haverkamp (University of Tübingen), Dolores Burkert (Center for Urban Security and Prevention Cologne), Zuhai Karakas (Head of the Department of Security and Order Hanover), Daniela Dorn (LKA Berlin) and Dr. Tilman Schulze (EBP Switzerland).
- Together with the German Police University, DEFUS organized in November the **symposium: Do we need new strategies for security in public space? Everyday crime and misdemeanors in the field of tension of public security policy** in Essen. Over the course of two days, 70 participants from the police, local authorities, academia and politics discussed the impact of existing strategies and approaches and considered new ideas and solutions. Read more in the [conference report on our website](#).

II. Knowledge management

Information collections

In 2022, we again expanded and deepened our information collections on aspects of urban safety. In addition to numerous updated entries in the existing collections, new additions include padlets on knife violence in public spaces, urban crime prevention, and safe cities for women.

Currently, there are eleven password-protected information collections for our members, which you can access via our [website](#).

DEFUS-Informationssammlungen

- Beteiligung für Sicherheit und Prävention
- Klimawandel und Urbane Sicherheit
- Konfliktbearbeitung im öffentlichen Raum
- Messergewalt im öffentlichen Raum
- Mitarbeitersicherheit
- Nächtliches Feiern & Sicherheit in der Nacht
- Schutz öffentlicher Räume
- Sicherheitsbefragung & Audits
- Sicherheit im Bahnhofsviertel
- Sichere Städte für Frauen
- Städtebauliche Kriminalprävention

Continuing Education & Training

Secu4All training cycle

As part of the EU-funded project "Secu4All" on training local authorities for the protection of soft targets in public spaces, DEFUS together with European partners conducted a training series consisting of four online and one face-to-face seminar, in which representatives from the member cities Augsburg, Berlin, Essen, Freiburg and Stuttgart participated.

Annual DEFUS & Difu Seminar

Together with the German Institute of Urban Affairs, DEFUS hosted the public access training "Creating Livable Places. Public spaces with complex problems". The two-day program included theoretical input from urban security experts, experience and project reports from municipal practice, and a joint walk-through of various places considered difficult. The inspection was organized and accompanied by the urban crime prevention team of the LKA Berlin. Many thanks for the great organization!

III. Projects

Own projects



PanReflex 2022-2025

The project "*Strengthening Urban Resilience Using the Example of Pandemics: Reflection Space for Municipal Crisis Management (PanReflex)*" examines what experiences administrations have made in dealing with the pandemic permanent crisis and what lessons can be derived for crisis management and urban resilience in general. Together with the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) and five municipalities in NRW, DEFUS is working on analyzing and systematizing the experience gained at the municipal level.

Further information can be found on the [project page](#), which will go online just in time for the end of the year.

PUFII - Preventive Support for Integration and Inclusion

Pufii is the central information platform for the topics of integration and crime prevention and makes the numerous interfaces of the two fields of work visible. The nationwide portal serves interested stakeholders as a source of information for the joint organization of peaceful coexistence and offers a comprehensive collection of information on all areas of integration and prevention. New publications from science, practice and politics, current funding opportunities and upcoming events are bundled on [Pufii](#) in a user-friendly way and are easy to find.



EU projects

DEFUS as a partner in Secu4All (2020-2023)

The Secu4All project supports local and regional authorities in six European countries with targeted training courses that provide both theoretical knowledge and practical tools for the protection of public spaces as well as "soft" targets (e.g. sports facilities, shopping centers, schools,...) from potential threats. DEFUS has offered and implemented the training cycle developed within the project for members in Germany.

Participation opportunities for DEFUS members in Efus projects

- Interdisciplinary teams from the cities of Augsburg, Berlin, Essen, Freiburg and Stuttgart each participated in the Secu4All training series.
- Through Efus, cities could apply to participate in training series on crisis management (RiskPACC), extremism prevention (iCommit), and sexual violence against women in nightlife (SHINE).
- Efus participated with an application in this year's HORIZON call, there was also the possibility of participation.
- Through the Secu4All project, representatives from Gladbeck and Karlsruhe were able to attend the Pactesur final conference in Brussels in November free of charge.

Project participations

LegiNot

As a research partner, DEFUS is part of the project **Legitimation of Emergency - Legitimation Change in Emergency (LegiNot)**. The aim of the project is to investigate the willingness of the population to cooperate in emergency situations as well as the municipal implementation of emergency ordinances by the locally operating actors of disaster and civil protection. The [LegiNot project](#), coordinated by Prof. Dr. Rita Haverkamp, University of Tübingen, and funded by the BMBF, complements very well the research questions of our own PanReflex project and as a partner in both projects, DEFUS ensures that the synergies of the two projects are used in the best possible way.

In the **SifoLIFE funding guideline**, for the first time municipalities themselves are asked to be the main applicants and have the opportunity to receive funding for larger urban security projects. DEFUS is very happy to support the members who submit project applications in the current funding phase as partners in the future project implementation. We keep our fingers crossed and hope that your projects are successful.

Laufende Projektanträge, die DEFUS als Partner beteiligen:

- **Plan#B** - Planung und Demonstration innovativer, vernetzter Sicherheitslösungen am Beispiel Blackout in einer vielfältigen Metropole.
- **ZisSch**: Ganzheitliche zivile Sicherheitslösungen für die Stadt Wilhelmshaven als Bundeswehr- und maritimer Standort an der Schnittstelle städtischer Lebensräume
- **DRAGON** - Disaster-Reaktions-Automatisierung in Gelsenkirchen und Organisationsübergreifende Netzwerkkommunikation

Third-party funding applications

Current applications

- **SiLBER: Security in Ludwigsburg's station district**
As the successor to the successful SiBa project (Sicherheit im Bahnhofsviertel), SiLBER is dedicated to the redesign and integration of an area near the train station. The city of Ludwigsburg is applying jointly with the University of Tübingen for funding from the SifoLIFE tender. Within the framework of the project, DEFUS, together with the University of Wuppertal, will be responsible for the networking of actors and the transfer of innovation for the design of safe station districts and will receive funding for this purpose.
- **CO-SECUR: Cooperative Security in Public Spaces**
DEFUS is applying for "Horizon Europe" funding to strengthen civil security as part of a European consortium. The CO-SECUR project aims to map social innovations in the field of urban security in Europe and test best practices through field trials for their generalizability in the context of a societal development plan. Through DEFUS, if successful, members would have the opportunity to participate in these field trials and test innovative solutions in their own community.

Rejected applications

In October, DEFUS applied to the Robert Bosch Foundation for funding for Pufii. Unfortunately, the application was rejected because it did not fully meet the desired funding profile.

IV. Communication & Networking

In a strategy workshop in 2017, DEFUS members shared the observation that topics of urban security and municipal prevention are not heard enough at the federal and state level as well as in important institutions. Since then, DEFUS has been constantly seeking new ways to specifically disseminate the interests, topics and also demands of member municipalities and to place them with relevant actors. In the past

year, we have deepened and expanded our fruitful collaborations and networks and have joined forces with other actors to speak out on urban security issues.

Lobbying

- As a result of a letter from DEFUS to the German Foreign Office (AA), DEFUS was invited to participate in an online exchange with other municipalities and the AA on the development of the National Security Strategy. At the request of the AA, DEFUS wrote and sent to the AA **a submission on the role of municipalities in the National Security Strategy**. Unfortunately, there is currently no information on the impact of the submission.
- Submission of a **position paper on the further development of security research** in Germany to the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The position paper is the result of close cooperation between DEFUS with Dr. Holger Floeting (German Institute of Urban Affairs), Prof. Dr. Rita Haverkamp (University of Tübingen) and Dr. Tim Lukas (Bergische Universität Wuppertal). The German Association of Cities, the German Forum for Crime Prevention and the German Prevention Day have co-signed the paper. Only time will tell whether the position paper has had a positive effect on the greater consideration of urban security issues in security research.

Networking and cooperations

Cooperations

- Together with the German Prevention Day, DEFUS has formed the [German Chapter of the International CPTED Association](#) since June. This international organization promotes the exchange among practitioners and experts worldwide on issues of urban crime prevention. Through the DEFUS membership with the ICA, DEFUS members can now also participate in ICA events and benefit from this offer. As the German Chapter, we plan to continue to explore the topic of designing safe public spaces in greater depth and develop it further in Germany in the coming years. The joint CPTED chapter is another chapter in the very trustful and close cooperation with the [German Prevention Day](#).
- The cooperation with the [German Institute of Urban Affairs](#), which has existed for 6 years, is very fruitful. Both the high number of participants at this year's seminar and the approval of the joint research project PanReflex are proof of the close and good cooperation. We regret very much that our long-standing, very reliable and technically highly competent contact person, Dr. Holger Floeting, is leaving Difu at the end of the year.

DEFUS im Kontakt mit anderen Institutionen und Städten

- Austausch der DEFUS-Mitglieder mit dem Bundesinnenministerium des Inneren zu Hybriden Bedrohungen
- Vorstellung von DEFUS beim Landespräventionsrat Thüringen, in der Hansestadt Bremen und in Frankfurt am Main.
- Vorstellung von DEFUS in der Dezembersitzung des Rechts- und Verfassungsausschusses des Deutschen Städtetags.

Networks

- Since April, DEFUS has been a member of the [ForAn network](#), which supports German end users and research institutions in applying for research funds on security and crisis topics in EU tenders. DEFUS is there as a representative of municipalities, which are potential end-users of such research projects. For example, the funding application for the CO-SECUR project came about through this network.
- DEFUS sits on the [advisory board of the Competence Network Islamist Extremism \(KN:IX\)](#) and attended a meeting of the advisory board in Berlin in September.

DEFUS website

In addition to the ongoing updating of the website, we have added two new sections to the website over the past year.

- **Member Projects**

In one subpage, we now list all [third-party funded projects](#) in which our member cities participate. We very much appreciate your update comments.

- **Topic page on safety in public spaces**

We are now bundling all our activities and information on the topic of [safety in public spaces](#) in one place. This page will continue to grow, as we will continue to work intensively on this topic in the coming year.


V. Efus and cooperation with the national forums

- In addition to the German forum, there are also national branches of Efus in Belgium, Italy, France and Spain, which offer their respective members additional services on site. For the first time, **representatives of all five forums met with the Efus office in Paris** and discussed current topics as well as the improvement of cooperation and coordination.

In the future, there should be an exchange between the forums and Efus twice a year, at least once in Paris in presence. The aim is to make even better use of synergies and to deepen European cooperation.

- **Efus** has had a difficult year with many staff changes due to illness. The Paris office hopes to stabilize the team in the coming year. Among other things, Efus is currently applying again for HORIOZON funding for a large project on safety in public spaces.

- DEFUS has been actively involved in the debate on the **future design of Efus membership fees**. To this end, a working group has been formed to develop proposals in the coming year. DEFUS will continue to be involved there.



Die nächste Efus-Konferenz findet im Frühjahr 2024 in Brüssel statt.

VI. outlook 2023

Events

- **Secu4All Field Visits on AI and Urban Security - January 30 & 31 in Rotterdam.**

As the new year comes to a close, so does Secu4All. The last Study Visit is scheduled for January 30 and 31 in Rotterdam, and will be combined with a conference of the IMPETUS project. DEFUS members will again have the opportunity to participate.

- **Siba-Mönchengladbach - March 2 & 3, 2023**

The topic of security in the Bahnhofsviertel will not let us go in the coming year. We cordially invite you to a workshop in Präsenz in Mönchengladbach, where we will intensively discuss how marginalized groups can be addressed and included in a redesign of the Bahnhofsviertel.

- **DPT in Mannheim with DEFUS MV and Efus GA - June 12 & 13, 2023.**

On June 12 and 13, 2023, our member city Mannheim will host the 28th German Prevention Day (DPT). This year's focus topic is crises and prevention. DEFUS will present the PanReflex project there and will be present with a booth as usual.



Im Rahmen des DPT werden sowohl unsere DEFUS-Mitgliederversammlung als auch die Efus-Generalversammlung stattfinden.

- **Secu4All Final Conference - June 12 & 13, 2023**

The final conference of the three-year EU project will also take place during the DPT in Mannheim. With an interesting program around safe public spaces, the Secu4All project will enrich the DPT with international perspectives.

- **DEFUS & Difu Seminar: Climate Change and Urban Security - October 2023**

In the joint seminar in the fall, we will explore the interrelationships between the two topics in a practical way and present approaches on how to work on them together.

DEFUS Web Exchange

- **Community Safety & Well-Being - January 26, 2023.**

In January, our sister organization from Canada, the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention, will present the approach of conceptually linking community safety and well-being that has already been established there. We look forward to discussing the results and applicability in Germany with you.

- **Safety of the Queer Community**

At the suggestion of some members, we will organize a web exchange at the beginning of the year on the unpleasant increase of violence against queer people in our cities and possible prevention approaches.

- **DIN standard for vehicle interlocks**

In the fall of 2022, the new DIN standard for vehicle interlocks was published and will be presented to members in a web exchange.

Themen 2023

- Sichere öffentliche Räume für Alle
- Kommunales Krisenmanagement
- Klimawandel & Urbane Sicherheit
- Auswirkungen der Cannabislegalisierung auf Kommunen
- Organisierte Kriminalität
- ...

Wir freuen uns auf Ihre Themen und Ideen!!

We would be very happy to organize a web exchange on your current topics and challenges. Please feel free to contact us!

PanReflex project

In 2023, work on the project will proceed at a rapid pace. Among other things, three debriefing workshops are planned in which, together with the partner municipalities, they will explore and reflect on what their own crisis actions looked like during the pandemic. At the same time, the first project results are already being presented at specialist conferences. The [project website](#), which was launched in December, will provide up-to-date reports on the progress of the project in the coming years.

VII DEFUS Board and Office

DEFUS Board of Directors



Christian Kromberg
Chairman
Alderman of the City of Essen

Christian Specht
Deputy Chairman 1st Mayor of the City of
Mannheim

Employees*



Anna Rau Managing Director



Lawrence Schätzle researcher
Project staff



Margo Molkenbur scientific
Project staff



Kristina Kutz Accounting



Rolf Grimmer IT and Internal

DEFUS is pleased to announce that **Margo Molkenbur** joined the team in April as a researcher and will be in charge of the PanReflex project. In parallel, she is also working as a project manager for the Prevention Day.

Lawrence Schätzle also joined DEFUS as a research associate in April after his employment as an assistant ended.

