



## **Mitigating security gaps: How to support local and regional authorities in adopting a comprehensive methodology to identify vulnerabilities and evaluate solutions?**

### **PRoTECT project final event on the Protection of Public Spaces**

*14, 15 and 16 June 2021, three online sessions from 2-4pm CET  
English - French translation will be provided*

After two and a half years, the PRoTECT project is coming to an end. During its implementation, despite the challenges imposed by the health crisis, the project has developed a number of tools that will help local authorities and other local actors to better prevent, respond and react to terrorist threats in public spaces.

This final event has been divided into three sessions:

- The first session will be dedicated to an institutional discussion focusing on the cities' progress in developing tools to prepare for and counter terrorist threats
- The second session will focus on sharing PRoTECT tools and their applications at the local level by local authorities.
- The third and final session will offer an opportunity to exchange tools and experiences between the different projects funded by the European Commission.

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*Law enforcement agencies, city representatives, local security practitioners responsible for the protection of public spaces, national and European stakeholders as well as the private sector are invited to take part in this event. You can attend either all three or any session of your choice. Registration is free of charge and compulsory for each session.*

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## **Three sessions**

### **>>> Session 1- 14 June 2pm CET**

**Panel: How far have we come in involving local and regional authorities in the protection of public spaces?**



It seems that institutional efforts to strengthen the role of local and regional authorities have been consolidating in Europe and beyond. The European Commission is committed to reinforcing the involvement of local and regional authorities in the protection of public spaces. It promotes dialogue and exchange between national, regional and local authorities and supports the development of operational projects. This is also reflected in the EU Security Union Strategy (2020) and in its Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU. At the international level, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism are implementing a Global Programme on countering terrorist threats against Vulnerable Targets which promotes a cooperative approach involving multilevel stakeholders.

This panel will discuss key policy recommendations resulting from local, European and international institutions' work to support relevant actors in the protection of public spaces. How prepared are cities to prevent, anticipate and react to terrorist threats? What needs to be improved to facilitate local authorities' actions?

Speakers:

- Representative of the DG Home, European Commission
- Representative of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism,
- Elizabeth Johnston, Executive Director, European Forum for Urban Security (Efus)
- Patrick Padding, Core group leader European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services (ENLETS)

**>>> Session 2- 15 June 2pm CET**

**Panel: What tools to improve local and regional authorities' role in the protection of public spaces? The experience of the PRoTECT project**

Through intense research and practical exercises, the PRoTECT project has developed tools that facilitate cities' role in improving their security self-assessment for the identification of vulnerabilities. These tools also allow for the scanning of existing technological solutions for the identification and evaluation of possible responses against a given security problem in public spaces. This session will focus on those tools and how they have been tested by cities in specific public spaces. In a case study format, the experiences of city partners in the evaluation of solutions to protect their public spaces will be presented.

Speakers:

- PRoTECT Road Map, Giuseppe Cascavilla, PostDoc researcher at the Eindhoven University of Technology and Jheronimus Academy of Data Science
- Securipedia, Puck van den Brink, Researcher and consultant Public Safety and Security at TNO
- PRoTECT cases studies in technology solutions evaluation:
  - The City of Brasov Case study
  - The City of Eindhoven Case study
  - The City of Malaga Case study



- The City of Larissa Case study
- The City of Vilnius Case study

## >>> Session 3- 16 Jun 2pm CET

### Panel: Exchanging experiences and other tools among projects on the protection of public spaces

Since its inception, the PRoTECT project has sought to initiate and maintain a collaboration with other projects funded by the European Commission through the Internal Security Fund Programme (ISFP), as a way of building synergies and contributing to the sharing of experiences in order to improve local action but also to create collective knowledge.

The aim of this session is to exchange tools and practices developed by similar projects. This will support urban security stakeholders in exploring the complementarity of the various different tools, and offer opportunities to explore means of maintaining a sustainable network beyond the PRoTECT project. Finally, the session is also intended to enhance cooperation between police authorities, academic partners and further institutional European networks on the protection of public spaces.

#### Invited projects:

- Protect Allied Cities against Terrorism in Securing Urban aREas (Pactesur ), City of Nice
- Simulation Training & Evaluation for the Protection of croWded public SpacEs (Stepwise), CS Group
- Safer Space for Safer Cities (Safeci), Police of Berlin
- SECUR’CITIES, City of Lyon
- Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST), Huddersfield University

[Register](#)

#### Project Partners :



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