





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 an 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 effectively 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](http://www.echt-susteren.nl/buurtpreventie)

*Impression of the neighborhood watches in Echt-Susteren*

