



PSCEurope
Public Safety Communication Europe

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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FOREWORD

2021 offered a wealth of learning opportunities and activities, and was a good indicator of PSCE's adaptation and resilience facing the COVID-19 pandemic. All year long, **PSCE** never stopped mobilising its efforts to **support the public safety community**, its commitment in **promoting practitioners' needs** and its **involvement in policy-making processes at EU level**. The proof is that PSCE successfully held its second bi-annual **conference in Brussels** attracting 80 participants and EU representatives, and showing that it is and will remain recognised as **one of the major actors** in public safety communications in Europe.

PSCE started to work on a fifth EU project, in addition to the ongoing ones (BroadGNSS and BroadWay as coordinator; RESPOND-A and Search and Rescue as partner): CORE - for a Community Resilience. Numerous webinars were (co-)organised as well as the first PSCE bi-annual conference, online. PSCE also took a great and increasing part in European collaborations, especially with the European Space Agency (ESA), obviously kept participating in events and workshops, and continued its activities of dissemination and communication.



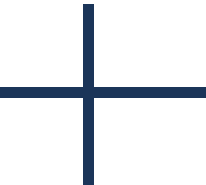


WHAT IS PSCE?

OUR AIM

The aim of the Forum for Public Safety Communication Europe (PSCE) is to foster, by consensus building, excellence in the development and use of public safety communications and information management systems as well as to improve the provision of public safety services and the safety of the citizens of Europe and the rest of the world.

OUR STRUCTURE





OUR NEW BOARD

Last June 2021, **PSCE organised new elections to renew its Board**, newly composed of:



David Lund - Past President



Monika Büscher - President

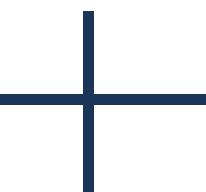


Uwe Kippnich - Vice-President & Treasurer



Charlotte Roesener - Relation & Communication Officer

PSCE Board



PSCE ACTIVITIES

EUROPEAN COLLABORATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

1) COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA)



All year long, following the intention at the end of 2020 to develop new space applications for public safety by the reinforcement of its cooperation with the ESA, **PSCE formalised and strengthened its links with the European agency.**

In March, PSCE and ESA jointly signed a **Memorandum of Intent (MoI)** to support the utilisation of satellite applications for Public Safety.

Consequently, two **user studies on "Satellite Applications for Public Safety"** were launched by ESA and led by ENEA and Arthur D Little, for which PSCE contributed to the identification of the needs of public safety stakeholders such as emergency services, fire brigades and law enforcement by organising surveys, interviews, focus groups. Especially, the presentation of the final results of these user studies (and the most promising space applications) was given in the frame of a **workshop co-organised last November 9 by PSCE and ESA.**

Finally, a sign of such coming together was the presence of ESA representatives as speakers in both of the **PSCE Conferences** held in 2021, online and in Brussels.

2) COOPERATION WITH THE NEWLY 6G-IA



Following the signature of a Cooperation Agreement with the 5G Infrastructure Association (5GIA, newly 6G-IA) in 2018, PSCE has become a 6G-IA Member in its own right, and sits since March 2021 **on 6G-IA Board**, in the person of David Lund, PSCE Past President.

Also, **PSCE contributed to the design of the Smart Networks and Services (SNS) Work Programme** through the 6G-IA Redaction Committee; the **SNS** will support technological sovereignty for smart networks and services in line with the industrial strategy for Europe, the EU Cybersecurity Strategy and the 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox.

*"Safety is a key value for our European and Global society. **We call on our members and partners to get involved in SNS, and build winning proposals to ensure that Public Safety remains at the forefront of innovation in Smart Networks and Services.** Its been a busy year helping to prepare the SNS work programme as association board member of 6G-IA. This work programme marks the start of a new innovation adventure which extends beyond only mobile communication. and seeks to integrate smart networks and services in our daily and professional lives",* states David Lund, PSCE Past President and Board Member of 6G-IA.

EVENTS

Apart from the joint workshop with ESA already mentioned and the four webinars organised in the frame of Respond-A and Search and Rescue projects (mentioned hereinafter), and despite the context of COVID-19 pandemic, **PSCE successfully organised its two bi-annual conferences**: online in January and in Brussels in November-December. The occasion to keep providing relevant and **up-to-date information** to all PPDR stakeholders (end users, industrialists, researchers, EU institutions), and to keep allowing and stimulating **open discussions** in view of fostering debate. Not forgetting the organisation of a webinar on *Transboundary Resilience* in June.



1) PSCE ONLINE CONFERENCE

≈ 450
PARTICIPANTS

On January 19 and 20, 2021, PSCE held its first ever online Conference that gathered around **450 participants** spanning over the two days, from Europe and worldwide and addressed **four topics**: **a) Cybersecurity and Resilience**, **b) Climate Emergency: what challenge for PPDR organisations?**, **c) Useful, usable and trustworthy AI systems for PPDR**, **d) New Space Applications: what future use cases for PPDR?**.

The high-level presentations attracted **80% of PSCE members and 20% of non-members**, which shows the alignment of the members with the related topics addressed by the PSCE community they belong to, and also the influence of PSCE to reach people outside its close networks. The categories represented among the attendees were **32% of Industry, 28% of Research, 24% of Users, 3% of Institutional** (IO, EU and national public entities representatives), which reflects the structure of PSCE and its ability to mobilise in a balanced way the key actors in the domain. Not forgetting the dozens of EU representatives who were present and evidence of how PSCE is able to get itself heard in the EU institutions.

[Conference Report](#)

2) TRANSBOUNDARY RESILIENCE WEBINAR

Last 10th of June 2021, PSCE organised a webinar on **Transboundary Resilience** to address crisis like the 2006 European blackout, the financial crisis of 2007-8, Ebola outbreaks, the wildfires of 2017 and 2018, and the COVID-19 pandemic, characterized by the potential to cross geographic and functional boundaries, jumping from one system to another, not forgetting the European flooding and wildfires that occurred few weeks later in Summer.

Around **100 participants** were present to listen the high-level presentations from Universities mostly, among which the ***EU perspectives on Transboundary Resilience*** by the European Commission (DG HOME). The occasion to address the topics of **a)** Trans-governmental Solutions and the 1st European Disaster Response Exercise 2016-17, **b)** Transboundary Societal Resilience, **c)** High Reliability Management; also the potential **PSCE innovation support** to opportunities and challenges in the domain.

3) PSCE CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS



80
PARTICIPANTS

Last 30th of November and 1st of December 2021, despite the hard and unpredictable Covid-19 situation, PSCE successfully held its 23rd **Conference in Brussels**, in collaboration with the Belgian Federal Police. The event gathered **80 participants** and was attended by a variety of **EU officials** (DG CNECT, DG ECHO, DG HOME) and other experts.

Three topical issues were addressed during the conference: (i) Artificial Intelligence (AI): how to enhance First Responders' Situational Awareness, (ii) Climate Change Emergency: how to improve preparedness, (iii) Mission Critical Applications using broadband communication: current and future solutions.

In addition, **13 projects** were presented, **10 exhibitors** held a booth to present their solutions and products, including our **4 sponsors**, namely **Abiom, Airbus – Defence & Space, Lyfo, Motorola Solutions**, all contributing to create a clustering of exchange for innovative solutions in public safety.

It was also the occasion to organise the yearly **General Assembly (GA)** and a **Committees Meeting**. Besides the common administrative matters the GA involves, PSCE Members took the occasion to meet up again (or for the first time talking about some new Members that travelled to Belgium), share views on the addressed topics, and agree on holding strategic positions as members of a forum.

The debates triggered by the topics at PSCE Conference will certainly **contribute to improving the efficiency of public safety operations** and PSCE is happy to be part of this drive.

[Conference Report](#)

[Video Recap](#)

PSCE POLICIES

PSCE is dedicated to increase its **expertise** in specific domains and then make it beneficial for its members; the EU-funded projects PSCE is involved in are a way to both reinforce its field of expertise and shape the future of Europe.

SPACE APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

BROADGNSS: TENDER PROCESS INCOMING



BroadGNSS aims at procuring **Innovation activity for Applications, Synchronisation and Monitoring of Critical Mobile Broadband Communication Infrastructure and Information Assets for PPDR Operations** exploiting the features of EGNOS and Galileo signals.

From February 11 to March 22, the BroadGNSS team organised a series of seven **practitioner workshops** with a national or European dimension, to carry out a *Requirements Validation* from users' feedbacks and whose aim is to inform the definition of the *BroadGNSS challenge*, considering the opinion of public authorities across Europe. Such user-driven approach is essential to guarantee that what will be procured will best fit the needs of public safety. **59 public safety practitioners from 14 countries participated to that consultation** from which the innovative solutions to be procured will focus on accurate location and time- synchronisation for mission-critical wireless broadband networks, IoT and drones in the domains of mobile applications, IoT.

In April, the BroadGNSS team published its **Prior Information Notice (PIN)** and launched the **Open Market Consultation (OMC)**, to involve the relevant technical operators to gain market insight on state of the art and future developments as well as giving them an opportunity to form consortia, and to canvass wide stakeholder opinion on the suitability of the **BroadGNSS Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)**.

Last June 2, the BroadGNSS team hit the **first milestone of the OMC by organising a Briefing Webinar** with interested suppliers: more than 30 supplier organisations from 12 countries attended to learn more about the BroadGNSS challenge and the PCP process. Also, the contribution of the suppliers to the **OMC questionnaire** allowed the Technical Validation Committee to publish the **tender document** on the PCP Challenge.

BroadGNSS

Procuring innovation for

APPLICATIONS, SYNCHRONISATION & MONITORING

of

CRITICAL MOBILE BROADBAND COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE & INFORMATION ASSETS

for Public Safety operations

Timeline:

- OPEN MARKET CONSULTATION** (June 2021)
- TENDER PROCESS** (January 2022 – May 2022)
- PHASE 1 SOLUTION DESIGN** (June 2022 – October 2022)
- PHASE 2 PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT** (February 2023 – October 2023)
- PHASE 3 ORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT & FIRST TESTING** (February 2024 – August 2024)

Partners:

- Funder:** EUSPA
- Technical Expertise:** OHB Digital Solutions
- Project Coordination:** PSCEurope Public Safety Communication Europe
- Legal Expertise:** Bird & Bird
- Group of Procurers:** ERILLISVERKOT, RIKS, MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR

Contact:

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Funding: This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101004213.

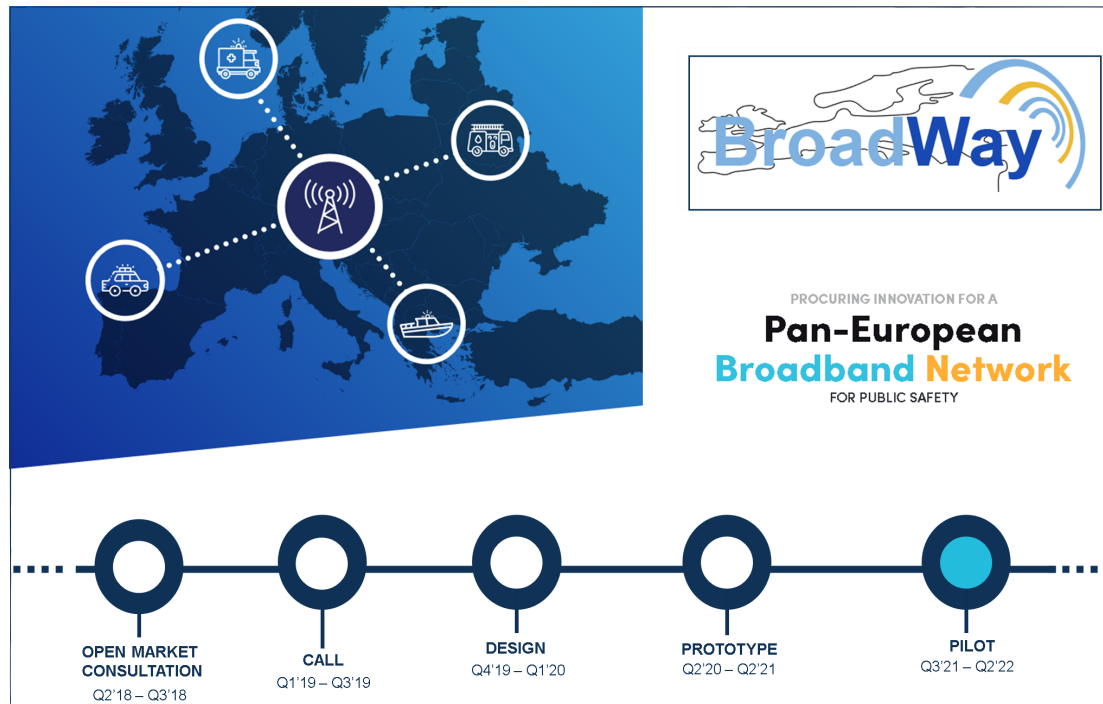
Next February 22, 2022 in Paris (France), the BroadGNSS **Partnering event** will be held to facilitate partnering between potential consortium members for future calls for proposals, by sharing information on expertise needed or offered. It will be the start of the **tender process**.

Finally, **BroadGNSS was presented in various high-level events** such as **a)** PSCE online conference (January 19-20), **b)** Public Safety Radiocommunications Group (PSRG) online meeting to 38 European radio communications experts (April 28), **c)** The Critical Communication Association (TCCA)'s Critical Communications Broadband Group (CCBG) online meeting to broadband experts from all over the world (April 29), **d)** PSCE Conference in Brussels (November 30).

<https://www.broadgnss-info.eu/>

BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS

BROADWAY: PROGRESS IN PCP PROCESS



The **BroadWay** project takes the first procurement steps to enable "*interoperable next generation of broadband radio communication systems for public safety and security*" to improve PPDR service to Europe's citizens, and enhance interoperability across borders.

Last June 7 and 8, **BroadWay** was mentioned in the [Council Conclusions on the Protection of Public Spaces](#): "*The Council EMPHASISES the importance of secure operational and EU interoperable communication for law enforcement agencies and other security practitioners to be able to properly protect and respond in case of cross-border cooperation in the area of public spaces and major events, and INVITES MEMBER STATES to further support EU initiatives aiming at the improvement of existing systems and EU-wide interoperable communication systems for public security, notably the Horizon 2020 BroadWay project*".

Last June 28, BroadWay hit a new milestone with the **official end of the Solution Prototype Phase (Phase 2)** of the BroadWay PCP, with the notification of end of phase 2 results to the three competing consortia – Airbus DS, Frequentis AG and Leonardo S.p.A. After evaluation of the end of phase deliverables, the Group of Procurers awarded a successful status to all three consortia, meaning that they were subsequently invited to participate in the call-off competition for entry into the Pilot Phase (Phase 3).

Last October 8, **the Pilot Phase started** by the signature of awarded contracts to the two first ranked consortia of the Phase 3 call-off competition, following their successful completion of the Phase 2: Airbus DS and Frequentis AG. A primary goal for Phase 3 aims for both pilot systems to be interconnected and provided as-a-service. This seeks the widest operational possibility of the pilot system(s), providing standardised mission critical services to realise Operational Mobility, and will allow practitioners to evaluate the systems in their own operational way.

In October 18, **BroadWay** participated in the Community of European Research and Innovation for Security - Strengthened Security Research and Innovation (**CERIS - SSRI**)'s **workshop *Evaluation of innovative security technologies: Building credibility as a step towards uptake*** to **a)** discuss the value of evaluating the operational effectiveness of innovative security technologies and its influence in their further uptake, **b)** share best practices to evaluate the operational effectiveness of innovative technologies during R&I projects and beyond, **c)** describe the value that end-users can bring to the operational evaluation of innovative security technologies, **d)** brainstorm on how harmonised tools, techniques and methods, tailored to the security domain, could contribute to increasing the credibility and reliability of innovative technologies and increase the trust of future buyers and users in the outcomes of security R&I projects.

Finally, **BroadWay was presented in numerous high-level events and publications** such as **a)** PSCE online conference (January 19-20), **b)** *Land Mobile* magazine ([interview](#) - February), **c)** iProcureNet Advanced Security Procurement Conference (March 10), **d)** Public Safety Radiocommunications Group (PSRG [April 28]), **e)** The Critical Communication Association (TCCA)'s Critical Communications Broadband Group (CCBG [April 29]), **f)** *European Security and Defence* magazine ([article](#) - October 5), **g)** TCCA's CCBG (October 21), **h)** "*Merci l'Europe*" magazine of the Public Broadcasting Organisation of the French Community of Belgium - RTBF ([interview](#) - November 17) **i)** PSCE Conference in Brussels (December 1).

<https://www.broadway-info.eu/>

CLIMATE

CORE: FOR A COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



Launched in September 2021 for a duration of three years, CORE (**sScience and human factOr for Resilient sociEty**) is a project funded under the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Commission, and more specifically under the call *SU-DRS01-2018-2019-2020 - Human factors, and social, societal, and organisational aspects for disaster-resilient societies*.

Its main objective is to make the social communities better prepared to face and overcome disasters: (i) analyse specific risks of natural and anthropogenic origin including cascade effects and different disaster scenarios including earthquake, tsunami, forest and wild-land fires, flash flood, terrorist attack, industrial accident and the Covid-19 pandemic that will be used as a benchmark case and (ii) investigate the social media role in disaster management by paying particular attention to ethical concerns and how these social networks could affect equity and justice, freedom or be harmful to humans.

Last 30 September and 1 October 2021 in Napoli (Italy), the CORE consortium was ready to participate in the **Kick-off meeting** of the project and since then started its activities, mainly the redaction of **strategic deliverables**. It also released its first **Newsletter**.

PSCE mainly leads the ***Dissemination and crucial stakeholders engagement*** that includes the CORE (i) Dissemination & Communication, (ii) Online presence, (iii) Clustering activities.

<https://www.euproject-core.eu/>

NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR PPDR

RESPOND-A: BETTER INFORMATION FOR BETTER CRISIS MANAGEMENT



RESPOND-A aims at **developing holistic and easy-to-use solutions for First Responders** by bringing together the complementary strengths of its Investigators in 5G wireless communications, Augmented and Virtual Reality, autonomous robot and unmanned aerial vehicle coordination, intelligent wearable sensors and smart monitoring, geo-visual analytics and immersive geospatial data analysis, passive and active localisation and tracking, and interactive multi-view 360o video streaming.

In 2021, six months after kicking off the project, the RESPOND-A Consortium achieved some **key activities** whose respective press release and video are available:

- **Webinar** on *How can Augmented Reality (AR) enhance First Responders' Capabilities* (April 20), attended by 140 participants from Europe and beyond.
- **Training #2** in Limassol (Cyprus), to familiarise first-responders with the use of RESPOND-A technologies (September 29-30).
- **Workshop** on *Sensors and Smart Wearables* that attracted 80 participants from Europe and worldwide (November 2).

PSCE, on behalf RESPOND-A Consortium and as the leader of *Dissemination and Communication (D&C)* activities, produced the RESPOND-A **Project animated video** and published two **newsletters**, to enhance the impact of the project.

The first ***Periodic Review*** organised by the European Commission in summer period reported very positive feedbacks about the work carried out until then; especially regarding the D&C: all the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) laid out in the D&C plans were reached.

<https://respond-a-project.eu/>

SEARCH & RESCUE: MORE EXPERTISE FOR BETTER RESCUE OPERATIONS



Search and Rescue (S&R) project designs, implements and tests through a series of large scale pilot scenarios a **highly interoperable, modular open architecture platform for first responders** capitalising on expertise and technological infrastructure from both COncORDE and IMPRESS FP7 projects.

In 2021, five months after kicking off the project, the S&R Consortium organised two **webinars**, whose respective press release and video are available:

- **People with disabilities in search and rescue operations** (March 30), attended by more than 300 participants from Europe and beyond, on the existing disability-inclusive developments in EU framework and initiatives in humanitarian and search and rescue operations and with the contribution of on-the-ground practitioners who shared their experience as well as guidelines on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities.
- **New technologies for search and rescue operations** (December 9), gathering 100 participants from Europe and worldwide, and focusing on recent wildfires and flooding that occurred in Greece and Germany in Summer.

One more time, **PSCE**, on behalf S&R Consortium and as the leader of Dissemination and Communication (D&C) activities, produced the S&R **Project animated video** and published two **newsletters**, to enhance the impact of the project.

Again, the first ***Periodic Review*** organised by the European Commission in summer period reported very positive feedbacks about the work carried out until then; especially regarding the D&C: all the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) laid out in the D&C plans were reached.

<https://search-and-rescue.eu/>



FUTURE PRIORITIES

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

- **Keep Public safety in the EU debate**, with the will of publishing more documents, like white papers and policies, to influence the EU institutions' work and keeping organizing events to promote Public safety to a wide audience (institutions, users, research, industry).
- Continue to work **to strengthen the voice of end-users**, first link to society, in the constant feedback process we ensure with other categories of organizations (institutions, research and industry).
- **Work to stimulate and facilitate the broadband communications and the access to an "European and operational mobility" for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR)**, through the **BroadWay** and **BroadGNSS** projects.
- **Sustain our momentum with the ESA** (and the European GNSS agency) on the development of new space applications for public safety, with the already planned or achieved activities: **(i)** definition of use cases for a future ESA call to be published next March, by consultation of members (January 2022), **(ii)** invitation to take the floor at the ESA workshop on the *Rapid and Resilient Crisis Response (R3) Accelerator* on January 14, 2022, in presence of a High Level Advisory Group composed of experts (space-based R3 Accelerator is proposed to be a federated solution interconnecting space and ground systems and services), **(iii)** invitation to present and attend the *4S Advisory Committee on Public Safety* to collect the national perspectives and areas of interest, in particular in view of the preparation of the 4S thematic call for proposals "*Space applications supporting digital transformation in public safety*" (January 20, 2022).



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