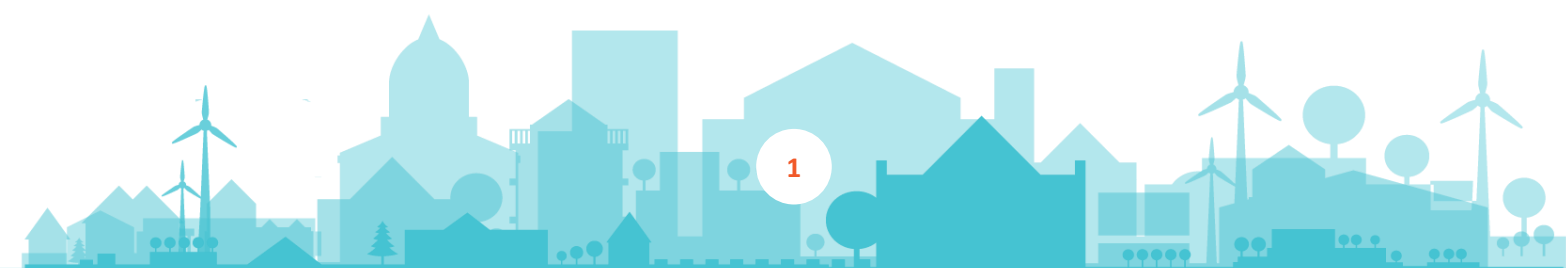




EU financing for urban security projects in 2021 - 2027

Guidebook for local practitioners

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The majority of the funding instruments discussed in these guidelines are still in the design phase at the moment of writing. As a result, there is a degree of uncertainty regarding the allocation of budgets and thematic focus when it comes to the 2021-2027 programming period.

Contents

Introduction	4
1 Financing for Urban Security	5
1.1 Cohesion Policy and ERDF Policy Objective 5	6
1.2 The potential of ERDF support	9
1.3 EU-wide programmes for security	10
1.4 Expected new programmes and funds in the coming years	15
1.5 Overview table	18
2 Lessons from the past	19
2.1 Tips for acquiring project funding	19
2.2 Making your project excel in implementation	23
Suggestions for further reading	26

Introduction

Urban security is a pillar of the daily life of the European citizens. In the past years, terrorism threats in major European cities were cause for concern, whilst recently the outbreak of the COVID-pandemic has triggered another concern for urban security. On the more social side of the urban security spectrum, polarisation, discrimination and radicalisation are cause for concern. All these elements contributed to an increase in the feeling of insecurity of the European citizens over the past years.¹ The EU has developed various targeted initiatives to tackle urban security challenges – with its different aspects and holistic themes that go beyond the securitisation of public spaces – in recent years. Additionally, the need of European regulations to address the negative consequences regarding privacy in the implementation of new surveillance technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) or the use of drones have also become a topic of fierce political debate on the European level.²

This guidebook introduces local and regional urban policy makers to a wide range of EU funding opportunities in the field of security in public spaces.³ As such, the document is part of the implementation of Action 2: *Recommendations on EU security strategy multi-level governance and funding* of the Action Plan of the Urban Agenda Partnership ‘Security in Public Spaces’. This guidebook is complemented by a training module in the form of a PPT and relevant methodological indications.

The current document consists of two parts. The first part provides basic, practical information on the most relevant funding opportunities. These include funding instruments introduced in the past years and will be continued in the upcoming programming period (2021-2027), and new initiatives and programmes that have been announced recently. The second part of the guidebook introduces a number of lessons learned from previous projects. These lessons provide help and inspiration for local and regional authorities when applying for EU funding in the upcoming programming period. The guidebook concludes with a list of useful links.

¹ Eurobarometer 464B. Europeans’ attitudes towards security, 2017
https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/europeans-attitudes-towards-security_en

² See for example the new ‘Proposal for a Regulation on a European approach for Artificial Intelligence’, heavily restricting the use of AI by law enforcement in public spaces.

³ For scoping reasons, the Partnership uses “security” as a general term to include pure security aspects as well as safety aspects

1 Financing for Urban Security

The EU has allocated an important amount of its budget for different types of projects that support urban and regional development in its Member States. This budget contains different types of financing instruments and funds. A share of the budget can finance projects related to security (in public spaces). This chapter sheds light on different types of European financing instruments expected in the 2021-2027 programming period, as well as other upcoming EU initiatives and strategies that are relevant for urban authorities when it comes to EU financing opportunities for their local security policies. Since the framework of most of these funding opportunities have not yet fully been developed, examples from the previous programming period are used to clarify what can be expected.

Funding instruments usually aim at improving urban security through a specific thematic. Four overarching thematic groups are particularly relevant for urban security:

1. Social inclusion and civic participation
2. Governance and cooperation
3. Security by design
4. Technology and cybersecurity

Aside from thematic objectives, funding instruments usually support activities in different stages of the 'innovation curve'. The innovation curve describes the way new solutions are developed and brought to the wider public. We can use three steps to differentiate between the funds:

1. Research activities that develop new (theoretical) solutions to thematic challenges
2. Innovation activities (e.g., social, technological or spatial) that test the newly developed solutions in a real-world environment, for example through pilot projects
3. Implementation activities that increase the use of a proven (and evaluated) solution amongst the target group

The overview below demonstrates which support mechanism address which thematic challenge and stage of the innovation curve. After, we discuss each mechanism in more detail.

	Social inclusion & civic participation	Governance & cooperation	Security by design	Technology & cybersecurity
Research activities	Horizon Europe (Horizon 2020)			
			New European Bauhaus	
Innovation activities	European Urban Initiative (UIA)			
		Rights and Values programme		
		URBACT III & IV		
Implementation activities	Erasmus+	Internal Security Fund		
		INTERREG		
	ESF+		ERDF	
			EIB Loans	

1.1 Cohesion Policy and ERDF Policy Objective 5

The EU's Regional Development and Cohesion Policy targets cities and regions across the European Union. Through the policy the EU supports sustainable development, job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development and the improvement of citizens' quality of life. Almost a third of the EU budget is allocated to Cohesion Policy.

Security in Cohesion Policy

Cohesion Policy focuses on five main objectives in the upcoming programming period:

- a more competitive and **smarter Europe** by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity (PO 1)
- a **greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe** by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility (PO 2)
- a more **connected Europe** by enhancing mobility (PO 3)

- a more **social and inclusive Europe** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (PO 4)
- a **Europe closer to citizens** by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives (PO 5).

Regional Development and Cohesion Policy is delivered through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). The Cohesion Fund is available for Member States whose Gross National Income per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average. It aims at policy objective 2 (Greener, carbon free Europe) and policy objective 3 (Connected Europe). Under these policy objectives, no specific investments in security are foreseen. Hence, the **Cohesion Fund is not further discussed in this guideline.**

In national and territorial contexts, the principle of partnership may enhance the implementation of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, building on the multi-level governance approach and ensuring the involvement of regional, local, urban and other public authorities, civil society, economic and social partners and, where appropriate, research organisations and universities.

Security in the ERDF

In the provisional regulation for the ERDF, security is explicitly mentioned under policy objective 5 (Europe closer to citizens). **A Europe closer to citizens** is a new, cross-cutting **territorial policy objective** for the integrated and sustainable development of cities and other territories, to address the diverse and interlinked territorial and local needs and challenges.

The preamble of the provisional regulation for the ERDF 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”⁴ 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 all types of territories and local initiatives' ('PO 5') by:
 (i) **fostering** the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and **security in urban areas**; (ii) **fostering the integrated and inclusive social**, economic and environmental **local development**, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and **security**, in areas other than urban areas.⁵

⁴ This is not the final regulation. The final text will be published in the Official Journal of the EU.

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PO5 is offering flexibility for a wide range of investments. Member States can decide to not make use of PO5. Security related actions can however also be financed under other POs if they correspond to the specific objectives and the intervention logic of the operational programme.

Allocation

Resources from the ERDF are **allocated to specific programmes – Operational Programmes**. Operational Programmes can be fund-specific or financed by multiple different funds. They can cover entire Member States and/or regions. OPs allow selecting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the individual projects according to the priorities and targets agreed between the European Commission and the national or regional Managing authorities. A large group of programmes are regional in nature and could be called **ERDF Operational Programmes**. There is also a group of programmes for cross-border cooperation, known as Interreg programmes. Both ERDF OPs and Interreg programmes are **developed and implemented at a regional or national level by a Managing Authority (MA)**. The MA is **responsible for the selection and monitoring of projects**. Usually a (regional) governmental organisation is asked to perform this role. There are more than 200 ERDF Operational Programmes and almost 100 Interreg programmes being implemented across the EU. Through these programmes, thousands of local and regional authorities have been able to benefit from ERDF support. An overview of OPs and MAs can be found [here](#).

Member States decide jointly with DG REGIO on the division of funds along different types of investments and priorities, though at least 8% of the ERDF funds should be spent on sustainable urban development. Urban security aspects can be financed from this 8% if they are part of the integrated sustainable urban development strategy⁶. The sustainable urban development actions are to be delivered through territorial instruments, such as community-led local development, integrated territorial investments (ITIs) or other tools under PO5⁷.

- **Community-led local development** is a bottom-up and participative approach that allows ‘local action groups’ to develop an integrated strategy for their territorial challenges. They provide a degree of freedom and flexibility to local stakeholders to develop and implement solutions that fit their specific situation.
- **Integrated territorial investments** allow for bundled funding from several thematic priorities and even from different operational programmes and different funds. They only are possible in a specific geographical area selected for implementing a territorial strategy through this tool.

⁶ For additional information on the design of the urban strategies supported by Cohesion policy programmes please consult the “Handbook of sustainable urban development strategies” : [handbook_of_sustainable_urban_development_strategies_pdf_2.pdf](#)

⁷ For additional information you may consult here more than 1500 integrated strategies with specific territorial delivery modes – CLLD, ITI –: [STRAT-Board \(europa.eu\)](#)

- Member States can develop or use existing other **territorial tools** in the ERDF Operational Programmes.

The definition of threats to security in public spaces requires an objective, evidence-based assessment of vulnerabilities. Local authorities need to conduct this assessment through collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. The process of identifying the needs and challenges, the elaboration, monitoring and implementation of the strategy/action plan and the selection of relevant related projects should be conducted by local authorities in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders and communities. Projects should aim to address these objectively defined vulnerabilities and should contribute to the implementation of the integrated sustainable territorial strategies.

1.2 The potential of ERDF support

Exact details on the ERDF in the coming programming period regarding rules and regulations as well as allocation of budgets are yet to be finalised. Furthermore, what could be financed in your region depends on the policy choices and negotiations between the European Commission and the Member State or region. Draft regulations are available however. For the ERDF, two documents are important: **1) the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)⁸**, and **2) the Regulation on the ERDF and CF⁹**. **The CPR outlines the general rules and set of instruments that apply to all EU funds. The Regulation on the ERDF and CF outlines the specific goals and rules of these funds.**

The ERDF can support a range of different investments:

- a. Investments in infrastructure;
- b. Investments in access to services;
- c. Productive investments in SMEs;
- d. Equipment, software and intangible assets;
- e. Information, communication, studies, networking, cooperation, exchange of experience and activities involving clusters;
- f. Technical assistance.

Security related actions can also be financed under the four other policy objectives if they are in line with the rules, priorities and objectives of the regulations and the specific requests in the national or regional operational programmes. In order to be aware of the specificities of the operational programmes and take advantage of these financial opportunities it is highly

⁸ Regulation 2018/0196 (COD). 'Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, ...'.

⁹ Regulation 2018/0197 (COD). 'Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund'.

recommended to the local authorities to consult national/regional Managing Authorities as soon as possible.

Security measures can also be financed/mainstreamed as part of other investment in infrastructure. A key advice for local public servants working on security-related matters is to consult their colleagues that work on investments so that security-related elements can be taken into account in the design phase and sufficient budget is foreseen.

1.3 EU-wide programmes for security

Aside from the ERDF operational programmes there is a large number of programmes and initiatives that finance projects related to security in public places and the feeling of security of the citizens. Most of these programmes and initiatives are expected to continue in some form in the 2021-2027 programming period. These programmes provide additional opportunities for local and regional actors to get financing for urban security projects. An overview is presented below.

Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe

Horizon 2020 is **the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme. Over the period 2014-2020, nearly 80 billion EUR of funding has been made available.** In doing so, it has contributed to breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market. **Horizon 2020 is divided in different work packages, including ‘Secure societies - Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens’.** Within the context of security in public spaces, the call SU-INFRA02-2019 “Security for smart and safe cities, including for public spaces” has been most relevant. This call led to the implementation of two projects: [IMPETUS](#) and [S4AllCities](#). Another relevant example of a Horizon 2020 project in the field of urban security is the [IcARUS](#) project.

Horizon 2020 is primarily meant for universities and private (research) institutions, but can also be interesting for urban authorities aiming to engage in social and technological innovation. For example, urban authorities and police departments from Trikala (GR), Bilbao (ES), Valencia (ES), Bazau (RO) are partners within the S4ALLCities project.

The **Horizon 2020 programme will be succeeded by Horizon Europe.** For the 2021-2027 period, **Horizon Europe will be the EU’s key funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion.** One of the clusters within Horizon Europe is [‘Civil security for society’](#). This cluster will focus on the challenges arising from persistent security threats, including cybercrime, as well as natural and man-made disasters. The areas of intervention will be disaster-resilient societies, protection and security and cybersecurity. [Cluster 2: Culture,](#)

[Creativity and Inclusive Society](#) could be interesting for projects with a focus on law and fundamental rights and integrated approaches.

Looking at the specific calls that are foreseen within these clusters¹⁰, the following call will be most relevant in the context of security in public spaces: HORIZON-CL3-2022-DRS-01-08: Enhanced situational awareness and preparedness of first responders and improved capacities to minimise time-to-react in urban areas in the case of CBRN-E-related events. This call is expected to launch in 2022 and have a 11 million EUR budget.

Internal Security Fund (ISF)

The Internal Security Fund (ISF) was set up for the 2014-2020 programming period. Its main aim is to promote the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and the management of the Union's external borders. The ISF is composed of two instruments, ISF Borders and Visa and **ISF-Police. Urban authorities can make use of these funding opportunities to finance local initiatives.**

The budget available under ISF-Police for the period 2014-2020 amounts to a total of 1 233 million EUR, with 754 million EUR directly managed by Member States' national authorities through their National Programmes. More information on the management on ISF-Police in each Member State is available [here](#).

Under Union actions, a portion of the budget was dedicated to **calls for proposals specifically related to the protection of public spaces**. This has been the case since 2017, where 15 projects were awarded a grant, for a total amount of EUR 25 million through the EU Action Plan to support Member States' action to protect of public spaces with short-term funding. **Each year, a call for proposals has been launched**. These calls for proposals have a specific focus on security of public spaces. Examples of relevant projects that were implemented under this call are [Secu4All](#), [PACTESUR](#) and [PRoTECT](#).

There have also been other calls launched under the ISF Police Fund that have links to urban security. Examples include calls for proposals focused on: the prevention of radicalisation and polarisation like the Efus-led [BRIDGE](#) project, the operational cooperation in the fight against environmental crime and on operational cooperation in the fight against firearms trafficking. Please find the complete list of all the expired calls for proposals and awarded projects in the [Funding and tender opportunities portal](#).

¹⁰ NB The information provided above is based on the **draft version** of the [Work Programme 2021-2022 Civil Security for Society](#)

1 931 million EUR has been allocated for the total ISF budget for the 2021-2027 programming period. This is a **57% increase compared to ISF-Police 2014-2020.** At this moment, the annual work programme for 2021 is not yet available. The work programme will define the priorities and objectives for 2021 and 2022, including the priorities for the Calls for Proposals. Once available, the work programme will be available [via this link](#). Calls for proposals will be published on [Funding and tender opportunities portal](#).

UIA (Urban Innovation Actions)

Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) is an initiative of the European Union that **provides urban authorities throughout Europe with resources to test new and unproven solutions to address urban challenges.** UIA had a total **ERDF budget of EUR 372 million for the 2014-2020 period.** Urban security is one of the 14 topics within the UIA programme. 3 UIA security projects have been adopted during the past financial period: BeSecure-FeelSecure, ToNite and SURE.

The **European Urban Initiative (see also below), will take over the role of UIA** when it comes to facilitating innovative urban actions. Therefore, **no future calls are envisaged under the UIA from 2021 onwards.** Please find more information on UIA and its relation to the European Urban Initiative [via this link](#).

URBACT III and IV

URBACT **fosters sustainable integrated urban development in cities** across Europe. **It is an instrument of the Cohesion Policy, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the 27 Member States, Norway & Switzerland.** URBACT is **not necessarily a funding instrument, but instead it aims to create and support different networks of cities to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges.** By networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices, cities can improve the design of urban policies as well as their implementation. Furthermore, many cities in Europe have used URBACT as a springboard to explore funding opportunities and to improve the way how the available resources are being used and managed.

The **budget for URBACT III (2014-2020) is 96,3 million EUR.** URBACT III covers a broad range of topics, including Public space. Within this topic, the network [UrbSecurity](#) is the most relevant. This network aimed at analysing strategies and projective concepts of cities' design that could contribute to prevent segregation and anti-social behaviour, and consecutively to improve citizen's quality of life and their perception of urban security and safety. The network consists of nine cities from across Europe.

URBACT III will be succeeded by **URBACT IV for the 2021-2027 period**. The approval of the programme of URBACT IV is expected in the second half of 2021. Any updates on URBACT IV will be made available [through this link](#).

Justice Programme 2021 - 2027

The Justice Programme focuses on the general objective of contributing to the further development of a European area of justice based on the rule of law including the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, on mutual recognition and mutual trust, and on judicial cooperation thereby also strengthening democracy, the rule of law and the protection of fundamental rights. It has a budget of EUR 305 million for the 2021-2027 programming period.

The Justice Programme 2021 – 2027 has three sub-priorities:

- a. Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters
- b. Judicial training
- c. Effective access to justice in Europe, including rights of victims of crime and procedural rights in criminal proceedings

Under these priorities, different actions can be financed:

- a. Awareness-raising and dissemination of information
- b. Mutual learning and the exchange of good practices
- c. Analytical and monitoring activities
- d. Training relevant stakeholders
- e. Developing ICTs as well as e-justice tools
- f. Developing the capacity of key European-level networks and European judicial networks
- g. Supporting civil society organisations and non-profit stakeholders
- h. Enhancing knowledge of the programme and dissemination of results

Currently a call for proposals is open focused on transnational projects that enhance the rights of persons suspected of crime, and the rights of victims of crime. More information can be found [here](#).

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme **to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe**. The programme is mainly known for funding mobility opportunities for students in higher education, but its scope is broader than that, it can also focus on topics such as counter narratives (elaborated by the youngsters) against hate discourses and discrimination etc. For the upcoming programming period 2021-2027, Erasmus+ will have an estimated budget of nearly €30 billion. 30% of this budget will be invested in cooperation projects and policy development activities.

The programme has a social innovation dimension, supporting projects in education and sport that contribute to the prevention of urban insecurity, by

preventing polarisation and discrimination. Examples of relevant projects include [MATCH-SPORT](#) which has 9 city partners and addresses the issue of discriminatory violence in amateur sport. Another example is [TISOVA](#), a project that focused on training professionals, volunteers and elderly people to identify and provide assistance to elderly victims of abuse.

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)¹¹

The ESF Plus will be the EU's main instrument dedicated to investing in people. It aims to build a more social and inclusive Europe. It will support Member States in tackling the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and achieving high employment levels, fair social protection and a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the transition to a green and digital economy. The ESF+ focuses on the principles that are set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights. Amongst the pillars are social inclusion and social innovation, where calls for urban security related projects may be launched.

Each Member State, in partnership with the European Commission, agrees on one or more Operational Programmes for ESF funding for the seven-year programming period. Operational Programmes describe the priorities for ESF activities and their objectives.

The EU distributes ESF funding to the Member States and regions to finance their operational programmes. These programmes fund employment-related projects which are run by a range of public and private organisations called beneficiaries. These projects benefit their participants – usually individuals, but also companies or organisations.

The European Investment Bank loans

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the bank of the European Union. The EIB provides financing, advisory services and blending of loans with EU and other grant funding. The EIB has around 3,500 staff including technical sector expertise, with offices in all EU member states. Activities focus on the following priority areas: climate and environment, cohesion, innovation and skills, small and medium-sized businesses and infrastructure.

Approximately one third of all EIB lending has an urban dimension (incl. energy efficiency, transport, circular economy, water, health, education, public buildings and public spaces). This supports the objectives of the Urban Agenda for the EU and the new Leipzig Charter adopted at the end of 2020.

Benefits of EIB support include among others: attractive interest rates, large volumes, broad range of currencies, long maturities, and project-oriented advice. Support options for public sector clients are the following:

¹¹ Could finance operations under Policy objective 4 , see page 7

- **Investment loans:** Loans typically above €25 million to finance up to 50% of a single large investment project or investment programme, aligned with one or more priorities of the EIB.
- **Framework loans:** Flexible loans to finance an investment programme which consists of smaller projects in pre-agreed areas that are not fully known at time of signature, for example a set of investments under a city's long-term investment plan.
- **Structural programme loans (SPL):** Type of framework loan, co-financing alongside EU Structural and Investment Funds. Can be used to pre-fund the national contribution to EU Operational Programmes.
- **Advisory services:** Technical and financial expertise to develop and implement investment projects and programmes, and to improve institutional and regulatory frameworks.

Security-related investments can be covered:

- **As a component within infrastructure projects (transport, utilities, buildings and public space) and ICT investments including cybersecurity elements.**
- **As dedicated security investments covered by an integrated programme**

[More information on products offered by EIB](#)

1.4 Expected new programmes and funds in the coming years

Beside the programmes mentioned above, the European Commission plans to launch new initiatives that are relevant for urban security. They are outlined below.

European Urban Initiative (EUI)

For the 2021-2027 programming period, the European Urban Initiative (EUI), a new instrument was proposed by the European Commission. In 2021, the EUI is still in its design phase, which means that a part of its concrete implementation remains uncertain at this stage. **Currently, a total of EUR 400 million has been allocated in the ERDF budget for EUI. It is expected that calls for applications will start in 2022. Its aim is to overcome the current diversity in initiatives, programmes and instruments that support urban areas under cohesion policy. The Initiative will strengthen sustainable urban development with integrated and participatory approaches in all urban areas and will support the Urban Agenda for the EU. It builds on all thematic priorities of the Urban Agenda for the EU, including Security in Public Spaces.** The main activities of the EUI will be to support innovative actions (60% of the budget) as well as capacity (20% of the budget) and knowledge building, policy development and communication (20% of the budget). The main pillar of the EUI, to support innovative actions, will replace UIA.

[Explanatory memo: European Urban Initiative – Post 2020](#)

More information on EUI will be available via this link

Rights and Values Programme

Part of the Justice, Rights and Values Fund, the Rights and Values Programme is a new programme for the 2021-2027 programming period, **with an allocated budget of 642 million EUR**. The main aim of this fund will be to **contribute to the protection and promotion of EU values, with the goal to sustain open, democratic and inclusive societies**. The programme's objectives are threefold: (i) to promote equality and rights, (ii) to promote citizen engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union (iii) to fight violence. The allocated budget will be used for activities built around awareness raising and training, mutual learning, analytical and monitoring, support to civil society organisations and developing capacities of European networks.

To mention a concrete example, the third objective will be given shape by a continuation of the Daphne funding programme, which was launched in 1997. The main objective of this programme is to contribute to the prevention of, and the fight against all forms of violence occurring in the public or the private domain. It does so by aiming to take preventive measures and provide support and protection for victims and groups at risk. Previously, Daphne funding has been used to support projects related to violence in rural and urban areas. At this stage, exact details on thematic focus in the upcoming programming period are unclear.

New European Bauhaus (NEB)

The New European Bauhaus is an initiative launched by the new European Commission. It is currently still in its design phase. Thematically, it is a broad initiative, describing itself as *'a creative and interdisciplinary initiative, convening a space of encounter to design future ways of living, situated at the crossroads between art, culture, social inclusion, science and technology. It brings the Green Deal to our living places and calls for a collective effort to imagine and build a future that is sustainable, inclusive and beautiful for our minds and for our souls.'*

The programme aims to set up at least five pilot projects, supported by specific calls for proposals. This will be part of its delivery, which is expected to start in September 2021. Considering that **one of the goals is to create more inclusive, accessible spaces, the NEB might also be interesting for urban authorities when it comes to security in public spaces.**

The New European Bauhaus support framework will most likely be composed of different funding sources that will be mobilised in different ways over time. How this will be done will depend on what will come out of the design phase

[More information on the New European Bauhaus](#)



1.5 Overview table

The table below provides an overview of the main goals and characteristics per funding instrument.

Funding instrument	Type of investment	Thematic focus	Stage in innovation cycle	Geographical coverage
Horizon Europe	Investment in research activities	Social inclusion & civic participation; Governance & cooperation; Security by design; Technology & cyber security	Research	Pan-European
New European Bauhaus	Investment in pilot projects	Security by design;	Research / Innovation	Pan-European
European Urban Initiative	Investment in pilot projects	Social inclusion & civic participation; Governance & cooperation; Security by design; Technology and cyber security	Innovation	Pan-European
Rights and Values programme	Investment in innovation	Governance & cooperation	Innovation	Pan-European
URBACT IV	Investment in cooperation	Governance & cooperation; Security by design	Innovation / Implementation	Pan-European
Internal Security Fund	Investment in implementation activities	Social inclusion & civic participation; Governance & cooperation	Implementation	Pan-European and national
Interreg	Investment in innovation implementation activities in cross-border regions	Governance & cooperation; Security by design	Implementation	Regional / Cross-border
ERDF Operational Programmes	Investment in implementation activities	Security by design	Implementation	National or sub-national
Erasmus+	Investment in cooperation and policy development	Social inclusion & civic participation	Implementation	Pan-European
ESF+	Investment in implementation activities	Social inclusion & civic participation	Implementation	National or sub-national
EIB Loans	Loan for infrastructural development	Security by design	Implementation	Pan-European

2 Lessons from the past

In previous programming periods, a variety of projects related to urban security have been implemented. The experiences of those projects provide useful learning material. This chapter demonstrates key lessons learned and practical tips. First, tips on obtaining European funding are listed. Then, tips on the successful implementation of projects are given.

2.1 Tips for acquiring project funding

Get started with 'easier' funds

If you are not familiar with European funding mechanisms, it makes sense to **start with some of the more simple funds** such as ERDF and ESF operational programmes. These funds have a more simplistic approach and usually finance smaller projects which do not always require you to fill out an extensive and detailed project application. Larger pan-European programmes are usually more competitive and require a strong and well-coordinated project proposal.

Know your local policy makers

The programmes that are being implemented at national or local level, such as ERDF, Interreg and ESF+, are developed by local policy makers. These policy makers are the first go-to persons when you have questions regarding a certain funding instrument. While you orient yourself on funding opportunities, take the time to contact the policy makers in your region that are responsible for the different EU-funding instruments.

Get started with your integrated urban development strategy

You can develop an integrated urban development strategy in a bottom-up manner. This helps when applying for EU funding, since the commission often asks for a clear overview of challenges and needs in the region before they can allocate funding. When developing your strategy, make sure to include security aspects.

Find the right partnership

The success of a project application depends to a large extent on the proposed project partnership (consortium). A **strong partnership that includes both technical know-how and administrative and executive capacity is more likely to have success in applying for European funding**. Generally, this means **involving local governments, research organisations, NGOs and SME's**. Each partner should cover different specialisations that are relevant for your project. Additionally, it is good to **agree on the roles and responsibilities beforehand** in a project handbook. In this way, all partners know what is expected of them should the project be rewarded. A final tip would be to incorporate partners in the team with senior project management experience with European projects. Having this experience on board can help to navigate the (sometimes complicated) administrative requirements for European funding.

QROC – Quick Response for Operational Centers

Funding: ISF-Police

The Quick Response for Operational Centers (QROC) project shares needs and best practices and increases the foresight regarding (the uptake of) new innovative technologies for operational centers to improve the public protection. To that aim, the QROC project has built a communication capability between the Law Enforcement National Operational Centers (NOC) to share quickly and secure operational data across borders regarding terrorist threats to protect the public. The partnership of this project is central to its success. The 18 partners consist of local and national authorities, research centres and police departments. The different responsibilities of each partner are registered in a project management handbook. More information can be found on the project website: <https://qroc-project.eu/publications/deliverables/>

Define clear and measurable project outputs and results

When applying for funding, **it should be clear from the start what the project outputs and results will be**. The outputs and results can vary significantly per project, depending on the challenge(s) that is/are addressed and solutions that are proposed. **It's important to keep the expected project outputs and results realistic**. The available funding for your project will allow you to address certain security issues, but not let insecurity disappear from one day to the next. It is therefore also important to **make the outputs and results specific**. When writing the proposal, it should be clear to the assessor what can be expected at the end of the project.

In some cases, intended project results can be clearly measurable. For example, a security related project can have the intended result to decrease the number of reported assaults in a certain area. **In case of measurable results, it is important to make sure the monitoring of the results is well thought-out**.

SafeCi - Safer Space for Safer Cities

Funding: Internal Security Fund

The SafeCi project facilitated the exchange of information on tested solutions on the protection of public spaces between consortium partners, representing 10 European police authorities. Coordinated by the Berlin Police, SafeCi was funded by the ISF. The aim of the project was to analyse and evaluate existing concepts, strategies and technical solutions to improve the protection of public spaces and to ensure public safety in Europe. The result of the project was a handbook with recommendations and a sustainable network. Another output that was part of this project was a number of workshops which allowed for the dissemination of the project results to a larger audience.

<https://www.berlin.de/polizei/aufgaben/praevention/safeci/artikel.786181.en.php>

Highlight innovative and unique character

With almost all opportunities for funding, the amount of project proposals exceeds the total amount of available funding. Therefore, it is important to **highlight what makes your project proposal of added value compared to potential other candidates**. Especially when it comes to project proposals submitted **within the European Urban Initiative (EUI)**, it is important to **highlight the innovative nature of your project**. As indicated in the first chapter of this guidebook, **more than half of the EUI's budget will be allocated to support innovative actions**.

Additionally, it is important to **highlight why you apply to the specific fund** and, if possible, why other (EU) financing opportunities are less suitable for your proposal. In this respect, it is important to **be well aware of the overall objectives of the fund**. In the proposal, **it should be highlighted why your project will contribute to achieving one or more of these objectives**.

Case study example: Be Secure – Feel Secure

Funding: Urban Innovative Actions

The Be Secure – Feel Secure (BSFS) project provides a good example of a project that provides an innovative solution to a security related problem. This project takes place in the Municipality of Pireaus. Like many other European cities, Pireaus is characterized by i.a. low social cohesion, sense of degradation and high population density. BSFS addresses these urban security threats. The innovative character of the project lies in its holistic approach, providing a framework that focuses on both crime prevention as well as the improvement of the actual and perceived security. This will be achieved through the collaboration of key urban entities, infrastructures and the citizens, entailing seamless information sharing and increased social cohesion. As a result, the project will deliver an innovative governance framework and a collaborative urban security management platform in order to improve both the urban security landscape of Pireaus and increase its citizens' perception of safety.

<https://uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/piraeus>

Transferability

European funding through cohesion policy instruments has as a primary goal to reduce the differences between European regions. Hence, **projects are more**

SOLIDIFY

Funding: Justice Programme Supporting Initiatives in the Field of Drugs Policy

Started in January 2018, the SOLIDIFY project sought to give cities that host a Supervised Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF) specific tools that would enable them to support the organisations that are managing the local SDCF scheme and to evaluate the local impact of such facilities on security and public peace. One of the end results of the project is a guidebook on how SDCFs can be used to foster public security and social cohesion in Europe. The guidebook can be found [here](#).

likely to be funded if they can provide relevant lessons for other European regions as well. Most of the calls for proposals discussed in this document highlight the importance of the transferability of the projects. This means that the issue that your project proposal addresses should be present to some degree in other local realities in Europe as well. It is important to stress this in your project proposal. **As an outcome of the project you are often asked to deliver some form of guidelines, a handbook, or set of practical tips that can help other European authorities to tailor the practices to their local needs.**

2.2 Making your project excel in implementation

Make use of an early start

The **starting phase of a project is essential** in determining the success of the end result. **It allows for re-calibration of the project approach, to ensure that any mistakes in the proposal are not continued in the implementation.** At the same time, **project activities that are clearly outlined can already be implemented to get an early start.** The current pandemic has shown that ways of working can change drastically within a short time, so it is essential to make use of the time you have within your project team. **If you can get started, you should.**

ToNite – Community-based urban security

Funding: Urban Innovative Actions Initiative

The ToNite project is a good example where making use of an early start has allowed the project to move into a next phase even during the pandemic. The project is aimed at enhancing the perception of urban safety at night-time through collaborative policies based on social empowerment and the active participation of residents and stakeholders. The project is challenged by the current pandemic due to the strong focus of the project on participation. With the early start however, the project was able to complete all planned activities in 2020. More information can be found on the project website:

<https://uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/turin-call4>

Ensuring integrated and participative approaches

Projects should also have a participative approach in the sense that in the project proposal stage, **external partners that can be of added value should be included in the design phase.** These partners could be local universities and research institutions, NGO's, private actors or national governmental institutions that bring in external expertise and knowledge. When it comes to security, **including local stakeholders that are directly involved in the local security management could be of added value** in the implementation of the project. Examples in this respect could be for example local police forces, first responders and event organisers. Moreover, a project itself could have the aim to improve the local collaboration between the stakeholders that contribute to the local security situation (see example below).

In this process of ensuring integrated and participative approaches by seeking collaboration with external partners, **it is important to agree on the division of roles and tasks in an early stage.** Furthermore, it is important to keep in mind that **increasing the number of external partners also brings risks regarding the implementation of the project.** In the latest case it might happen that project partners could not contribute to the project in the way they promised and a

larger number of project partners can complicate communication and decision-making. Finally it is always important to **think about risk management to tackle complicating factors that might hamper the implementation of your project.** This has been particularly evident in the past year, when the implementation of many projects came under pressure due to limitations on physical meetings.

Secu4All

Funding: Internal Security Fund

Funded by the ISF, The Secu4All project aims to strengthen the capabilities of local and regional authorities in ensuring the protection of public spaces against potential risks. Secu4All addresses the need of local authorities to cooperate with a broad range of local stakeholders from both the public and private sector to tackle the complex challenge of ensuring security in public spaces. The project will develop training content providing local authorities with theoretical and practical knowledge with which they can improve their local prevention actions or programmes to safeguard their public spaces against risks.

<https://efus.eu/en/topics/activity/20676/>

Think outside your region – security knows no borders

Some security challenges are not hampered by national borders. If the challenge is only tackled in one location, the issue can quickly come back from neighbouring regions. Hence it is important to also look outside your region. Are the challenges you encounter similar as those of your neighbours? Perhaps it is worthwhile to join forces and tackle the challenge jointly. A great instrument to do this is Interreg. Interreg allows funding to projects that cross national borders.

EPyRIS

Funding: Interreg V-B Southwest Europe

The EPyRIS project provides a consensual management strategy for fire management. It aims to respond to the environmental and public safety risks that appear after the occurrence of large fires, in the burned areas or their areas of influence. It was important for the EPyRIS project to have a transnational project partnership because it allowed a better understanding of the problem and the concerns raised in South-West Europe, as well as the design of common tools, with the knowledge of top-level scientists, combined with agencies with responsibilities managers capable of applying it in solving real problems.

More information can be found on the project website: <https://epyris.es/>



Suggestions for further reading

More information on the different funds

Fund	Website
Horizon Europe	https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe_en
New European Bauhaus	https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en
European Urban Initiative	https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/brochure/explanatory_memo_eui_post_2020_en.pdf
Rights and Values programme	https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/04/19/justice-rights-and-values-council-adopts-programmes-of-up-to-1-8-billion-for-2021-2027/
URBACT IV	https://urbact.eu/tags/urbact-iv#
Internal Security Fund	https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties/internal-security-fund-police/union-actions_en
Interreg	https://interreg.eu/
ERDF Operational Programmes	https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/
Erasmus+	https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en
ESF+	https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=62&langId=en
EIB Loans	https://www.eib.org/en/products/index.html

More information on the Partnership on Security in Public Spaces of the Urban agenda

Information	Website
Partnership Web Page	https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda/security-public-spaces
Action plan Partnership on Security in Public Spaces	https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda/security-public-spaces/action-plan/security-public-spaces-partnership-final-action-plan