



Factsheet N°1

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Introduction to the PRoTECT Manual for Vulnerability Assessment

PRoTECT

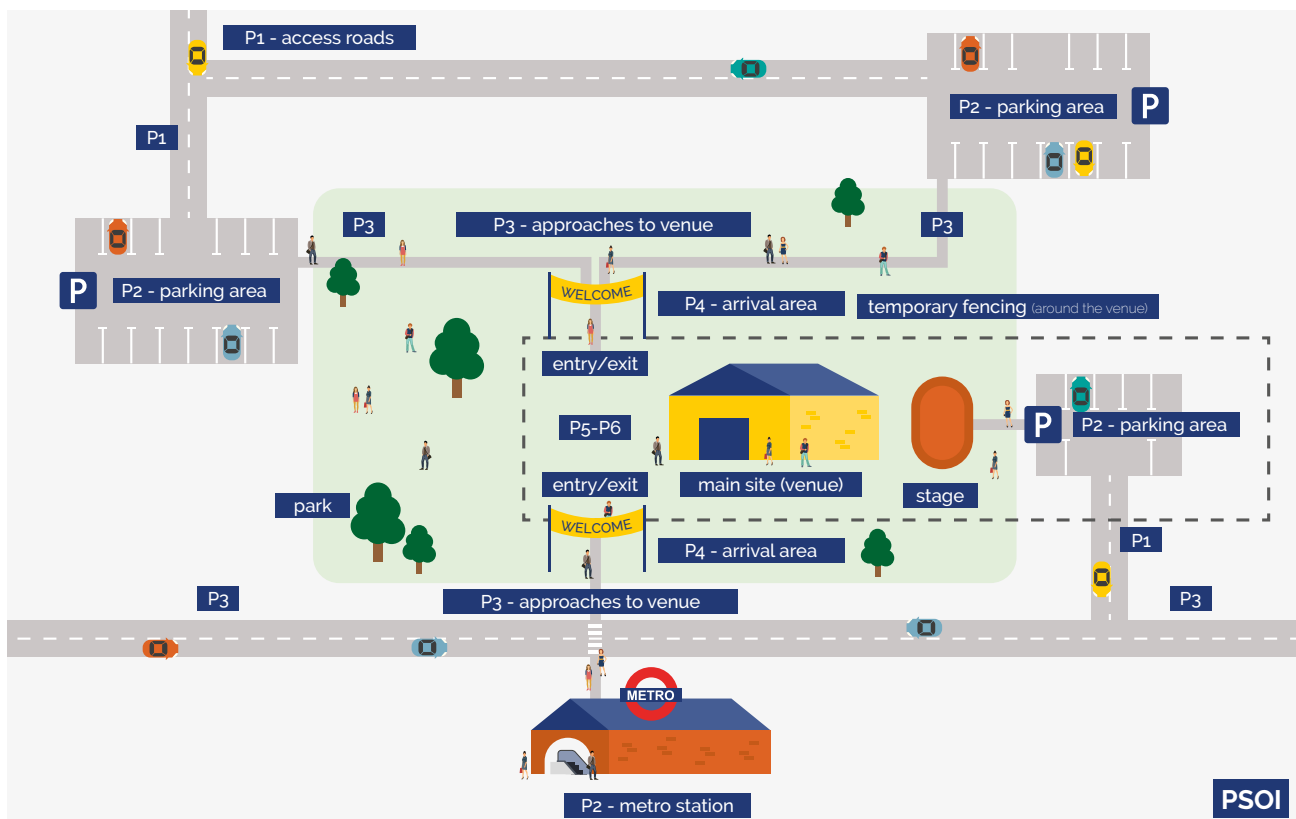
The word "PRoTECT" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a dark blue background that features a stylized city skyline with several buildings. Yellow stars are scattered around the skyline, particularly above the letters 'R' and 'E'.

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WHAT IS THE MANUAL?

- 👉 The **Vulnerability Assessment Manual** was created by **TNO and Efus** as part of the **EU ISFP PRoTECT project**, which aims to strengthen municipal staff's ability by putting in place an overarching concept where tools, technology, training and field demonstrations lead to situational awareness and to an improvement of direct responses to protect public places before, during and after a terrorist threat.
- 👉 The manual is based on the **EU Vulnerability Assessment Tool (EU VAT)**, which was developed by **DG Home** as part of the European Commission's efforts to support Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) in the protection of public spaces. The EU VAT is a Microsoft Excel workbook containing 6 spreadsheets. Each spreadsheet relates to a specific phase a Public Space of Interest (PSOI) (i.e. main site or one of the surrounding sites) may have. Each spreadsheet denotes a 'phase' an individual goes through to get to the main site (i.e. sport stadium, outdoor concert hall, hotel, school or other public gathering area). The Manual and these factsheets both follow the structure of the EU VAT.



- 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

- 👉 The EU VAT, and by extension the manual, aims to identify and help assess the vulnerability of a specific public space with regard to different types of terrorist attacks, an overview of specific areas that might be soft targets¹ and showing what areas are well mitigated against terrorism².
- 👉 The results of the assessment enable the responsible agencies for protecting a public space to better focus their mitigating actions regarding the identified soft targets.

¹ **Soft target:** is a site that is insufficiently protected against a terrorist attack, commonly associated with places where people gather in large numbers, such as museums, cinemas, religious sites, shopping mall etc.

² The VAT considers crowd density a highly relevant factor, and it includes some information to help classify the crowd density on a scale from 2 to 5 (person per square meter). However, there is no other information on the relevance of this information, or on the classification scale that is provided.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MANUAL ?

- 👉 The Manual aims to help municipal staff that are responsible for safety and security in public spaces and their stakeholders. It aids them in identifying vulnerabilities in a PSOI to different types of terrorist attacks, and in developing awareness of soft targets against terrorism, taking into account in place measures.

In this manual, the main site, together with the surrounding sites associated with the activity, is called the Public Space of Interest (PSOI).

- 👉 **What is a Public Space of Interest ?** – a space generally open and accessible to the public, such as roads, parks and municipal buildings. PSOI might also be semi-public spaces, such as train stations, and privately-owned spaces such as shopping malls. The following categories of public spaces of interest (PSOI) can be assessed using the Manual³:



Transport hubs

Train stations, bus hubs, underground metro stations, etc.



Squares

Squares where many events take place, that are located next to important buildings, have regular big markets, festivals, etc.



Shopping areas

Malls, main shopping streets in city centres, etc.



Nightlife areas

Areas with a high density of bars, pubs and or/nightclubs, restaurants, coffee shops, small concert halls (NB: this example is not included in the EU VAT but fits the criteria of a soft target in a public space)



Cultural venues

Concert hall, museum, monuments, sport events, stadiums, amusement parks, tourist sites, etc.



Business venues

Big hotels with meeting rooms, large offices, conference centres etc.



Places of worship

Churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, etc.



Institutional venues

Public buildings, education buildings, health buildings, etc.

³N.B : The EU VAT does not help in identifying which public spaces are public spaces of interest, nor does it give indicators to help group or cluster different similar events happening at the same public space.

- 👉 **What is a main site?** – Some areas in a given public space, where large crowds gather, might be considered by a municipality as having a higher risk of a terrorist attack than others. These busy areas generally appear because some specific activity in the area takes place, such as people visiting a concert or commuters at a train station. **The area within a public space where the activity takes place is known as the 'main site'**
- 👉 **What is a surrounding site?** – The activity at the main site can lead to other congested areas around the main site (e.g. an access road to a sports venue or parking space), known as 'surrounding sites'. These should also be taken into consideration when conceiving a security plan for the main site.





WHO IS THE MANUAL FOR ?

- **Municipal staff from various departments are to some degree involved in and/or responsible for the safety and security of people in their municipality, especially in public space.** It is these local stakeholders that the manual is designed to help.
- As management of security depends on one city to the other, it is difficult to identify the specific roles of different actors in the protection of public spaces. However, the municipal services that should be involved in the process of identifying vulnerabilities against terrorism in public spaces are listed as follows:

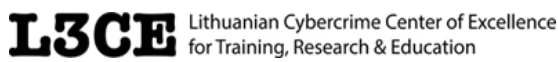
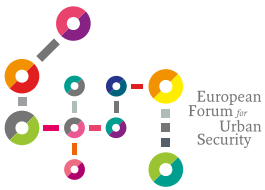


The involvement of other stakeholders outside municipal services is also necessary according to the EU VAT model. These actors could include, among others:





PROJECT PARTNERS



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