Public Safety Communication Europe (PSCE) is pleased to send you the second 2018 edition of the PSCE Newsletter. We keep you updated on our activities and provide you with the latest EU news and initiatives in Public Safety Communications!

In This Issue

EU Policy and News

Priorities of the Austrian presidency

On July the 1st Austria took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from Bulgaria, which held the Presidency during the first half of 2018. For this period, the Austria Presidency has presented its political priorities. Austria is the third and last country in the current presidency trio and will be followed by Romania in the first half of 2019. The trio programme was approved by the General Affairs Council on 20 June 2017.

Below you will find some of the priorities announced by the Austrian Presidency related to innovation and security:

- Protecting the EU's external borders through the reinforcement of FRONTEX, measures ensuring sustainable controls and closing of illegal migration routes; complete and implement the three Regulations for the strengthening and improvement of the Schengen Information System (SIS) and the revision of the Schengen Borders Code to be able to introduce and maintain internal border controls for a longer period of time in the event of serious threats to internal security

- Further developing the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) and launch a serious debate on strategies against political Islam and for fostering European-style Islam, including the conference of ministers on the topic of "Values – Rule of Law – Security" to be held in Vienna in November 2018

- Improving the functions of existing large-scale IT systems and the interoperability of relevant databases is to ensure better networking between, and capability to act of, security authorities in their fight against illegal migration, organised crime, extremism and terrorism

- Achieve a prompt finalisation of the proposal on the interoperability of EU information systems for borders and security

- Contribute towards implementing a resilient security union and towards revising the internal security strategy by including subsequent Presidencies, the Commission, the European Parliament, the EU agencies, the European External Action Service and outside experts into a medium-term discussion process ("Vienna Process")

- Finalise the negotiations on the revision of the legal framework for telecommunications, in particular, the Directive establishing the European Electronic Communications Code and the Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

- Advocate future-proof data protection provisions in the digital sector, including, in particular, work on the Regulation on Privacy and Electronic Communications

- Implement the 5G Action Plan and establish a European Gigabit society, supported by the extension of broadband and mobile network coverage

- Finalise the Cybersecurity Act, which provides for a new mandate for an EU Cybersecurity Agency (formerly ENISA) and the creation of a cybersecurity certification framework

- ❖ For the document containing the complete programme of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union click here: https://www.eu2018.at/dam/jcr:52862976-3848-403e-a38a-6aac8bcbe34d/Programme%20of%20the%20Austrian%20Presidency.PDF

European Civil Protection Mechanism's assistance to Greece, Sweden and Latvia during the summer's forest fires

This summer's heatwave that affected most of Europe was followed by devastating fires that inflicted tragic human losses in Greece and destroyed a significant forest area in Sweden. The scale and impact of the fires led the two countries to request the EU for assistance under the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism. Several EU Member States responded promptly and dispatched firefighters, vehicles and other forms of assistance.

For more information click here: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/eu-mobilises-support-following-devastating-fires-greece-sweden-and-latvia_en

New proposed Frontex regulation

The European Commission has presented its proposal for a new regulation on the European Border and Coast Guard. This proposal intends to replace three previous pieces of legislation, including the current Regulation on the European Border and Coast Guard, which came into force in 2016 following the migration crisis in the previous year.

This proposal intends to create a standing corps of 10 000 border guards by 2020 with executive powers that would operate under FRONTEX (a goal already presented by the Commission before) and to increase funding for migration and border management to €34.9 billion, compared to under €13 billion today. The purpose is to protect the EU external borders, prevent secondary movements and effectively implement returns of irregular migrants. The proposal also incorporates the current EUROSUR surveillance system in the new regulation.

One of the main goals of the proposal is to address the shortcomings of the 2016 Regulation, which set up a Rapid Reaction Force of 1500 border guards and which can only be activated for rapid border interventions in emergency situations, whereas for operational support to frontline Member States under regular operations (which represent the majority of operations), FRONTEX relies entirely on the voluntary pooling of the human and technical resources of the Member States.

The proposal was presented to the European Council meeting of 19-20 September. To access the text click here: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/soteu2018-border-coast-guard-regulation-631_en.pdf

State of the Union speech by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker

European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his last State of the Union speech on 12 September at the European Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg.

During the speech President Juncker highlighted the need for more solidarity when it comes to the European Civil Protection Mechanism, stressing that the assistance given this summer to European countries afflicted by forest fires was a demonstration of "Europe at its best".

President Juncker also talked about the need to complete the Security Union and referred to new rules to remove terrorism-related content off the web within one hour and to extend the tasks of the European Public Prosecutor's Office to include the fight against terrorist offences. President Juncker also addressed the Commission's proposal to strengthen the European Border and Coast Guard with an additional 10 000 guards by 2020.

For the full text of President Juncker's State of the Union speech click here: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/soteu2018-speech_en_0.pdf

Upcoming Events

Preparation for the PSCE Conference in Bled

The next PSCE Conference will take place in Bled, Slovenia, on 12-13 December 2018 with the support of the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR). Its key themes will be:

- Artificial Intelligence For Public Safety

- Demo & Trials: how to test new equipment and solutions?

- Smart communications

- Wildfires: How to be better prepared? Lessons learnt from events in Greece and Sweden.

The conference will include three workshops. The first workshop, on 11 December, will be on the E2mC project and will address the use of social media and crowdsourced data to improve satellite mapping for crisis management, it will also demonstrate the project's progress and results. The second workshop, to be held on 13 December, will be on ALPDIRIS, a DG ECHO-funded project, and will show how to enhance cooperation on alpine search and rescue operations, with emphasis on communication and data exchange. The third workshop, which will be held on 14 December, will focus on 5G safety, specifically on 5G PPDR practices, as well as the next generation of 112 services, as well as the contribution of 5G for 112 services.

There will also be a Poster Session at the conference, where projects and initiatives in the public safety communications sector will be invited to showcase their results and/or projects for the conference participants to know them better.

- ❖ Do you want to participate? Would you like to become a sponsor? Find out here: https://www.psc-europe.eu/news-events/events/psce-conference-in-bled-2018.html
- ❖ More information on the poster session can be found here: https://www.psc-europe.eu/news-events/news/364-psce-conference-in-bled-participate-to-our-poster-session.html

Past Events

PSCE chaired the second discussion panel at the third edition of I4CM

The third edition of the Innovation for Crisis Management event (I4CM), part of the DRIVER+ project on which PSCE is a partner, was held in Warsaw on 3-4 September.

As a co-host of this edition, PSCE chaired the second panel of the conference, on interoperability and multi-agency disaster response. The session was introduced by PSCE Secretary-General Marie-Christine Bonnamour and chaired by Manfred-Blaha, PSCE board member and head of the practitioners committee. The event was also the occasion to present the BroadWay project, coordinated by PSCE.

At this panel, several questions on the topic were presented to the speakers, who provided input with their views and experiences on interoperability and multi-agency disaster response, contributing to the I4CM's and DRIVER+'s goals of helping to shape a European Crisis Management culture.

Some of the questions addressed by the panellists include communication issues and problems faced by responders and how they can be solved, how information sharing can be done on an international level and how the European Commission is contributing to improve information exchanges.

You can find more details about the third edition of I4CM on the event's official press release: https://www.driver-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Post-I4CM-Press-Release-Final-Version-for-publication.pdf

PSCE at the 11th Community of Users meeting in Brussels, 5 June 2018

PSCE took part at the 11th meeting of the Community of Users on secure, safe and resilient societies which was held in Brussels on 4-7 June. The Secretary-General of PSCE, Marie-Christine Bonnamour, delivered a presentation on information exchange and interoperability. The presentation covered the different layers of interoperability and highlighted the results of several projects where PSCE is taking part in or participated in, such as EPISECC, CONCORDE and DRIVER+.

The presentation also covered the concept of Common Information Space, presented the obstacles to interoperability and also covered the European interoperable Mobile Broadband for Public Safety. The presentation concluded with an introduction to the BroadWay project and the current state of play of PPDR in Europe.

You can find the presentation delivered at the 11th CoU here: https://www.securityresearch-cou.eu/sites/default/files/04.Bonnamour.CoU%20Theme%208%20-%20Practitioners.pdf

Success of the PSCE Conference in Brussels on 23 and 24 May 2018

This 18th edition of PSCE conferences marked the 10th year anniversary of PSCE and was the perfect occasion to engage in new and promising partnerships. An official agreement was signed with the 5G Infrastructure Association (5GIA) with the objective of taking better account PPDR needs for future 5G developments. In addition, the second Annual International Public Safety Broadband Leaders Forum on 24 and 25 of May which succeeded to PSCE Conference also illustrated the continuation of a fruitful cooperation between PSCE and FirstNET.

Some of the topics addressed included the use of Satellite for Critical Situations, Data Management in PPDR, Future First-Responders, Future Control rooms and 5G for PPDR. The conference was further enriched by presentations from public safety experts from Australia and South-Korea and marked by a significant involvement of the European Commission (DG HOME/DG CONNECT).

❖ A press release about the conference can be found here: https://www.psc-europe.eu/news-events/news/342-success-of-the-18th-psce-conference-in-brussels.html

❖ A comprehensive conference report can be found here: https://www.psc-europe.eu/images/PSCE_Brussels_Conference_Report_2018.pdf

❖ A video overview of the conference presentations can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yz-sNa5pmtg

DRIVER+

Launched in May 2014, DRIVER (Driving Innovation in Crisis Management for European Resilience) is a project funded under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission that intends to cope with the challenges posed by natural disasters and terrorist threats.

Its objectives are to develop a pan-European Test-Bed for Crisis Management capability development which will enable practitioners to create a space in which stakeholders can collaborate in testing and evaluating new products, tools, processes or organisational solutions.

After the definition of gaps from a practitioners' perspective, four Trials will be organised to assess innovative solutions after a selection procedure, known as a "Call for Application", is open to external providers. Trial 1 was held in Poland in the month of May and it evaluated the applicability of three selected solutions at improving interoperability between agencies.

In the month of September DRIVER+ organised the third edition of its Innovation for Crisis Management event (I4CM) in Warsaw, which consisted of a conference based on the topics of interoperability, inter-agencies cooperation and standardisation. PSCE chaired the second panel on inter-operability and multi-agency disaster response. I4CM also included a series of workshops and interactive sessions where participants could experience a hands-on approach of the DRIVER+ Test-bed, Portfolio of Solutions and Trial Guidance Tool.

In the month of October the DRIVER+ project will undergo Trial 2, to be held in France under the scenario of a wildfire in a Mediterranean context threatening urban interfaces. Its aim is to improve cooperation and coordination between organisations and agencies from different countries in the context of large scale, complex multi-event crises.

The latest call for applications to take part in the project's final Trial, to be held in Austria in 2019, has been published on 1 October and will be open for submissions until 29 October. Solution providers in the field of Crisis Management are encouraged to submit their applications. The final Trial of DRIVER+ will be about assessing solutions that focus on volunteer management and interaction with the population. More information on the Call for Applications for the final Trial can be found here: https://www.driver-project.eu/collaborate-with-us/call-for-applications-2/call-for-application-trial-austria/

  ❖ More information on the third edition of I4CM can be found here: https://www.driver-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Post-I4CM-Press-Release-Final-Version-for-publication.pdf

  ❖ More information on Trial 2 can be found here: https://www.driver-project.eu/events-2/trials/trial-france/

BroadWay's Briefing, Consultation and Networking Event

Project BroadWay underwent its briefing, consultation and networking event in Brussels on 13 September at the premises of the Belgian federal police headquarters. Participants took part in an open discussion about the each of the eleven objectives of the BroadWay Ambition and could inquire about the project's scope and PCP process.

An opening address was made by Andrea de Candido, Deputy Head of Unit B4 Innovation and Industry for Security, European Commission.

The aim of the meeting was to assist with BroadWay's open market consultation and opinions on the currently published challenge and ambition of the project were asked of the participants.

Five presentations were delivered at this event and are all available at: https://www.broadway-info.eu/briefing-consultation-networking-13th-september-2018/

PSCE at CiProVoT's second partnership meeting and first International Training

PSCE took part in CiProVoT's second partnership meeting and first international Training, which took place in Patras, Greece, from 16 to 20 July. During the meeting, partners were presented with the preliminary results of the research about skills and needs on risk management and prevention for Civil Protection volunteers. This first training aimed at validating the results of the research and at defining the basis for the next international training and the MOOC, which will become available in 2019.

For more information on this meeting visit: https://ciprovot-project.eu/innovative-skills-and-competences-for-civil-protection-volunteers/

New PSCE members

PSCE was very pleased to welcome six new members during the summer months: Turku University of Applied Sciences (Turku AMK), the Belgian Federal Police, Kingston University (London), the French Ministry of Interior, Sepura, and Plextek.

These new members represent national authorities, law enforcement, academia and industry.

"*We followed the Organization for some time in the framework of the European project BroadMap. We were impressed by the knowledge that we could share within PSCE onto the future for Public Safety in the field of mission critical communication. Many various topics are discussed in a group of experts from across Europe. They offer also a great view on the latest technical developments in other countries, also outside Europe. It was a strong added value for us to be able to join PSCE*." - Danny Smet - Business Officer at the Belgian Federal Police. "By joining PSCE, Kingston University aims to be a part of a diverse environment and stand in the front line of PPDR ecosystem by contributing ideas within working groups, stakeholders, and standardization bodies." - G.C Deepak - Research Associate at Kingston University

White papers

Next Generation Emergency Services – The EMYNOS project

PSCE has recently released its White Paper on the current state of emergency services and the challenges linked to the evolution towards Next Generation emergency communications. The paper puts forward the vision of the H2020 EMYNOS project, aimed at designing and implementing a Next Generation emergency services framework.

To download the White Paper click here: https://www.psc-europe.eu/white-papers/psce-white-paper-next-generation-emergency-communications/download.html

User-centred semantic interoperability during disaster response

Semantic interoperability is a crucial part of communication between first responders in the context of a disaster response phase. First responders often use their own terminology and semantics, despite the constant evolution of technology and standardisation. The EPISECC project developed a Semantic Box Service, which creates semantic annotations for messages exchanged by first responders during the disaster response phase. The White Paper outlining and explaining this solution is expected to be published by early December.

Not a PSCE Member yet? Explore the institutional membership benefits

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