



PSC Europe

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PSC Europe: Information

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Foreword

2016 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.

In 2016 PSCE welcomed 5 new members – MCS Datalabs GmbH, EchoStar Mobile Limited, KULeuven Centre for IT & IP law, OneSource, Huawei, bringing the current number of PSCE members to 66 out of which 18 are in the User committee, 31 in the Industry and 17 in Research.

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

In addition to the 3 projects on which PSCE is currently working on with great implication, the year 2016 has been marked by the launch of two new projects:

- The Project BroadMap, initiated in May, now already in full swing which is coordinated by PSCE.
- The e2MC Project, launched in December, which will become fully operational early 2017.

PSCE is now involved into 3GPP, the "3rd Generation Partnership Project", which sets global mobile broadband and wireless telecommunication standards. During this year, PSCE provided its contribution to the user requirements for critical communications. These new challenges will require ever more coordination and a close cooperation with Public Safety users.

Involvement of PSCE members will be a key for a successful year and for PSCE's sustainability, for Public Safety's Communications and not at least for European citizens and their safety.

Andrea NOWAK
President

Marie-Christine BONNAMOUR
Secretary General

Executive Summary

PSCE carried out a great deal of important activities throughout 2016 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: PPDR Broadband Networks, NIS (Network Information Security), the Horizon 2020 framework for Research and Innovation, the transition to 5G, and the Internet of Things (IoT). This was achieved through the:

- (i) organisation of two high-level conferences;
- (ii) participation in numerous external meetings, workshops and seminars;
- (iii) production of policy papers and other publications;
- (iv) 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.

In an effort towards greater visibility, the PSCE website has been thoroughly redesigned and restructured.

Finally, after having been chaired by David Lund and following the annual rotation of the Board, Andrea Nowak took over the presidency of Public Safety Communication Europe (PSCE) for the coming year on the 1st of June.

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 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.

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.

The full information on PSCE's mission is available at:

<http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=114>

Our Structure

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

- The General Assembly;
- The Board of Directors;
- The Committees;
- The Working Groups;
- The Brussels-based Secretariat

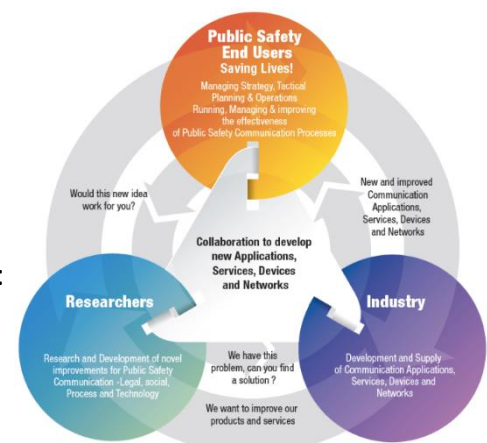
More information on their respective roles is available at:

<http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=327>

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.

PSCE membership increased during 2016. PSCE institutional membership currently consists of 18 Users, 31 Industrial and 17 Research entities bringing the total to 66 members.

The benefits of the PSCE institutional membership are available at:

<http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=45>

PSCE Activities in 2016

Involment in Critical Communications standardisation

According to the agreement signed on 21st October 2016 between PSCE and 3GPP, PSCE received the Market Representation Partner status. Besides participation in SA1 and SA6 meetings, PSCE contributed actively to the Public safety prioritization for MCDATA and MCVIDEO functions, features and capabilities.

This contribution was made possible thanks to the work performed in the framework of the BroadMap project (see below under the project section). The priorities as well as the gaps analysis are derived from the results of a large study carried out between April and September 2016 to validate requirements for Mission Critical broadband for the PPDR community and of the work of the PPDR authorities involved in BroadMap.



Collaboration with FIRSTNET

In 2016, PSCE has also been building new relationships with primary actors in emergency communications, even those developing overseas. The First Responder Network Authority or “FIRSTNET” is the US Network Authority which mission is to build, operate and maintain the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety in the USA. FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety communications. Because Firstnet and PSCE are facing identical challenges, there is no question that further collaboration, exchange of information and practices could have a mutually beneficial impact, and PSCE intends to strengthen this new relationship in the near future

TCCA Critical Communications World – June 2016

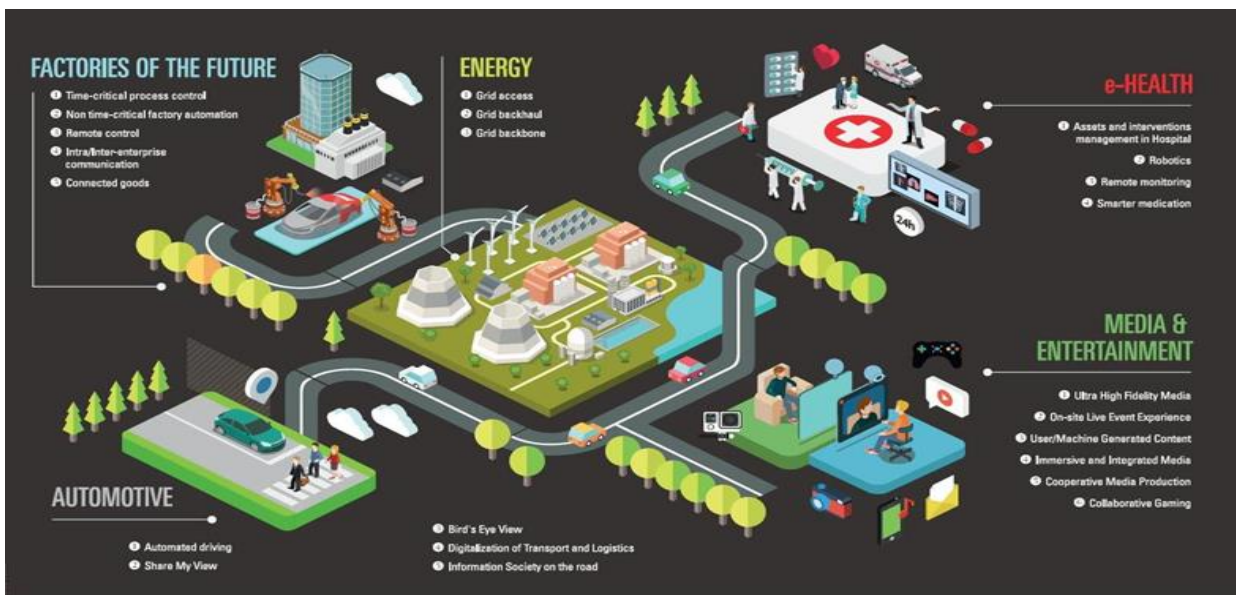
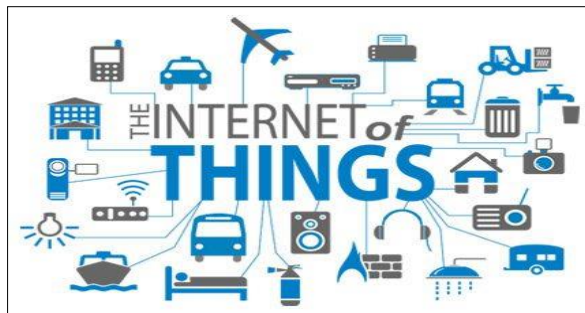
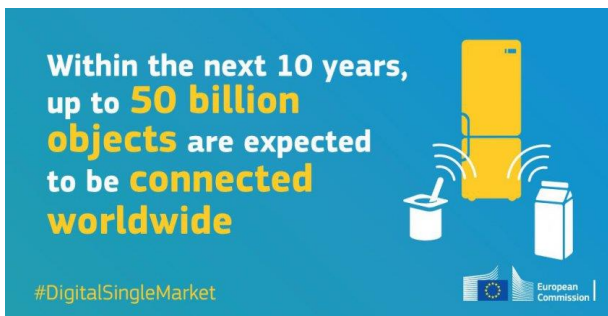
PSCE attended the last Critical Communications World (CCW) held in Amsterdam from May 31st until June 2nd. PSCE could not miss this opportunity to present its work for PPDR organisations in BroadMap, and will most definitely participate to the next Critical Communications Europe Conference in Copenhagen in February 2017.



General Hot Topics

5G: In September, the EC issued a paper titled “5G for Europe: An Action Plan”, emphasising the importance of the transition towards the next digital infrastructure for Europe’s future competitiveness. This action plan constitutes an ambitious approach that will raise new challenges while also generating valuable opportunities. PSCE is determined to play its part and to make the most out of this shift, namely with regards to its application to Public Protection & Disaster Relief (PPDR).

IoT: The Internet of Things (IoT) represents the next step towards Europe’s digitisation, where objects and people are interconnected through communication networks and report about their status and/or their surroundings. By connecting the unconnected, The IoT empowers public safety communications and makes communities and cities safer. The market value of the IoT in the EU is expected to exceed one trillion euros in 2020. There is no question that the IoT is, and will remain a central issue in the PSCE agenda.



Joint Partnerships & Policy – Apps & Wearables – Horizon 2020

In an effort to propose well thought out topics for the next Work Programme of Horizon 2020, PSCE consulted its members and collected feedback from its' three communities. 4 topics emerged:

1. European Future First Responder: “Wearables for the First Responder”

(Innovation Action). This topic emerged after collecting feedback on how users evaluated the value of wearables in their work.

2. Ethical, Legal and Socially Acceptable Networked Information Exchange for

PPDR. This issue was further elaborated after a workshop which took place at the PSCE conference in May 2016 in Brussels. It was jointly organized with 3 other EU projects and addressed the Ethical, legal and social issues which derive from the use of Networked Information Exchange for PPDR.

3. Procedure for the validation of apps for PPDR users Optimized emergency response systems and

protocols. “PPDR-Apps” (Coordination and support action). This topic was inspired by a joint meeting, held on February 17 2016 and organized by PSCE in association with EENA, BAPCO and TCCA on the use of apps by PPDR organisations.

4. Addressing lengthy and time-consuming complexities related to standardisation procedures.

Since PSCE members are also closely involved in many standardisation activities, the last topic offers suggestions on how to address the complexity of this process.

PSCE Conferences in 2016

Brussels, 18 -19 May



PSCE held its first biannual conference on **18-19 May 2016** in Brussels. The conference was preceded on the 17th of May by a Workshop on Ethical, Legal, Social Issues in Networked Information Exchange for PPDR, led by the notion of 'How to Make IT Good?'

The conference featured a diverse programme composed of interesting debates, roundtable discussions, collaborative session and networking possibilities. The key conference themes were:

- Future communication networks
- Pan European Information Space
- Handling emergency
- How Copernicus and Galileo services support crisis management?
- Ethical, Legal and Social Issues (ELSI)

Athens, 23-24 November



The 15th PSCE Biannual Conference took place in Athens, Greece, on **November 23-24**. On November 22 the projects COnCORDE and IMPRESS organized a workshop. During this conference emphasis was put on the role of PSCE as a bridge between end-users, researchers and the industry. The success of BroadMap launched in May 2016 and coordinated by PSCE as well as PSCE future priorities were discussed. The following themes were addressed at the conference:

- Natural Disasters: how to prepare for cascading effects
- PPDR Broadband worldwide
- How can telecommunications improve security in transport?
- Emergency management through terrorist attacks
- How do we surveillance our borders more effectively?
- Lessons learned from the migration crisis, a practitioner's perspective



New Projects

● The **BroadMap** project, launched in May 2016, is taking the first steps towards future procurement of interoperable next generation of broadband radio communication systems for public safety and security to improve PPDR's service to Europe's citizens and enhance interoperability across borders.

Throughout the summer, BroadMap project partners have been busy organising workshops to gather together an unprecedented set of opinions from PPDR end users with regard to the future of their mobile technologies. Overall, BroadMap workshops have involved 242 PPDR organisations from 17 countries across Europe cumulatively gathering more than 600 participants, including practitioners from national police forces, fire brigades, emergency services, customs authorities, militaries, traffic agencies, post and telecom operators, mountain rescue services, port authorities, coast guards, as well as several national ministries of interior and defence.

BroadMap informed the standardisation community of its key outcomes and where priorities may lie for the PPDR community.

The BroadMap project focused primarily on the following:

- Validating requirements and defining specifications and solutions for EU interoperable wireless broadband communication for PPDR
- Defining transition roadmaps on how to reach these objectives
- Importance of working with standardization bodies: 3GPP, ETSI, CENELEC

The outcomes of BroadMap will likely feed into a later Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) actions, which may be subject of subsequent project funded by EC in 2017. Its aims will be mainly to procure prototype communication equipment's that will constitute the foreseen communication system.

PSCE is very proud to coordinate the efforts of 15 national PPDR organisations, including 8 Ministries of Interior.

● The **E2mC** project aims at demonstrating the technical and operational feasibility of the integration of social media analysis and crowdsourced information within both the Mapping and Early Warning Components of Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS). The Project will develop a prototype of a new EMS Service Component (Copernicus Witness), designed to exploit social media analysis and crowdsourcing capabilities to generate a new Product of the EMS Portfolio.

Launched in late December 2016, this project will fully enter into force in the course of 2017.

Ongoing projects

In 2016, PSCE remained deeply committed to the following ongoing projects:

EPISECC - Establish pan-European information space to enhance security of citizens.

CONCORDE - Development of Coordination Mechanisms during Different Kinds of Emergencies.

EMYNOS - Next generation of emergency communications.

PSCE 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 to work to strengthen the voice of end users.
- Bring users requirements to 3GPP and other standardization bodies.
- Take an active role in the Community of Users animated by DG HOME.
- Follow the development of 5G by DG CONNECT as well as the revision of the telecoms framework.
- Stimulate dialogue between the 3 communities 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
- Explore possibilities to share users' views from all over the world: Australia, USA, South Korea
- PSCE will not only discuss the evolution of technology but will actively work to obtain financing for Member States in order to develop interoperable radio communications networks.

Contact Us

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