PSCE Winter Conference 2024
in Brussels
DECEMBER 4 & 5, 2024

PSCEurope
Public Safety Communication Europe

CONFERENCE REPORT

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PSCE Winter Conference Report

Brussels, 4 & 5 December 2024

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Executive summary

The PSCE Winter Conference took place on 4 and 5th of December 2024 in the Maison des associations internationals in Brussels. PSCE team has been pleased to welcome several partners and collaborators in the framework of EU projects. 100 participants took part of the event to discuss topical issues related to public safety and crisis management, with researchers as well as practitioners. This allowed us to bring a complete vision of risks and stakes related to public safety in Europe.

Here, 3 topics have been discussed throughout this conference:

- Lessons learned from the management of large events
- Pan-European Critical Communication and Information Exchange
- Preparing the EU Critical Communication System (EUCCS)

The project FIDAL offered also a deep view on the potential solutions using 5G/6G both during the exhibition and during a dedicated workshop

During this conference, we've been glad to listen to stakeholders with very diverse profiles, which was very interesting. From engineers to practitioners and researchers, PSCE Winter conference allowed our collaborators to show the projects they've been working on, the goals they achieved and their ambitions for the future.

Introduction

Opening words

The conference was kicked off with a warm and stimulating introduction presenting the event topical subjects to be discussed by David Lund, PSCE president.

EITHOS – Marie-Christine Bonnamour

Marie-Christine Bonnamour is specialised in European law and European affairs. She is also an auditor of the INHESJ (Institut des hautes Etudes de sécurité et de Justice – Paris France) since 2016. She has been working in various EU projects, being responsible for dissemination and communication activities. She has been also working for the medical profession and the police administration at EU level during the last 15 years and is the General secretary of PSCE since 2009. She has an in- depth knowledge of the Public Safety Community (actors, drivers and challenges).

Marie-Christine Bonnamour presented the EITHOS project, which aims to build a European Identity Theft Observatory System. The project addresses the growing issue of Online Identity Theft (OIDT), which occurs through social media hacking, deepfakes, and credential theft. EITHOS's mission is to provide public access to cybersecurity information and engage European citizens through various activities. The project collaborates with partners across Europe, covering topics such as deepfakes, online frauds, data privacy, and the psycho-social dimensions of OIDT.

Sylvanus - Alexandros Giordanis

Alexandros Giordanis is a Junior Project Manager in the European Projects Department of the Hellenic Rescue Team and an active volunteer rescuer in its Mountain Rescue Department. He holds a bachelor's degree in supply chain management from the International Hellenic University and an MBA from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Alexandros has been an active member of the Hellenic Rescue Team's working group for the Search & Rescue and MED1stMR projects, both recognized by the EU as success stories.

Alexandros Giordanis presented the SILVANUS project, which aims to develop a climate-resilient technological platform for wildfire management. The project focuses on three phases: preparation and preparedness, detection and response, and restoration and adaptation. SILVANUS incorporates innovations such as forest landscape management tools, historical wildfire assessment, big data frameworks, and Earth observation. The project is actively monitoring pilots in various European regions, including Slovakia, Romania, and Greece, to improve wildfire resilience and promote fire safety.

MEDiate – Régis Decorme

As well, we've had the occasion to learn more about MEDiate, a project founded by the European Union, made to enhance local and regional disaster risk management by multi- hazard and risk-informed system.

Engineer (University of Nice – Polytech Sophia Antipolis, '04) with extensive experience in research and innovation focused on societal challenges. His work centres on Information Technologies (IT) and Open Innovation in business-oriented fields such as energy-efficient buildings, active ageing and design, and smart cities.

Régis Decorme is an Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

The MEDiate project, led by ICT engineer Régis Decorme, aims to enhance disaster preparedness and governance by addressing societal challenges in disaster management. It develops a decision-support system (DSS) for managing multiple interacting hazards and impacts. MEDiate collaborates with international partners such as Mines Engineering School, University of Strathclyde Glasgow, BRGM, and the Icelandic Met Office. The project emphasizes planning, anticipation, and operational response to ensure security and mitigate risks for populations.

EFFECT – Salvatore Marchese

Then, we had the pleasure of listening to **Salvatore Marchese**'s words, who's been presenting Webgenesys s.p.a's work on EFFECT in the framework of FIDAL project as one of the selected projects of the Open Call.

Salvatore Marchese is an experienced field service engineer working since 1999 with laser sources and systems. He perfectly mixes high technical competencies with soft skills with a tenacious drive to complete a goal, rapid and creative troubleshooting methods, and commitment to satisfying customer's needs.

EFFECT, led by Webgenesys, addresses Europe's increasing wildfire challenges, especially in remote areas with limited connectivity. The project uses IoT sensors, solar-powered gateways, 5G technology, and model-driven analytics to create an early warning system for fast fire detection and real-time monitoring. This adaptable technology benefits agriculture, pipelines, power grids, and remote industries, offering scalable sensor network expansion without compromising performance.

SwarmCatcher solution – CERTH.
Sarantis Kalafatidis

The next pitch elevator was about SwarmCatcher solution, a new technology elaborated in the framework of FIDAL project, presented by **Sarantis Kalafatidis**

Sarantis is a Postdoctoral researcher specializing in Software-Defined Networking, 5G technologies, and cybersecurity, with extensive expertise in network optimization and cloud computing solutions.

SwarmCatcher addresses growing threats from malicious drones to critical infrastructure and public safety using **AI-powered surveillance over 5G networks**. It tackles challenges like slow response times and inflexibility in existing systems with:

- **Multi-sensor detection**: Combines optical/thermal cameras, RF detectors, acoustic sensors, and radar for precise threat classification.
- **5G integration**: Enables ultra-fast data transmission, low-latency decision-making, and edge processing for scalable deployments.
- **Real-time response**: Detects unauthorized drones instantly and triggers alerts via dashboards for enhanced situational awareness.

The system enhances critical infrastructure protection (e.g., power plants, airports) and public safety through dynamic, adaptable surveillance.

Topic 1 – Lessons learnt from the management of large events

This first subject allowed public safety organisations to share their experiment on major recent events, what lessons they've learned, and what progress they achieved.

French red-cross: Anne Sophie Dubus

Starting on this first topic, we've been pleased to listen to **Anne-Sophie Dubus**, who told how the French red cross managed operations of emergencies during the 2024 summer Paris Olympics. *Anne-Sophie Dubus is a marketing and business development expert with over 20 years of experience in the food industry (Groupe BEL) and new technologies (Microsoft). She has worked across B2B and B2C brands in diverse regions, including the United States, Asia-Pacific, and Europe. Passionate about alternative economic and entrepreneurial models focused on social, societal, and environmental impact, she transitioned from the for-profit sector to the Social and Solidarity Economy (ESS) by joining the French Red Cross.*

During the 2024 Paris Olympics, French red cross has put tremendous human and technical investments to guarantee public safety across the capital and the country: 75,000 volunteers into 1,100 local branches and over 90 territories and around 100 activities; 18,000 employees through 650 facilities and 10 medical/social sectors. The 2024 Paris Olympics pushed the French Red Cross to its limits, offering key lessons for future large-scale operations.

- Scaling up requires more than just expanding existing solutions—it demands new approaches, tools, and mindsets.

- Crisis management must be data-driven from the start, ensuring interoperability of tools and efficient resource allocation.

- Human resources are critical: overstaffing is preferable to exhaustion, and post-event recovery (mental health, recognition) must be planned.

- Soft skills are as important as technical skills—volunteers need adaptability, problem-solving abilities, and resilience under pressure.

AMCOSS - République Française - Renaud Mellies

Keeping going on Paris Olympics 2024, **Renaud Mellies** from the French ministry of interior shared us AMCOSS'S lessons learned from this mega-event.

Renaud Mellies is the Head of International Cooperation, Standardization and Innovation in the French ministry of interior RRF programme and worked in the telecommunications industry for 20 years before joining this programme.

He presented the organization of this edition that included 35,000 policemen, 18,000 armed forces members to keep around 13.5 millions of visitors and 15,000 athletes. A dedicated governance body was set-up to manage all security dimensions of the event: this included a centralized command center providing 24/7 supervision, cooperation with ANSSI (The National Cyber Defense Agency) that ensured a direct oversight of the cyber strategy and mapped, audit and reinforced the cyber defense measures of all involved entities.

Renaud insisted on 3 main things on this mega-event What Olympics 2024 taught them in terms of civil and cyber security. First, he told that robustness of the solution should be built around several layers with the aim of eliminating any single point of failure. It requires for instance a core infrastructure and radio access network robustness and engages a network supervising capabilities, a back-up radio coverage and a last resort direct-mode. He added (#2) that events such as the Olympics generate massive cyber threats requiring dedicated defense mechanisms within the RRF's security operation center, such as a direct link to French MOI cyber defense center, a dedicated devices protection and end to end communication encryption system. He concluded (#3) by mentioning how important was the ground to air communications with aircraft and that it must be included into critical communications. During these Olympics, more than 8 helicopters were continuously deployed to secure ground operations. In ground to air security, Renaud naturally includes drones that are more and more ubiquitous and require critical communication capabilities.

German Red Cross - Philipp Wiesener

Pursuing on mega-events, after Renaud's words we have been pleased to listen to **Philipp Wiesener** from the German Red Cross who presented us the results and challenges he has been dealing with during the EURO2024 competition. From June 14th to July 14th 2024, 46 matches have been covered by the GRC in the stadiums according to UEFA Medical Requirements.

Public engagement was extensive, with 89 registered fan zones and public viewing areas. Medical teams provided 4,788 services, while 398 patient transports were carried out, ensuring a high level of safety and support throughout the tournament.

During the competition, the main tasks for the Coordination Center were for instance making an overall situation report, situation analysis and dissemination to branches, daily situations briefings, central press and public relations coordination.

In a few figures, a total of 145,656 hours were logged, with 16,828 emergency personnel registered. Throughout the event, 1,122 incidents were recorded, including external events.

Brussels Police - Hans Messaien

Afterwards, **Hans Messiaen**, operational manager of capital police made a presentation about the arrival of his holiness Pope Francis and the security stakes of his venue, on the 26th of September 2024.

Brussels police has planned communal/regional emergency planning including for example a multidisciplinary monitoring under the lead of the Senior Civil Servant With regular situation updates

A visit of such an important character requires a well thought-out preparation, from late April to September. Indeed, Brussels Police has been starting to work on this with Safe.brussels project, and safety and guarding insurance.

- Timeline of external meetings, Programme
- Free speech zone for demonstrations. Communal/Regional emergency planning
- Communication

Topic 2: Pan-European Communication and Information Exchange

In this section of the conference, we've been pleased to listen to thoughtful speeches of experts in civil security and public safety, the experience of practitioners (Red cross) and to allow collaborators to train on FIDAL workshop.

Norwegian Directorate of protection (DSB) - Michel Duits

Michel Duits, head of the Norwegian Directorate of Protection, then, held a presentation of this 10 years experience with the TETRA Inter system interface.

Michel Duits is a telecommunications expert specializing in mission-critical communications and public safety networks. He has extensive experience in TETRA, IT, and telecom, with a strong background in IT service management, business process

design, and project implementation across both commercial and public organizations. Currently, he is focused on MCX standardization, interworking between TETRA and MCX, and EU Critical Communication System (EUCCS) preparations. As the TCCA Admin for the Interworking Function (IWF) Workgroup, he plays a key role in advancing cross-border communication solutions.

He first made a quick background of the ISI-services in the Nordics (here Sweden, Norway and Finland). The project has been through stages like the signature of the contract between MSB, DSB, Motorola and Airbus in 2009, Launch of Norway-Swedeb ISI service in 2017 and FINO and FISE – ISI Launched in Virve, Rakel and Nødnett in2019. In terms of technical progress, TETRA has been able to set for instance tenders and requirements for updates on Radio terminal specification on features. This work has involved partners such as TCCA, ETSI, and ISITEP.

Michel ended his presentation by the presenting the next challenges he's working on and the future of the project : CBC during transition is possible with multiple standardised connections like IWF and later INT; Norway adds Interworking and Interconnection in the specification for the next Nødnett on Broadband. The project's steps to the next generation PPDR will be to interwork with MCX, the establishment of NCCOM project, the participation of EUCCS, and other goals…

ESA Civil Security from Space (CSS) - Christopher Topping

We then had the chance to listen to **Christopher Topping**, Head of Civil Security Programme Office.

Christopher Topping is Head of Civil Security from Space Programme Office for the European Space Agency. He led the Rapid and Resilient Crisis Response (R3) Accelerator initiative, which have a focus in developing space enabled solutions for civil protection and crisis management.

In his speech, he taught us how seriously the ESA take the protection of citizens, Natural Resources and Critical Infrastructures as an urgency to act. ESA's

priority uses cases remain diverse cases of risk such as geopolitical crisis, natural disasters, cybercrimes, transport safety, resource protection, …

In order to respond to civil protection and crisis challenges, CSS project develops programmes at different scales. It is Focusing on - National specific interests and sovereign space-enabled capabilities, integrating with National systems and solutions. At the European scale, CSS's Focused on pooling & sharing of European wide capabilities, and boost access to space solutions. Finally, the project is also internationally implementing solutions in line with the R3 accelerator objectives on European and international crisis response.

Starion – Sebastien d'Antonio & Seliman Diakate

Sebastien D'Antuono and Seliman Niakate from the European organisation Starion has presented us SAFEPLACE project - SAFEty PLAtform for Crisis and Emergency.

In their speech, they talked about the challenges their facing within this project and the solution they've found. Key challenges remain stakes such as delayed Crisis Reporting, Fragmented Access to Information, data security, information bottleneck, …

SAFEPLACE is notably working on risks like chemical disasters, floods, wildfires and earthquakes. Its goals are to Build an advanced information system to support Crisis/Disaster Management organizations, enhancing communication and situational awareness during crises and a Data Integrated with existing CMC(s) Applications.

This cross-border project includes collaborators working with Starion such as experts in civil protection like Bayern Red cross, telecommunication systems (Vodafone for instance), and high resolution satellite imaging incarnated by Aerospacelab.

SAFEPLACE has set strong services in order to build an efficient response to risks, crisis and emergency. Here's a schema made by Starion showing how the project works with its plural services.

SAFEPLACE also works with environmental intelligence by applying real-time ground sensor mapping for continuous monitoring and fast crisis response and monitoring Toxic gas with a network of sensors and predicting the plume extent and direction…

Multi-gas microsensor network implementation in partnership with a IoT system integrator

IoT device dedicated to Industry 4.0

Aerial intelligence is also being worked on by the project. SAFEPLACE now leverages drones for Victim Detection & Localization or Flood Extent Mapping services. It uses as well AI-driven RGB and SAR image intelligence.

Swedish Police new methods – Fredrik Ryberg

Swedish Police inspector and project manager **Fredrik Ryberg** presented us the Swedish police new methods which take into account technological progress – "From old and locked in technology and information To information centric and information sharing" process.

Fredrik Ryberg is a Superintendent and head of Operations RG2 at the Swedish Police Authority with focus on operating procedures and end-users perspectives. Rakel G2 is the next generation communication system that will replace the Tetra system, called Rakel, that is used today in Sweden. He has been a police officer for 17 years.

We've been able to learn more about Swedish police's international partners as well. Besides working with the European commission, *Polismyndigheten* collaborates with NATO (as long as Sweden is part of this organization since 2022), and National police of its neibourghs – Finland, Norway and Denmark. A crossborder communication system has been found between those countries (except Denmark) – FINOSE talk group. Plus, there's also 3 bilateral communication systems between the Nordics – FINO, NOSE and FISE. They're together facing challenges such as terrors and crimes, accidents, missing person, insuring festivals security...

Its challenge now is to create true interoperability by sharing actively data cross-border, respecting national sovereingty and legal frameworks. Swedish national police also takes into account that crime, crisis and incidents know no borders.

Fredrik Ryberg was truly satisfied to show us what permitted all this interoperability and this crossborder communication. Factors such as similar languages spoken with Sweden's neighbors, mutual respect, physical meetings on site, willingness to adapt and compromise on operational procedures on the workfield.

Civil Protection European commission – Joanna Serdynska

Joanna Serdynska holds a law degree from the University of Poznan, Poland, and a Master's in European and International Law from the University of Bremen, Germany. After practicing law in the private sector, she joined the European Commission in 2008, initially working on equality and non-discrimination policies. Since 2013, she has served as a legislative officer in the Directorate-General for Justice, specializing in EU family law within the Civil Justice Policy unit.

Joanna Serdynska Team Leader ECHO B.2 made a presentation to express the current priorities for the new term of the European Commission. She first talked about the notion of preparedness and how seriously her team takes it. Fostering a culture of preparedness is essential as we shift from reactive to proactive crisis management. This approach underpins our efforts to develop and implement the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, ensuring that we are better equipped to anticipate and respond to emerging threats. Regular and comprehensive preparedness exercises at the EU level will be a key component of this strategy, allowing us to test and refine our crisis response mechanisms. Above all, citizens' preparedness will be at the heart of the new mandate. Strengthening societal awareness and investing in risk education will be crucial to building resilience at every level of our communities. Mrs. Serdynska then told us about resilience, a key-notion in the risk management domain. Building a culture of resilience is a key priority for the EU. To strengthen crisis management and

community resilience, we are developing a European Civil Defence Mechanism. Ensuring a resilient supply of critical goods, particularly medical countermeasures, is also essential. This includes establishing a medical countermeasure strategy, developing an EU-wide stockpiling plan, and supporting research and manufacturing in this field.

Wasserwacht – Benjamin Taitsch

In this conference, we also had the chance to hear a word from practitioners who are directly involved in working on the site. *Benjamin Taitsch from the Bavarian Red Cross. He is a Chief operating officer of Sonnenburg Electronic AG (the leading premium brand for worldwide alarm systems and population warning, active in 25 countries worldwide) since 2023 and Member of the Presidium of the Bavarian Red Cross since May 2021.*

In order to save citizens from this situation, Wasserwacht deployed air-rescue specialist teams in the region as well as water rescue services.

Bavarian lander, in the southeast of Germany, went through atrocious floods in May and early June 2024 due to special and unusual meteorological conditions. Inn, Ilz and Donau river levels went up to 10 meters in the city of Passau. Mr. Taitsch and his team brought together all their efforts and expertise to save lives and managed this meteorological hazard by making 7000 people evacuations. All of this wouldn't have been possible without the 140.000 voluntary members, the 556 local associations, 256 Quick-Reaction-Units, showing qualifications in Water Rescue, Air-Rescue, Mission divers, etc… The Wasserwacht has been able in this period to show, in the work field, its new technical structures [for heavy rainfall events].

6GSNS – Pavlos Fournogerakis

Pavlos Fournogerakis is Deputy Head of Programmes in Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS JU). His responsibilities include coordination of SNS/Horizon Europe programme implementation and project portfolio, 6G

research strategy and work programme definition as well as policy feedback activities in the area of connectivity. From 2012 to 2022 he held various positions in the CONNECT Directorate General of the European Commission and in the Research Executive Agency, where he was involved in the implementation of the 5G Public Private Partnership and cybersecurity programmes, research and policy development in the areas of 5G and future communication networks, IoT and network security.

Pavlos Fournogerakis has shown his vision of the future of data and communication networks. SNS is making a path to 6G thanks to partnerships and innovations. Ensuring a balanced representation of both the public and private sectors is a key priority, with a 50/50 approach in decision-making. The Governing Board will define strategic priorities and set a clear roadmap, reinforcing long-term commitment in both planning and implementation.

To strengthen coordination, the EU will align national investments with 6G research and innovation plans, fostering synergies through a structured approach. Consultation and strategic guidance will play a central role in shaping policies, while the EU will actively oversee the piloting and deployment of key initiatives in close collaboration with member state representatives.

Beyond the EU, cooperation with associated countries and multilateral partners will be reinforced, creating opportunities for long-term collaborative roadmaps in mutually relevant fields. Advisory bodies and partnerships will help drive this coordinated effort, ensuring a strong and future-oriented framework.

Paragon – Martijn Mol

Martijn Mol, from the Belgian National Crisis Center (NCCN), has presented us the PARAGON project, a cross-border emergency planning, crisis coordination & management.

Martijn Mol is a project manager withing the Paragon project. After his Master studies in History and afterwards European Politics, Martijn started his career at the National Crisis Centre. For the next year and a half, he worked with all different emergency and security partners in Belgium in order to optimize the Belgian security platform and make sure its 10.000 users can navigate themselves within the system.

Let's first present NCCN organisation. The NCCN is a multidisciplinary, interdepartmental, inter-federal and internationally oriented organization which, from a central key position, responds to societal challenges, offers strategic support to all its partners in synergy with all security actors, and has efficient, appropriate infrastructure at its disposal to deal with crises of all kinds, regardless of their nature and dimensions. Within Paragon's organization, NCCN developed a security platform that allows a cooperation between all disciplines in Belgium, a crisis/national preparation plus crisis management and a database of emergency plans.

National securit platform 1

After having reminded us about why Paragon has been created – the 2021 major floods in Belgium and neighboring countries; Mr. Mol presented the key objects of Paragon, such as Feed ; Case ; Anchors : emergency plan ; contacts ; widgets and maps.

He ended his speech by insisting on lessons his team has learned by working on this project. 'It was really useful to work together on an international level, he said. He added that there's a potential problem: the threshold is not always the same - an example of floods.

FIDAL WORKSHOP

The FIDAL PPDR Workshop took place on December 5 showcased key technologies explored by the FIDAL project in Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) through real-world use cases and innovations from FIDAL partners and the first FIDAL Open Call winners. Live demonstrations and a poster session provided hands-on insights into these solutions. The workshop structured around three main themes—Real-time Incident Detection, Situational Awareness, and Augmented & Extended Reality—sparked engaging discussions.

- Real-time Incident Detection: Topics included the scalability of early warning technologies, sensor coverage costs, and potential data duplication with satellite observations. Challenges in detecting camouflaged devices (e.g., drones) and investments in narrow-band IoT were also debated.

- Situational Awareness: Discussions focused on filtering key information for control rooms, the feasibility of camera deployment in remote areas, and the need for cybersecurity measures within MCX standard ecosystems.

- Augmented & Extended Reality: Participants examined deployment costs, national-scale scalability, and the role of edge computing, expected to be widespread by 2026.

The Q&A sessions highlighted interest in beyond-5G solutions while raising concerns about user acceptability, feasibility, and long-term economic viability. These insights will inform FIDAL's upcoming large-scale trials, aiming to enhance solution adoption in the PPDR market. Projects featured included FIDAL CORE Use Cases: FIDAL Use Case 2, 3 and 6.2 and FIDAL Open Call projects: SwarmCatcher, Mission Critical SEAL, B5G- MOBITRUST and RescueSync.

Brad Morell – Firstnet authority

Brad Morell is the Director of Network and Technology Operations at FirstNet, leading its international engagement efforts. A global expert in public safety broadband communications, he fosters collaboration among nations and organizes key international exchanges.

Brad Morell presented us the whole Firstnet Network Momentum project and its new organization and innovation. Firstnet now works with 6.4 million connections, 100% band 14 initial coverage buildout, over 865 FirstNet ready devices, over 180 dedicated deployable network assets, and over 29,000 public safety agencies and organizations subscribed. In 10 years, there has been an investment of 8 billion dollars to evolve and improve FirstNet system. Thousands of sites has been built since the beginning of the project and 1000 new ones are planned to be built in the next two years. In order to enhance current functionality, FirstNet is working on creating a standalone 5G core, expanding mission critical services for public safety operations, and providing always-on priority and pre-emption across all AT&T 5G commercial spectrum bands. Mr. Morell also shared us the purpose and the goals of this project. In the perspective of evolving public safety communications, FirstNet works on accelerating solution

deployment by reducing time and cost for the deployment of solutions. It also secures supply chains, drives economies of scale, shares risk and threat information and embraces learning and innovation. Thus, by working on different scales and with various actors, Firstnet has made significant progress on building an actual network, as a shield to protect populations from crucial risks.

Topic 3: Preparing the EU Critical Communication System (EUCCS)

Last topic of this conference treated about this earnest and ambitious project funded by the European Commission. We've had the occasion to hear about progress from our collaborators on several aspects of this pan-European mobile broadband system development

DG HOME: The political context

DG HOME is driving the development of an EU-wide mission- critical communication system (EUCCS) to enhance cross-border and cross-sectoral collaboration for law enforcement and emergency responders. This initiative aims to:

- Enable seamless, real-time, 24/7 communication across EU Member States without the need for system adaptation.
- Improve operational mobility, ensuring faster responses to security incidents and Enhance resilience against cyber threats and interference.
- Strengthen EU strategic autonomy in security communications.

Policy and Governance Framework

The EUCCS initiative aligns with key EU security policies, including:

- Council Conclusions on Public Spaces Protection (2021) – Emphasizing secure and interoperable law enforcement communication.
- Council Recommendation on Operational Law Enforcement Cooperation (2022) – Calling for real-time, cross-border communication capabilities.
- EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence (2023) – Exploring the role of IRIS² satellite infrastructure in secure communication.
- Von der Leyen's Political Guidelines (2024-2029) – Prioritizing a European Critical Communication System for enhanced security cooperation.
- Niinistö Report (2024) – Urging the rapid completion of EUCCS to connect all EU security and public safety authorities.

The European Parliament and Council have reiterated the strategic importance of secure digital infrastructure, with the BroadWay project serving as a foundation for EU-wide interoperable communication. The Commission is actively working to finalize and deploy EUCCS, ensuring stronger security cooperation, crime prevention, and crisis response across Europe.

EUCCS Preparation - David Lund

President of PSC-Europe **David Lund** made a presentation of this EU project that has represented a noticeable part of PSCE team work.

David Lund is a safety and security expert. He specializes in trustworthy communication technologies, focusing on cybersecurity and resilient communications. He coordinates BroadEU.Net, supporting European governments in developing the EU Critical Communication System (EUCCS), following the success of BroadWay, a pre-commercial procurement program for pan-European public safety broadband. His work addresses security and resilience challenges in information systems, ensuring data control and reliable communication. He is actively involved in EC Framework Programmes, 5G Testbeds, and OpenRAN initiatives funded by the UK's Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT).

Originally known as Broadmap, then renamed Broadway, this project is now called EUCCS (instead of BroadEUnet). It engages partners of several countries of the European Union and the Schengen area, use of MCX testbeds and Implement Agreed 3GPP Configurations. EUCCS Preparation, funded by the EU, is developing a pan-European mobile broadband system to strengthen communication and coordination among emergency services during crises and disasters. By leveraging collaboration and innovative communication technologies, all the collaborators are building a robust and resilient system to enhance the safety and security of citizens across Europe. The EUCCS Preparation aims to support the development of the EU Critical Communication System (EUCCS) to enable a new pan-European Operational Mobility capability. This will allow public safety responders to:

- Operate seamlessly, regardless of their location or country of origin
- Communicate whenever needed
- Connect with anyone within their communication group

The group of the 4 selected contractors gave a presentation on their solutions for realizing EUCCS.

1) Airbus DS PSS for EUCCS – Yves Van Tente

AIRBUS

Yves Van Tente, summarized Airbus's contribution to EUCCS project regarding its expertise in technical and innovational qualities.

Postgraduated from Hogechool Brussels University (HUB) in business economics, Yves Van Tente is a Business Development manager for mission critical communication and collaboration systems. After having worked as an engineer and manager for companies such as Proximus, Ericsson and Huawei, he know works as a business developer in the secure land communications department of Airbus.

Airbus (secure land) global communication solutions for better safety will not have been this efficient without TETRA and TETRAPOL technologies, its 1150 experts throughout Europe and its 300+ networks for Mission & Business Critical Organizations. Airbus has been collaborating efficiently with organizations such as AMCOSS, KEMEA and PSCE in this ongoing project.

For decades, Airbus has been a key player in the critical communications market, securing a leading position in nationwide public safety networks. Airbus has delivered authority communication networks in multiple countries, including Germany (BOS), Sweden (Rakel), Hungary, Estonia, Belgium (ASTRID), and Finland (Virve), with several of these systems deployed in record time.

Committed to innovation, Airbus designs products and services that enable customers to fully leverage mission-critical mobile broadband while ensuring seamless service continuity for end users. Working closely with user organizations, Airbus develops flexible solutions tailored to operational needs, facilitating a smooth and gradual transition to broadband. This approach enhances both the safety of first responders and the security of the communities they protect.

2) Frequentis – Ole Haram Olsen

In the framework of Frequentis's work BroadPortEU consortium in EUCCS preparation, Ole Haram Olsen has made presentation of his team's work into EUCCS.

Ole Haram Olsen is responsible for the business of Frequentis Public Transport in the Nordics and Baltics, including account management and new, tender-based consultative selling. In this role, he's also responsible for new business development for emerging market technologies. Frequentis specializes in safety-critical communication and information solutions, drawing on over 75 years of experience that demonstrate its leadership in this market. With extensive cross-industry expertise spanning civil aviation, defense, public safety, maritime, and public transportation, the company has expanded beyond its original focus on control center voice communications to develop deep proficiency in these five key areas. Throughout its history, Frequentis has been a driving force of innovation, achieving numerous industry firsts. As the industry continues to evolve, the company remains committed to pioneering advancements with a user-centric approach, ensuring that the needs of controllers are at the core of every development. Using MCX systems, Frequentis takes in charge to set standards in mission critical communication worldwide. It offers its services in domains as defence, public transport (7 of the 10 largest rail networks in Europe use Frequentis technology), maritime and public safety. Mr. Olsen shared us his motivation to join EUCCS preparation project by offering his knowledge and expertise in MCX systems.

3) Leonardo – Massimo Lenzi

Massimo Lenzi presented Leonardo's progress on developing innovative technologies for public safety communications.

Massimo Lenzi is a seasoned expert with over 30 years of experience in professional communications and security systems. His expertise spans pre-sales, bid management, product and project engineering, business development, and customer service. He has led engineering teams of 50 to 150 people and has delivered over 100 mission-critical systems for military, police, law enforcement, first responders, and transportation sectors worldwide.

From the signature of the agreement with PSCE in November 2024, Leonardo, by next May, will have been using MCX technologies in the framework of 4 milestones. Including MCX test services in Finland and Ireland and A1 & A2 systems in Milan, creating a protecting cloud over Europe, Leonardo is willing to participate in building an 'internet-shield' using performing technologies throughout the continent.

Thus, Mr. Lenzi shared us that Leonardo is looking forward to fully interoperable EUCCS including 3CCP protocol (5G), User experience focused, Scalable and flexible, Fully standard open ecosystem, Multi tenant and Secure by design based on CIS benchmarks.

4) Teltronic – Raquel Frisa

Raquel Frisa, Head of product management of Teltronic, shared us all the progress and work Teltronic has been making the past few years.
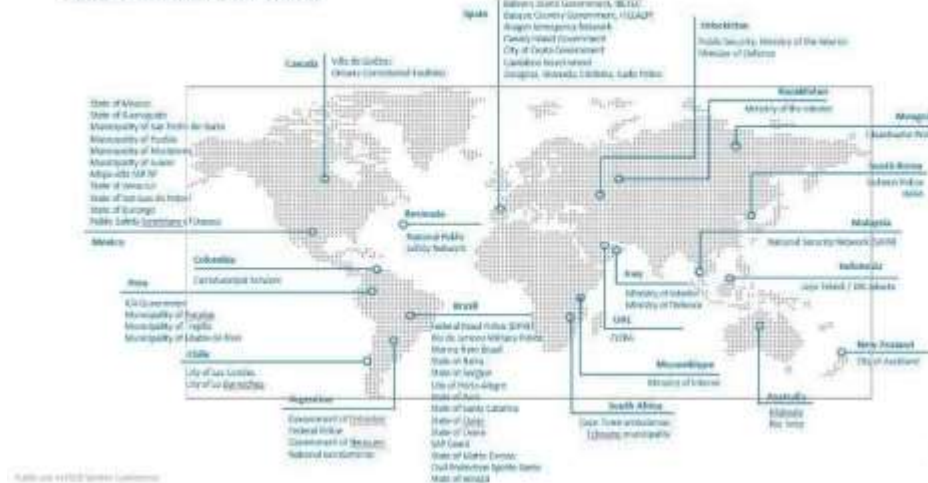
Raquel Frisa is a telecommunications engineer with extensive experience in product and project management, specializing in mobile technologies and control centers. She has various management skills, including team leadership, product management, marketing, financial oversight, vendor management, and process-oriented organization. With a strong customer focus and expertise in technical sales, she thrives in multinational and multicultural environments.

Teltronic develops innovative professional wireless communications solutions on the market, based on TETRA, LTE, 5G and MCX technologies, with reliable products manufactured in Europe.

Thanks to its 400 employees, more than 5000 projects have been deployed in over 60 countries throughout the world. Teltronic covers markets as public safety and emergency response, railways & transports, ports & airports, utilities & industry 4.0 and critical infrastructures mining old and gas. Based in Spain, it implemented in every continent, with various specializations and markets. Teltronic's experience in private networks lies on its communications systems based on open standards, offering maximum interoperability and all the guarantees of investing in a technology with future value. It uses 3 main efficient technologies such as TETRA (private voice and data networks for critical environments), LTE & 5G (private broadband networks for critical & business-critical, MCX (3GPP standard to deliver mission critical networks over broadband technologies).

Public Safety & Emergency networks:
Customers & End users

TCCA – Tero Pesonen

Tero Pesonen, chairman of TCCA organization, has made us a presentation of the Mission Critical Communication in Transition.

Tero Pesonen is an expert in professional mobile radio communication with a career spanning platform design, system engineering, and international business. Active in the field since 1997, he has played a key role in developing and promoting TETRA interoperability and public safety applications. Recently, he has been involved in pioneering work on mission-critical high-speed data, collaborating with major TETRA customers to create advanced solutions. Since 2010, he has served as a board member of the TETRA + Critical Communications Association.

Throughout this mission, TCCA's goal is to empower critical communication users with secure, trusted, and standardized technologies.

First, to put things into context, he shared his vision of what the future holds in the framework of this mission, considering technology progress and innovation. Starting on now by using Gen x MCX devices and 5G within a National narrowband networks in operation and carrying on with Gen x+1 MCX devices by 2030 (plus D2DSidelink NTN Direct-to-Device…), Gen x+2 MCX devices will be used by 2036 in the frame of National MC broadband services in operation. TCCA is on the path to consider 6G as common by 2029 and is hardly working on it.

Bayern Red Cross – Margareta Milhalic-Dogan

Finally, the conference has been ending on **Margareta Milhalic-Dogan** speech from the Bavarian Red Cross.

Project manager, EU grants writes, trainer, consultant and author with 10+ years of professional experience in managing EU financed projects, non-formal education, organizing events (conferences, seminars, trainings, exhibitions, public events), leading project teams, budget management and reporting.

She came to present OPT's work on EUCCS preparation, its objectives, activities and results. The OPT aims to analyze the impact of MCX tools on operational procedures and vice versa, define ideal communication standards, assess differences across agencies and countries, and identify priority actions for improvement. The OPT initiative focuses on enhancing cross-border communication within the EU and Schengen countries through a structured, multi-phase approach. In the short term**,** it aims to review existing cross-border communication processes, test broadband communication procedures, and identify key challenges and gaps. In the medium term, field tests will be conducted to refine and validate procedures, addressing communication gaps and ensuring adaptability to national and regional needs. In the long run, the goal is to establish a standardized framework for cross-border communication and provide strategic recommendations to support EU-wide communication initiatives.

The OPT initiative conducts tabletop exercises (TTXs) and pilot trials to assess and improve cross-border communication within the EU and Schengen countries. These activities explore how MCX technologies can enhance operational collaboration, identify user needs, and refine procedures. The exercises focus on developing cross-border use cases, addressing interoperability challenges, and understanding how technology can better support first responders. Initial findings highlight issues such as information overload, the need for flexible solutions, language barriers, and the importance of avoiding over-reliance on technology while ensuring new procedures and training facilitate effective adoption.

Thank you everyone for having taken part of this conference!

Appendices

Conference agenda:

Day 1 - Wednesday 4 December 2024
09h00 to 17h30

09h00 - 09h30	**Opening words** by David Lund (PSCE President) & Marie-Christine Bonnamour (PSCE Secretary General)
09h10 - 09h35	**Pitch elevators:** EITHOS, SYLVANUS, MEDIATE, EFFECT, SwarmCatcher
Lessons learnt from the management of large events (09h35-11h00)	
09h35 - 09h50	**2024 Paris Olympics – Key lessons from the French Red Cross** by Sophie DUBUS (French Red Cross)
09h50 - 10h05	**Olympics Games 2024 in Paris – Feedback from French authorities** by Renaud MELLIES (French Ministry of Interior)
10h05 - 10h20	**EURO 2024 – Results and challenges for the German Red Cross** by Philipp WIESENER (German Red Cross)
10h20 - 10h35	**Pope apostolic visit to Belgium in September 2024** by Hans Messiaen (Brussels-Capital Police)
10h35 - 11h00	**Panel discussion** chaired by Uwe KIPPNICH (Chair of the PSCE Users Committee)
11h00 - 11h20	**Coffee Break**
Pan-European Critical Communication and Information Exchange (11h20-12h40)	
11h20 - 11h40	**Lessons learnt from 10 years of cross-border communications** by Michel OLITS (The Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB))
11h40 - 12h00	**Transitioning to future public-safety broadband critical communications** by Fredrik RYBERG (The Swedish Police Authority)
12h00 - 12h20	**Civil Security Space Programme** by Christopher TOPPING (European Space Agency (ESA))
12h20 - 12h40	**SAFEPLACE Project: Initial Progress and Strategic consolidation** by Seliman NIAKATE & Sebastien D'ANTUONO (STARION on behalf SAFEPLACE)
12h40 - 13h45	**LUNCH**
13h45 - 14h10	**Civil Protection: Priorities for the new term of the European Commission** by Joanna SERDYNSKA (European Commission - DG ECHO)
PRACTITIONERS' FORUM: Experience & Gaps from practice Feedback from recent flooding in Europe 14h10 - 14h50 **Austrian Red Cross** (Thomas Seitsam) **Bavarian Red Cross** (Benjamin Taitsch)	
14h50 - 15h10	**Coffe Break**
15h10 - 15h30	**Boosting innovation for the development of the critical communication ecosystem** by David LUND (Public Safty Communication Europe (PSCE))
15h30 - 15h50	**SNS JU (Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking): the European 6G vision** by Pavlos FOURNOGERAKIS (SNS JU)
15h50 - 16h10	**Field trials beyond 5G** by Ioannis MARKOPOULOS (NOVA ICT on behalf FIDAL)
16h10 - 16h30	**PARAGON: Cross border emergency planning, crisis coordination & management** by Martijn MOL (Belgian National Crisis Centre - NCCN)
16h30 - 17h30	**Closing of Day 1** **Exhibition area highlighting & Networking**
19h30 - 22h30	**Social event - Dinner** at **La Châtelaine du Liban** Pl. du Châtelain 7, 1050 Ixelles

Day 2 - Thursday 5 December 2024
09h00 to 16h00

09h00 - 09h45	**Welcoming coffee** **General Assembly** (PSCE Members only)
09h45 - 10h30	**PSCE Committees**
10h30 - 13h00	**FIDAL WORKSHOP (10h30 - 13h00)** • 5G/6G PPDR Presentation • Testing technologies • Winners of the First Open Call • Evaluation from Practitioners
13h00 - 14h00	**LUNCH**
14h00 - 14h20	**The First Responder Network Authority: Update of the US perspective** by Brad MORELL (FirstNet Authority)
Preparing the EU Critical Communication System (EUCCS) (14h20-15h50)	
14h20 - 14h35	**Presentation of DG HOME: The political context** by Max BRANDT (European Commission - DG HOME)
14h35 - 14h55	**Presentation of EUCCS Preparation Project: 2025-2026 steps** by David LUND (Public Safety Communication Europe (PSCE))
14h55 - 15h35	**Presentation of the 4 winning bidders of the Procurement** with AIRBUS, FREQUENTIS, LEONARDO, TELTRONIC
15h35 - 15h50	**The Operational Procedures Team (OPT) work** by Margareta MIHALIC-DOGAN (Bavarian Red Cross)
15h50 - 16h00	**Closing of the Conference**

Insights of the conference: