

Municipality Echt-Susteren Country The Netherlands

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Name project

Neighborhood watch in Echt-Susteren

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- O Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- O Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- O Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualita' urbana);
- O Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- O Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalita, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- X Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project

Neighborhood watch, an initiative by and for citizens of our cities and villages. Initiated by volunteers, who want to keep an eye out in their neighborhood to keep it safe. The members of the neighborhood watch tend to patrol in their neighborhood to signal for unusual aspects in their surroundings. As citizens they know their neighborhood at its best. They know in an instant if there is happening something unusual or even criminal. They pay extra attention to the neighborhood, together with the police and other organizations, like the local government. The local government helps the teams to get started. If needed the teams can contact the police for assistance.

Goal project



The neighborhood watch aims to increase the social control in several districts. It tends to make citizens more aware of unsafe situations in their neighborhood, so they can prevent burglars from breaking in their houses and diminish other kinds of nuisance. It also keeps the neighborhoods livable and creates strong social communities. Thanks to a effective cooperation between volunteers, police and the local government.

Result project

In Echt-Susteren there are so far 9 active neighborhood watches, spread over several districts. The teams have between 12 and 70 volunteers. Over 230 citizens are active in one of the teams! All contributing to a safer and more social neighborhood. More and more districts are showing their interest in having a neighborhood watch. And it works! During some patrols the neighborhood watch did actually prevent burglaries from happening.

The team members are also involved by making dangerous traffic situations more safe. They all use an app, BuitenBeter, to mention dangerous situations to the authorities so they can be handled effective and with care.

Finance (costs and benefits)

The neighborhood watches are supported by the local government Echt-Susteren. The total costs are about ≤ 4.000 for all the neighborhood watches.

Staff (staff involved and use of time)

The neighborhood watches are supported by the local government Echt-Susteren and the police. Each neighborhood has its own police officer. They communicate and exchange experiences on a regular basis. From time to time they gather together to give each other an update, try to reach out to new volunteers and inform citizens about the developments. A civil servant is appointed for a couple of hours per week to support this.

Link website www.echt-susteren.nl/buurtpreventie

Impression of the neighborhood watches in Echt-Susteren



