



PRoTECT Newsletter

Newsletter II
30 September 2019



Dear all,

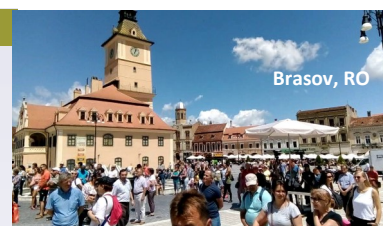
Security is identified as a key priority in the Joint Declaration on the EU's legislative priorities for 2018-19. The Commission will continue to drive progress ahead as announced in the Informal Leaders' meeting on security, paving the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union. ENLETS, as subgroup of the Council's the Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP) and reporting to the Standing Committee of Operational Coordination and Internal Security (COSI), holds a network of 28 Member states that are sharing best practices, co-creation and activates security research. In close cooperation with DG Home and the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS), PRoTECT project has

been utilising the draft version of the Vulnerability Assessment tool, developed by DG HOME in order to provide the Policy group, the Commission, the Practitioners network and the to be established Operators Forum with tangible results, such as valuable feedback and practical recommendations based on the technology and soft target site assessment tool.

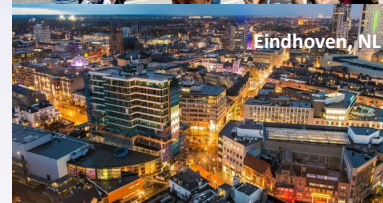
We are proud to deliver tangible results after the completion on the Vulnerability Assessment related to the protection of public spaces in five European cities (EINDHOVEN, MALAGA, LARISA, VILNIUS and BRASOV) along with the findings of the 1st PRoTECT Seminar that took place on 17th of July in the city of BRASOV in Romania.

We will continue this second project year with pilot testing of innovative solutions in these five cities enhance security and increase resilience. So, stay tuned and follow PRoTECT developments.

Patrick Padding
Project Coordinator



Brasov, RO



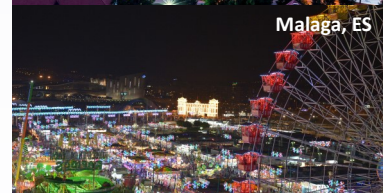
Eindhoven, NL



Larisa, GR



Vilnius, LT



Malaga, ES

Save the date!

14-18 October 2019

The 'European Security Week' event in Nice - PRoTECT will be present with presentation and workshop.

29-31 October 2019

MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY EVENT (MSE 2019) in Heraklion, Crete (Gr) - PRoTECT will co-organise the event.

31 October 2019

'Crossing Borders' Innovation Event by Dutch National Police

6-7 November 2019

SRE Security Research Event 2019 in Helsinki, Finland

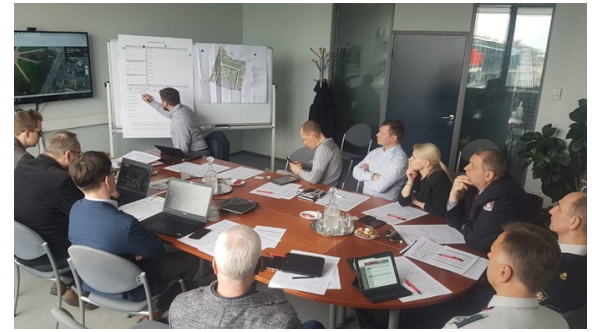
1. Vilnius workshop 15th-16th of April 2019



The Vulnerability Assessment Workshop was held in the city of **Vilnius** in Lithuania on the 15-16 April 2019 and was co-organised by the city of VILNIUS and L3CE. During the assessment, the security vulnerabilities of the renovated city square “Lukiskiu aikste” were analysed using the Manual for Vulnerability Assessment based on the VAT provided by DGHOME. The workshop analysed all the upcoming events in/near Lukiškių square and chose “Kaziuko muge” that is the biggest cultural Lithuanian event during the year, gathering more than half a million of visitors over one weekend.

Sixteen participants from different fields of expertise cooperated to assess the adequacy of the currently established security measures of the selected area, against different types of terrorist attacks. The total number of phases with different variations identified were over 30 and lead to focusing on the event’s main site.

The existing security measures were analysed against all 10 threat scenarios provided in the VAT and prioritised the attack scenarios based on their level of criticality. The analysis shows that both consequences and attack probability vary depending on: which phase is being analysed, the existing security measures, the concentration of people and their location in relation to the main site.



2. Larissa workshop 8th-9th of May 2019

In the context of the PRoTECT project KEMEA co-organised with the city of LARISA a Practitioners Workshop in the city of Larisa in Greece on security measures implemented for Public Open Spaces of Interest (PSOI).

In the workshop, 35 participants from different fields of expertise cooperated to assess the adequacy of the currently established security measures of the “Pazari of Larisa”, against different types of terrorist attacks. The enclosed market of Neapolis constitutes a shopping area that hosts annually the cultural venue of the “Pazari (Bazaar) of Larisa” and was chosen due to its high concentration of people from all over Greece as well as its social, cultural and economic significance.



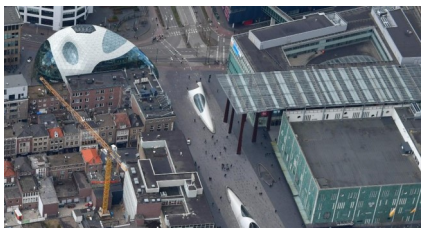
Through the implementation of the VAT provided by DG HOME, 10 scenarios of possible terrorist attack were generated and analyzed in five phases, resulting in different Levels of Risk, based on the estimation of the Probability and the Consequences of a terrorist attack with various means. The participants were actively engaged in thorough discussions around specific challenges, the desired capabilities for addressing these challenges, and concluded by proposing countermeasures.

The feedback from the participants regarding the workshop was positive and further interest was showed for the improvement of the cooperation between the stakeholders in the security of “soft targets”. By the end of the Vulnerability Assessment Workshop, all the necessary information was gathered for the generation of results about the security of the PSOI in Larissa and the methodology and the effectiveness of the tool were tested. The findings of the tools revealed many applicable security solutions with some improvement on the tool’s methodology and clarifications in the process of the assessment to be desired.

3. Eindhoven workshop

4th-6th of June 2019

The PROTECT Workshop co-organised by the city of EINDHOVEN and DITSS and took place in the city of Eindhoven in the Netherlands. The location was the square of “18 Septemberplein” and was specifically chosen because of its multiple use, the usually high crowd density, the location in the city centre and the symbolic name of the square.

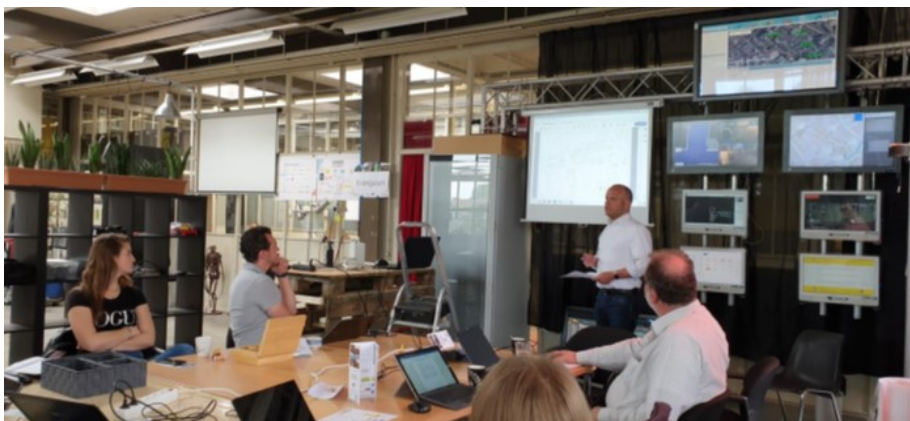


The main objective was to enhance the situational awareness of the Municipality Staff responsible for security of public spaces, to familiarize several Stakeholders with the VAT Manual and the VAT Tool, and to enable them to identify the vulnerabilities in the current security measures of “soft targets”.



Sixteen participants from different fields of expertise cooperated to assess the adequacy of the currently established security measures.

All participants actively contributed to the process and provided feedback.

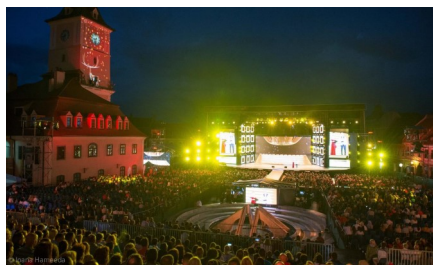


4. Brasov workshop

26th-27th of June 2019

The objective of the Vulnerability Assessment Workshop organised in the city of Brasov of Romania by the city of BRASOV, IGPR and EFUS was to identify the weaknesses in the current security measures of the Council Square in reference to a possible terrorist attack.

The “Council Square” has about 11.000 sq. m and a capacity of 12.000 persons. The Square is located in the middle of the city, making it the central point for the locals meeting and the place where the Golden Stag Festival is organised. The Council Square was specifically chosen for this Vulnerability Assessment due to its high concentration of people from all Romania and abroad as well as its social, cultural and economic significance for the city of Brasov.



A number of 21 stakeholders with expertise in the relevant fields were gathered. Most participants had an active role in the workshop, having a collaborative, open attitude towards the activity, offering significant value to the assessment of the analysed ‘soft target’ vulnerabilities. At the workshop, the world café methodology was used with success, as all participants were involved in the discussions, bringing their professional expertise on different security aspects in regard to the analysed PSOI.

5. Malaga workshop

27th-28th of June 2019

Malaga Vulnerability Assessment Workshop was co-organised by the city of MALAGA and MR-SPAIN. During the first steps of PROTECT project, the Municipality of Malaga identified the fair of Malaga as the main event to test the Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT), due to its characteristics: number of people, physical space, event duration, media impact or the potentiality of becoming terrorist target.

“Malaga Festival”, is an open space of 220.000 sq. m with physical boundaries in the east (elevated highway and congress hall), in the south (high speed train railways) and in the west (dry riverbed). Within the area different subareas are identified and activities are changing along the day. During afternoon and night hours people enter and exit the festival area constantly.



A total of 17 participants from a variety of fields participated and categories of vulnerabilities were identified. The multidisciplinary background and expertise of the participants was very important to collect valid information related to the level of threat.

The workshop was structured in four blocks:

- the first one was devoted to make understandable the project (general framework of the project),
- the second one to explain the tool and the manual,
- the third one to work in separate groups in the different phases and
- the fourth one was related to discuss the opportunity of identified technologies in each of the phases, review of the tool and conclusions.

At long term, it is expected all EU local Municipalities to be familiar with the vulnerability self-assessment and with a broad range of good practices and technology concepts and to be willing to improve the PROTECTION of their public spaces.

Vulnerability Assessment Workshops

Target Group

- Municipality Staff responsible for security of public spaces
- Stakeholders (LEAs, EMS, FRs etc.)

Objectives

- Familiarize with the Vulnerability Assessment Manual and Tool provided by DGHOME in terms of operationality, efficacy, adaptability and sustainability. TNO and EFUS provide the assessment tool training package.
- Enable identification of the vulnerabilities of “soft targets”.
- Enhance awareness in regards to the security status of infrastructures against terrorist attacks.

FIVE sites assessed with divert characteristics

- Main Square- Lukiskiu Square in **Vilnius**, Lithuania.
- Nightlife Area- 18 Septemberplein - Main square in **Eindhoven**, Netherlands
- Shopping area – Bazaar of **Larissa**, Greece
- Main city square - **Brasov**, Romania
- Cultural venue - Ferias and congress center in **Malaga**, Spain

Phases investigated

- Phase 1: Access to the Venue
- Phase 2: Parking and Transport
- Phase 3: Approach to Venue
- Phase 4: Arrival at Venue
- Phase 5: Venue Security - No Access Control
- Phase 6: Venue Security -With Access Control

Conclusions and results

Overall, around 87 participants were involved in the 5 workshops.

The participants consisted of municipality staff responsible for the security of the cities, personnel from law enforcement agencies, personnel from emergency response agencies and researchers.

The vulnerability assessment generated valuable information about future security threats, existing security gaps and security measures for further improvement of the cities' security against terrorist attacks.

Each Workshop and Vulnerability Assessment Tool review provided:

- Feedback and recommendations to DG Home
- Feedback and recommendation for the city hosted the workshop
- Suggestions and recommendations for technology assessment

The five Vulnerability Assessment Workshops outcomes and results on the use of the VAT and the manual, shed light into the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that the tool offers first to local authorities actors and local relevant stakeholders in terms of policy impact, but also at the EU level, in particular for the advancement of an European policy framework in regards to the protection of public spaces. The overall aggregation and report on results is produced by EFUS, L3CE, IGPR, EINDHOVEN, MALAGA, LARISA, VILNIUS, BRASOV and MR-SPAIN.

The participant's **feedback** concerning all Workshops and the Vulnerability Assessment Tool was mainly positive. The experts invited to participate at the workshops were interested in the tool and considered it valuable for their cities' strategic security planning. Last but not least, through the practical implementation of the VAT, valuable feedback was collected for further adjusted of the tool to increase its efficiency and accuracy of analysis.

The **recommendations** made are two-fold. They aimed to give Insights to the European Commission in terms of validity and reliability status of the tool but also to provide municipalities with further advice and guidance to improve the replication of the VA in other PSOI so as to identify vulnerabilities and mitigation solutions to reinforce their counterterrorism strategy.

Some recommendations aimed at improving the tool *per se* while some other aimed at fostering a European framework that involves all relevant stakeholders into the process of assessing soft targets vulnerabilities and improving their protection.





Brasov Seminar 17th of July 2019

The first **European Seminar** entitled “Identifying vulnerabilities and mitigating the risks of terrorist threats on Public Spaces: Cooperation between all stakeholders” took place on July 17, 2019 in **Brasov**, Romania, and presented the “Soft Target Site Assessment” and the accompanying manual for local authorities, as well as the results from five pilot assessments in the five partner cities. It was also an opportunity to exchange on the need to strengthen cooperation among all stakeholders involved in order to respond to new threats against public spaces.

The Seminar was organised by PRoTECT’s partners, the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) and the Municipality of Brasov, with the collaboration of the project consortium. It was attended by both consortium partners and external visitors from Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom and Czech Republic.

It included a keynote session, seminars, World Café interactive Sessions and conclusions presented and coordinated by esteemed speakers. The discussions held during the PRoTECT 1st European Seminar provided stakeholders with tangible input to start a sustainable and effective collaboration on the protection of public spaces with the intent to enrich the vulnerability assessment process and VAW results held in the 5 Municipalities.



Project Details

The PROTECT project has received funding from the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Police under Grant Agreement n° 815356.

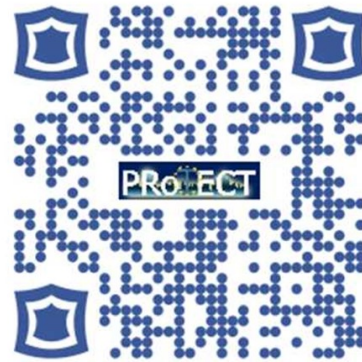
Starting Date: 1st November 2018
Duration: 24 months



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