

Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation - PSCE position -

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

PSCE welcomes the vision outlined in the "Horizon 2020". Covering the period between 2014 and 2020, we believe that this new funding programme for research and innovation will take into consideration "lessons learnt" from previous funding schemes and therefore contribute to even more efficient allocation of resources while addressing the key security aspects of the EU legislative framework. Due to the fact that some of the elements presented in the proposal are perceived as cornerstone of PSCE mission, we are pleased to express our position on these strategic issues and provide the EU decision makers with the viewpoint of our Forum. In particular, the comments relate to the programme's 4th objective dealing with the Europe's resilience to crisis and disasters.

1. The end users are typically actively participating in local or national projects and developments. It has, however, proved to be difficult for them to participate at an international level, despite threats not respecting national borders (e.g. international crime, climatic disasters etc). The isolated presentations of users' demands are not transferrable into developments unless relevant providers take them onboard. Moreover, these providers i.e. industry cannot provide innovative solutions without high quality research. Therefore, PSCE believes that EU funds should support initiatives which directly involve **end-users, industry and research** bodies in a very **interactive and agile manner**. The end-users have to be supported by efficacious and efficient organisational as well as management structure proposed by projects. Such close cooperation would help to reduce the current gap between **research and market**. As a consequence, only those project proposals that address direct linkage between research and business oriented aspects should be taken into consideration.
2. Public safety community needs to get spectrum resources for mission critical broadband communications, including cross border missions. It should be noted that as per today the public safety services are not enabled with spectral possibilities to roll out such "broadband" services despite that they have the need to deploy higher speed data services in the field. The allocation of spectrum resources should be harmonized at European level encompassing satellite and terrestrial wireless networks in a technology and service neutral approach. Therefore, dedicated projects addressing **research and prototyping activities in wireless broadband communication area** should be funded in the context of the Horizon 2020.
3. PSCE believes that relevant **training schemes** and well elaborated **awareness-raising campaigns** may significantly contribute to the Europe's resilience to crises and disasters. In this respect, Horizon 2020 should build up on previous successful "coordination and support action" projects and set very strict evaluation criteria in order to avoid scattering of funds. We believe that various membership associations of PSCE kind which have direct access to end users, companies and research institutes, provide a suitable platform for disseminating good practices and providing the exchange of information. Moreover, the programme should reflect the strong need for learning from experience which requires efficient mechanisms and tools for gathering

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and managing lessons learnt both in crisis and disaster management as well as in research projects.

4. Horizon 2020 should be characterised by **strong link with EU policies**. In particular, objectives set out in the European Security Strategy, Digital Agenda, Civil Protection and Critical Infrastructure Protection legislations should be clearly reflected in the calls for proposals.

PSCE hopes that five points briefly outlined in this position paper will contribute to overall quality of envisaged funding programme.