



PSCEurope

PSCE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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PSC Europe: Information

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Foreword

2019 has proved to be another extremely important and challenging year. PSCE's commitment in promoting practitioners' needs as well as its involvement in policy-making processes at EU level throughout the year shows that PSCE is and will remain recognised as one of the major actors in public safety communications in Europe.

The Board Members did their best to bring PSCE's leverage and expertise to a new level with the support from the Brussels Secretariat.

Overall, the year of 2019 opened the way for greater improvement in the digital realm such as broadband (with the project BroadWay) and 5G. On the other hand and naturally related, PSCE has also worked extensively on improving capabilities when it comes to connectivity with a special focus on Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Public Warning Systems, Drones and Training. All of these aspects aim at improving capabilities in the field of PPDR.

PSCE has also produced significant work in the field of standardisation to ensure that the procedures and guidelines established by the crisis response community will be properly recognised and certified. As such, PSCE has become member of ETSI with 3GPP membership rights, participated in the organisation of 3 CEN Workshop agreements and is also a market representative of 3GPP.

Finally, PSCE commits to pursue responsible innovation putting ethics, data protection and social impact assessments at the heart of its work.

Executive summary

PSCE carried out a great deal of important activities throughout 2019 to strengthen cooperation in the field of Public Safety Communications.

To better represent the interests of its members, PSCE continued nurturing its relationship with the European Commission and Parliament as well as the national authorities responsible for civil protection.

Remaining a key player in the sector of Public Safety Communication demands both to stand at the forefront of current EU debates and to have significant awareness of the latest technological advances. In this regard, PSCE has intensively participated in debates and discussions on a variety of hot issues including: standardisation activities at ETSI and 3GPP, PPDR Broadband Networks, SatComm, the adoption of 5G, and the Public Safety Internet of Things (PSIoT). This was achieved through the:

1. organisation of two high-level conferences;
2. participation in numerous external meetings, workshops and seminars;
3. production of policy papers and other publications;
4. work on the development of new and ongoing EU-funded projects

Moreover, owing to their strong links within European institutions and the PPDR sector in general, PSCE representatives have been invited to participate in numerous key meetings and talks on areas touching emergency communications.

PSCE remains an expert in providing accurate and timely information and delivers a range of regular publications offering news and information towards its constituency and stakeholders. PSCE also acts as a dissemination partner in some European wide projects to promote their results and raise awareness among target audiences.

What is PSCE?

Public Safety Communication Europe Forum (PSCE) is a permanent autonomous organisation aiming at improving provision of public safety communications and information management system aimed at enhancing the safety of European citizens. PSCE provides a unique common platform for researchers, industry and users enabling regular exchange of ideas, information, experiences and best practices.

1. Our Mission

To achieve its mission, PSCE carries out in particular various activities including consolidation and validation of user requirements, raising awareness, identification of non-technological issues, promotion of common views, participation to EU funded projects, etc.

[Click here to view PSCE's mission on our website.](#)

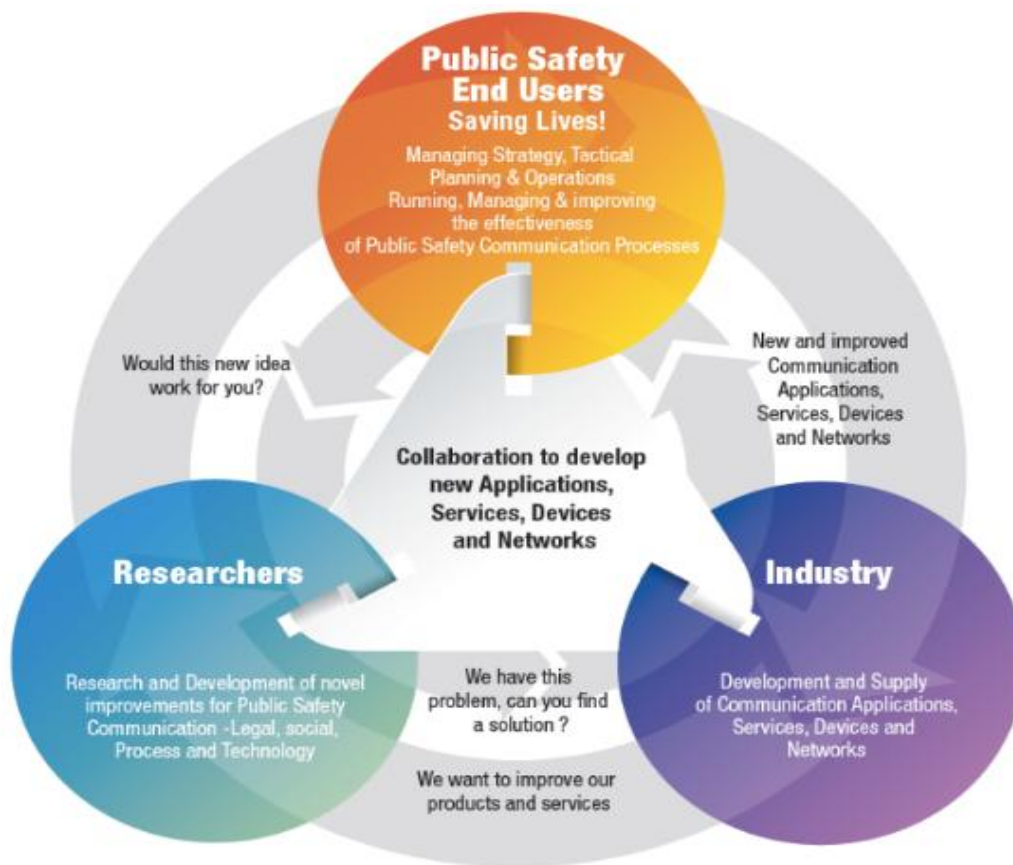
2. Our Structure

PSCE is a member-based organization with the following structure:

- The General Assembly
- The Board of Directors – appointment of a new Chair of the User Committee: Uwe Kippnich (Red Cross Bavaria)
- The Committees
- The Working Groups
- The Brussels-based Secretariat

More information on their respective roles is available at:

<https://www.psc-europe.eu/about-us-2/forum-structure.html>



3. Our Members

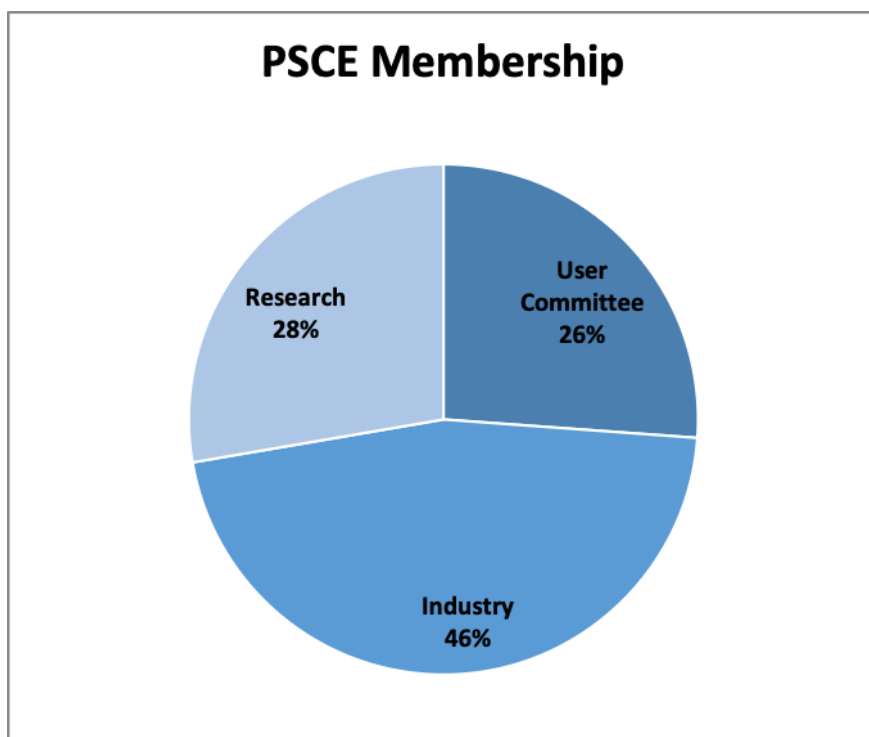
PSCE Forum Membership is intended for those involved in Public Safety Organisations. Membership is comprised of three distinct categories:

- **Institutional members**, which are institutions, agencies, organisations or companies at international, national or local level.
- **Individual members**, which are any individual who wants to register to the Forum.
- **Partnership member**, which are international or national associations or organisations or entities working with public safety issues and which has common interest with PSCE on global public safety issues.

PSCE institutional membership is divided into three following categories:

- **Users** – National authorities or public bodies which are responsible for management, specification, design, installation, maintenance, operation and use of public safety communications systems and information management systems
- **Industrial members** – Companies and organisations involved in development of products and services related to public safety communications
- **Researchers** – Recognised research authorities such as an academic establishment or research consultancy that regularly conduct research into development and use of public safety communications and information management systems.

In 2019 PSCE welcomed 4 new members – **Genasys**, **PTT Poland**, **TurmSolutions** and **Intersec**, bringing the current number of PSCE members to 65, out of which 17 are in the User committee, 30 in the Industry and 18 in Research.



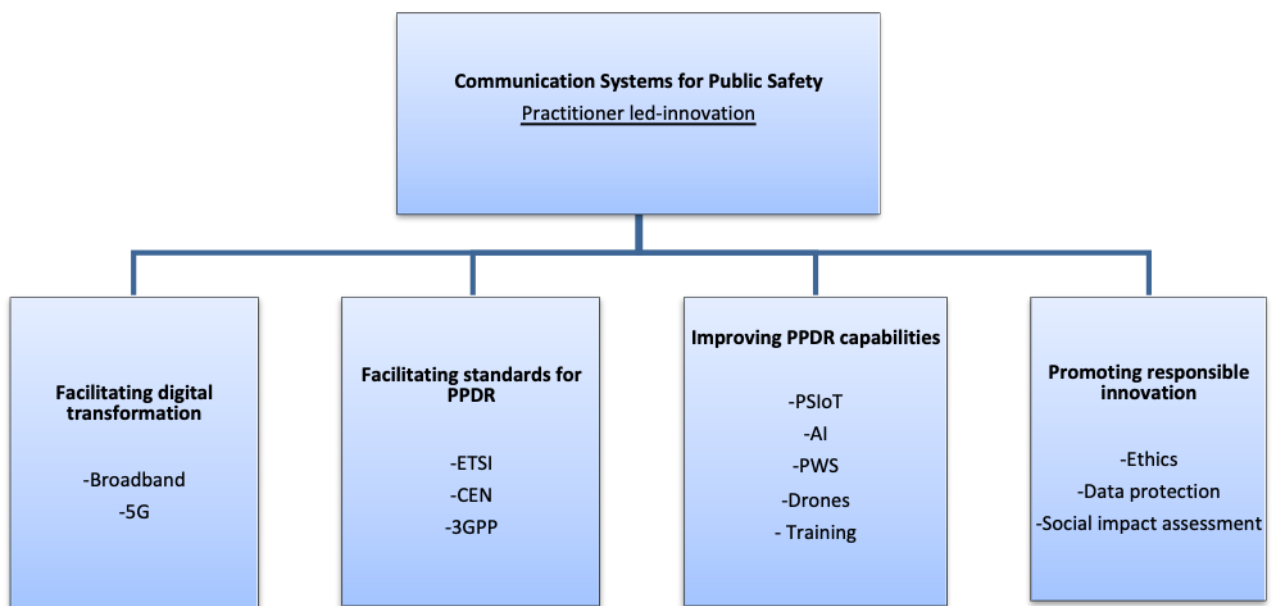
The benefits of PSCE institutional membership include access to network and cooperation opportunities through networking with counterparts, access to enhanced and targeted information such as newsletters, presentations, papers and factsheets, access to the EU institutions and to EU-funded projects, as well as access to PSCE's own activities and a role within the functioning of the organisation.

Benefits of the PSCE institutional membership include:

- Access new networking and cooperation opportunities
- Access enhanced and targeted information
- Access the EU institutions
- Access EU funded projects
- Access PSCE activities at preferential rates or free of charge
- Access the functioning of the organisation

Each of these benefits are detailed [on our website](#).

PSCE Activities in 2019



1. Policy

Public Warning Systems

In 2019, PSCE has dedicated a considerable amount of time working in policy related to Public Warning Systems (PWS). A series of three workshops were organised in partnership with Michael Hallowes in which the main topic was Public Warning System, lessons learnt from the system deployed in Australia as well as preparations for Member States in the EU, which will need to be in full compliance by 2022.

Legislative context: In 2018, article 110 of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) makes it mandatory for all the Member States of the European Union to deploy within 3,5 years a Public Warning system using telephone networks to alert everyone located in a specific area of an ongoing crisis or upcoming disaster: “By 21 June 2022, Member States shall ensure that, when public warning systems regarding imminent or developing major emergencies and disasters are in place, public warnings are transmitted by providers of mobile number-based interpersonal communication services to end-users concerned.”

While article 110 can seem quite vague, it gives some flexibility to the Member States to define the technology and how to implement it. More clarity is however brought in one of the recitals of the text in the scope of the “end-users concerned”. By recital 293, “End-users concerned should be deemed to be those end-users who are located in the geographic areas potentially being affected by imminent or developing major emergencies and disasters during the warning period, as determined by the competent authorities.” Paragraph 2 of the article 110 of the EECC makes it possible for Member States to deploy alternatives to telephone networks-based alerting systems, such as apps. However, such alternatives should fulfil 5 requirements, as listed in the recital 294 of the same text:

1. it should be as efficient as the network-based technologies in terms of coverage;
2. reception of the alert by the user should be easy (users should not be required to login onto the app);
3. visitors entering a country should be informed of this alternative way of receiving alert;
4. the transmission of the alert should be free to the user;
5. the deployment of this alternative should be done in compliance with privacy laws.

On May 16th 2019, PSCE launched an ambitious programme to support national authorities to define the requirements for the design of their national PWS based on solid experience and lessons learnt from other countries.

This first workshop was hosted at the Belgian Federal Police. 11 countries were represented along with some of the world's leading suppliers of public warning platforms. Delegates had also the benefit of hearing directly from Mr Bara, European Commission (DG Connect), on the new EU rules affecting the requirements for a compliant Public Warning System. The event benefitted from the expertise shared by its facilitator, Michael Hallowes, the former National Director of Australia's Emergency Alert Program.

The principle was to be operationally driven and non-technical. The day was framed around navigating a simplified path to decision-making on the design, using a clear project structure set out in a workbook that participants could take away. This focused first on identifying the overriding design principles as the benchmarks against which to evaluate available technologies. Thereafter, a review of the essential operational and functional requirements needed to deliver the most effective PWS.

This exposed the complexities involved in this critical design phase. These included balancing public safety benefits with the potential impacts on both political and societal issues; e.g. the level of access and reach of the system to every citizen, government accountabilities, and considerations for data privacy.

On October 8th 2019, the 2nd workshop was held in Helsinki focused on Governance, Policy, Regulation, Standards and Funding Options. These workshops offered a huge opportunity for these teams to collaborate, share good practice, and borrow from each other so that they're not all duplicating work. The teams will each need to get their policy, regulation and standards right, so they could do this together; especially as it's also likely to be built within a very similar legal framework across Europe.

The 3rd workshop was held in Paris, December 2019, focused on Operational Readiness of the PWS user-authorities, and Community Preparedness and Education. The idea behind the workshops was that the PWS project teams form a network that's focused on collaborating for success, regardless of what technology platform they choose.

5G

PSCE has also been working with its partners and stakeholders on 5G standardisation issues. In February, PSCE co-organised a 5G Vertical user Workshop in Brussels to further discuss the impact of this new technology. A second workshop was held in Rome in July 2019 which focused to determine common priorities of requirements for the next 3GPP Release 17.

The 5G Vertical Users Workshop, is an initiative of a subset of European 3GPP Market Representation Partners (MRPs) It is designed to help vertical industries become part of the

standardisation process, create new synergies and obtain guidance from 3GPP by exchanging on future needs and upcoming standards developments.



BEREC

In November 2019 PSCE contributed to [BEREC Work Programme for 2020 and Medium Term Strategy](#). PSCE also [commented on BEREC's presentation of the newly issued guidelines in response to the task set in article 110\(2\) of the European Union Directive establishing the European Electronic Communications Code](#). This document aims to assist Member States in assessing the effectiveness of alternative Public Warning Systems (PWS) using means of electronic communications services and includes a description of the task set in article 110(2), an interpretation of its legal scope and a proposition of exhaustive guideline of steps to conduct.

This was also the opportunity for PSCE to stress the need to take into consideration the fact that PWS are mostly run by Ministries of Interior or Public Safety organisations which are operating in a different frame than the national regulators authorities. Therefore, the guidelines should be prepared in a constant dialogue and exchange with the authorities concerned.

IoT White Paper

PSCE developed a White Paper on IoT (Internet of Things) which describes use cases for IoT in Public Safety. The scope of the white paper is to describe a selection of use cases that demonstrate the potential of IoT using different technologies: licenced and non-licensed as well as standardised and proprietary. The objective of the white paper is to show how IoT can be used to aid the practitioners in public protection and disaster response in saving human life and help local communities tackle emergencies and dangerous situations, by

deploying sensors or devices to monitor the environment (e.g. air pollution, river water level detection, fire, gas detection), or in controlling devices such as remotely accessing door locks, etc. The use cases are the result of questionnaires and discussions with practitioners in different fora like the PSCE conference or the PSRG workshops.

Besides the IoT, PSCE created with GSMA a joint working group and worked during in the development of another paper published on January 2020: "[Critical Communications IoT: Concepts Paper](#)" and "[Critical Communications IoT: Technical Analysis of Service levels](#)".

Standardisation (ETSI, 3GPP, CWA, ISG)

In 2019, PSCE became ETSI – European Telecommunications Standards Institute - member. This represented a great step towards developing PSCE's work in standardisation issues.

As first steps, ETSI invited PSCE to its 74th General Assembly meeting at ETSI Headquarters in Valbonne, France. ETSI produce globally applicable standards for ICT-enabled systems, applications and services deployed across all sectors of industry and society.

ISG: PSCE participates since May 2019 to a new Industry Specification Group (ISG) on CDM (European Common information sharing environment service and Data Model)

Its aim is to create a political, organizational and legal environment to enable information sharing across the seven relevant sectors/user communities (transport, environmental protection, fisheries control, border control, general law enforcement, customs and defense) based on existing and also on future surveillance systems/networks with a view to achieve a fully operational CISE - Common Information Sharing Environment.

As PSCE ensures the continual improvement and evolution of public safety information and communication systems for the safety and security of our citizens, participation in ETSI activities is very valuable.

PSCE is an individual member of 3GPP and a market representation partner.

PSCE is also actively contributing to CEN TC 391 on societal and citizen security by co-chairing the preparation of two CEN workshops agreements on Societal and Citizen Security.

2. International collaboration

- ❖ **Collaboration with FirstNET** – Mutual interest : PSCE took part in August to the FirstNET Wireless Leaders event in Colorado, FirstNET participated in the last PSCE conference, in Paris, delivering an update on the US policy for broadband communications

- ❖ **ARCIA** – PSCE participated to the CommsConnect event in Australia (November) delivering the Opening Keynote Presentation, and ARCIA was represented at the 2019 conferences.

3. PSCE Conferences in 2019

Lancaster, 5-6 June



PSCE held its 20th biannual conference on **5-6 June** in Lancaster.

The conference's programme featured a series of debates and discussions. The main themes were:

- IoT for PPDR
- Flash Flooding
- Cybersecurity

The Lancaster Conference also paved the way for collaborative sessions with the EU-funded projects **IN-PREP** and **HEIMDALL**.

Paris, 4-5 December



The second biannual conference of 2019 was held in Paris on **4-5 December** and was preceded on the **3rd of December** by a workshop in the framework of Public Warning Systems, in partnership with Michael Hallowes as well as the workshop “Video use cases” was delivered, co-organised by PSCE, Lancaster University and Graz University.

The main themes of PSCE’s second biannual conference of 2019 were:

- Use of Drones in Crisis Management
- Space Systems and Applications for Safety and Security
- Managing Information Overload in Situation Awareness Context
- Broadband Communications: Current status and financial consideration

During each conference, a General Assembly was held for PSCE members-

4. Ongoing projects

DRIVER +



DRIVER + is the continuation of DRIVER. It restarted on September 1st, 2017 and it seeks to drive the next stage of innovation in Crisis Management for European Resilience, and take better into account the needs of Crisis Management practitioners. DRIVER + will deliver a pan-European Test-Bed for Crisis Management capability development, a Portfolio of Solutions (PoS) and promote a shared understanding in Crisis Management across Europe. The relaunch of the project took place in September 2017, on occasion of a meeting in Rotterdam.

DRIVER and DRIVER+ starts from the experience that neither successful R&D nor strong end-user demand always lead to innovation in the Crisis Management (CM) domain. This is a problem since as societies become more complex increasing scope and unpredictability of potential crises and faster dynamics of major incidents put increasingly stringent demands on CM. European CM capabilities already constitute a mature System of Systems; hence wholesale redesign would often be too costly and might critically destabilise existing CM capabilities. The DRIVER+ project has developed a specific methodology called **Trial Guidance Methodology** (TGM) for evaluating innovative technical solutions to address crisis management gaps.

DRIVER+ has also produced a **test-bed technical infrastructure**, which translates into a toolkit to facilitate the assessment of innovative solutions in crisis management. Additionally, DRIVER+ has created a **Portfolio of Solutions** (PoS), an online platform which seeks to connect and engage suppliers in the field of crisis management, offering a vast array of features.

To achieve its overarching objective, DRIVER+ is committed to deliver and make sustainable by April 2020 (end date of the project):

- A **pan-European Test-Bed for Crisis Management** capability development enabling practitioners to create a space in which stakeholders can collaborate in testing and evaluating new products, tools, processes or organisational solutions.
- A **Portfolio of Solutions (PoS)** in the form of a database-driven website that aims at documenting all DRIVER+ solutions. These will be tested via trials during the project lifetime. Ultimately, the PoS will be opened up to any external organisations willing to share data and experiences of solutions.
- A **shared understanding in Crisis Management across Europe**, through the enhancement of the cooperation framework. This will be achieved, amongst others, by building the Crisis Management Innovative Network Europe (CMINE, closely aligned to and supporting the

Community of Users (CoU) initiative from DG HOME and the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC).

PSCE has contributed to DRIVER+ Standardisation and Dissemination & Communication activities, particularly referent to CMINE, Standardisation. For more information about DRIVER+ visit: <http://www.driver-project.eu/>

BroadWay



BroadWay is a pre-commercial procurement project aimed at developing a Pan-European Mobile brand System for Public Safety Responders.

PSCE continues to play the important role of Coordinator in the BroadWay pre-commercial procurement (PCP) project since its launch in May 2018. PSCE provides valuable support and direction to the group of procurers, which is comprised of 11 procurers from 11 member states and represented by a Brussels-based lead procurer, ASTRID. The purpose of the PCP is to develop a pan-European mobile brand system for public safety responders over the course of the project, which spans 4 years.

The official call to tender was launched on OJEU in February 2019 and evaluation of tenders took place in late autumn 2019. In October 2019, the project achieved a major milestone with the signature of framework agreements by the lead tenderers of the 4 successful consortia for Phase 1. Altogether, the four consortia are made up of 33 companies from 12 European countries. Each consortia includes SMEs, independent and impartial test organisations, and mobile network and satellite operators.

The BroadWay group of procurers will continue to evaluate the progress of the alternative approaches proposed by the 4 supplier consortia throughout the 3 phases – Design, Prototype and Pilot. Phase 1 commenced on the same day as the contract signature day and runs for 6 months. There are several interesting monitoring events planned during Phase 1, including a presentation of designs in front of the group of procurers, which will form part of the official evaluation for the project.

5. Concluded projects

E2mC



The E2mC project sought to test the feasibility of social media analysis within Mapping and Early Warning Components of Copernicus Emergency Management Service. Under the E2mC project rapid mapping solutions were developed that improve emergency management services through social media and crowdsourcing analysis in near real time. This includes geolocating social media posts for emergency mapping and extraction of geolocated images from tweets.

For more information about E2mC visit: <https://www.e2mc-project.eu/>

CiProVoT



The CiProVoT project (Civil Protection Volunteers Training) intends to create a European Civil Protection Volunteers group and teach them innovative skills in the field of natural disaster risk prevention and management.

The project set up a free-to-access online training platform for civil protection volunteers ([MOOC – Massive Open Online Course](#)) for those who intend to join and to become experts in the field. The project's main target is to create synergies between civil protection volunteers of several European countries and teach them unique and innovative skills which will become a starting point towards a new approach for natural disaster prevention and management.

PSCE co-organised the final CIPROVOT event “How to best train volunteers?” which successfully took place in Brussels, on November 20th and welcomed external speakers from the Red Cross EU and DG Education.

6. Project Proposals

- Security – August 2019 – 6 proposals were tabled by PSCE under DRS02 “Technologies for First Responders” and 2 have been successfully evaluated and will be kicked-off in May 2020.
- ICT: 2 proposals were tabled

7. Future Priorities

In the future, and with the objective of remaining a key actor in emergency communications in Europe, PSCE will focus on the following:

- Continue working to strengthen the voice of end users.
- Bring users requirements to ETSI, 3GPP and other standardization bodies.
- Identify the potential of new technologies and their applications (like Artificial Intelligence)
- Increase emphasis on Cybersecurity
- Follow the development of 5G
- Continue the efforts to inform partners and stakeholders about Public Warning Systems and the national obligations
- Facilitate the dissemination of information and recommendations on satellite communications applications
- Initiate work on climate impact for society and for PPDR
- Stimulate dialogue between the 3 communities (practitioners, industry, research) by:
 - Being the bridge between needs and innovation
 - Organise conferences, workshops with a focus on relevant topics for Users, Industry and Research
 - Generating white papers and policies

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