



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 FOREWORD

3 WHAT IS PSCE?

- 3 Our Aim
- 3 Our Structure
- 4 Our Board

5 PSCE ACTIVITIES

- 6 Contribution to Proposals
- 6 Collaboration with 6GIA
- 7 Events
 - 7 PSCE Conferences
 - 10 Projects Webinars
 - 11 Interconnectivity Paper

10 PSCE POLICIES

- 12 Broadband Communications:
The Evolution from BroadWay to BroadNet
FIDAL: Field Trials Beyond 5G
- 15 Climate Change
CORE: for a more resilient society
- 16 Cybersecurity
EITHOS: European Identity Observatory System
- 17 Future Technologies for First Responders
Respond-A
Search and Rescue

18 FUTURE PRIORITIES

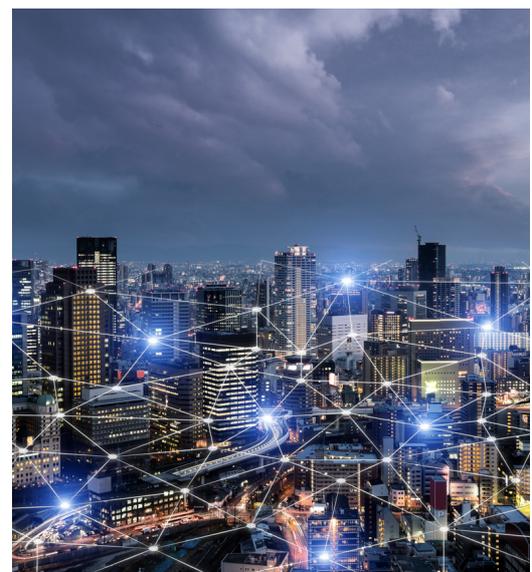
FOREWORD

2023 was another year where PSCE has demonstrated the strong role it plays in the public safety communication fora, with its ability to **bring key stakeholders together** in environments that stimulate **constructive discussions** around the future of public safety and security in Europe not only through the organization of its successful conferences but also by showing a strong presence in all the projects it is involved.

Already deeply involved in **broadband communication projects** with BroadMap and BroadWay, a new stage was reached this year with the launch of BroadEU.Net which aims to support the development of operational procedures and test technologies for the deployment of a European critical communication system. In January 2023 PSCE also joined a new consortium with project FIDAL, testing **innovative solutions beyond 5G** in the fields of Media and Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR).

While two key projects supporting the development of **innovative solutions for first responders** came to an end this year (Search and Rescue, and Respond-A), PSCE ventured into new areas of public safety and security such as **cybercrime and cybersecurity** with **EITHOS**, a project started in October 2022 and that is working to establish an Identity Theft Observatory System at the European level.

In the last year, PSCE has also intensified its activities for the **disaster management and climate-focused** project CORE which will be ending in August 2024.

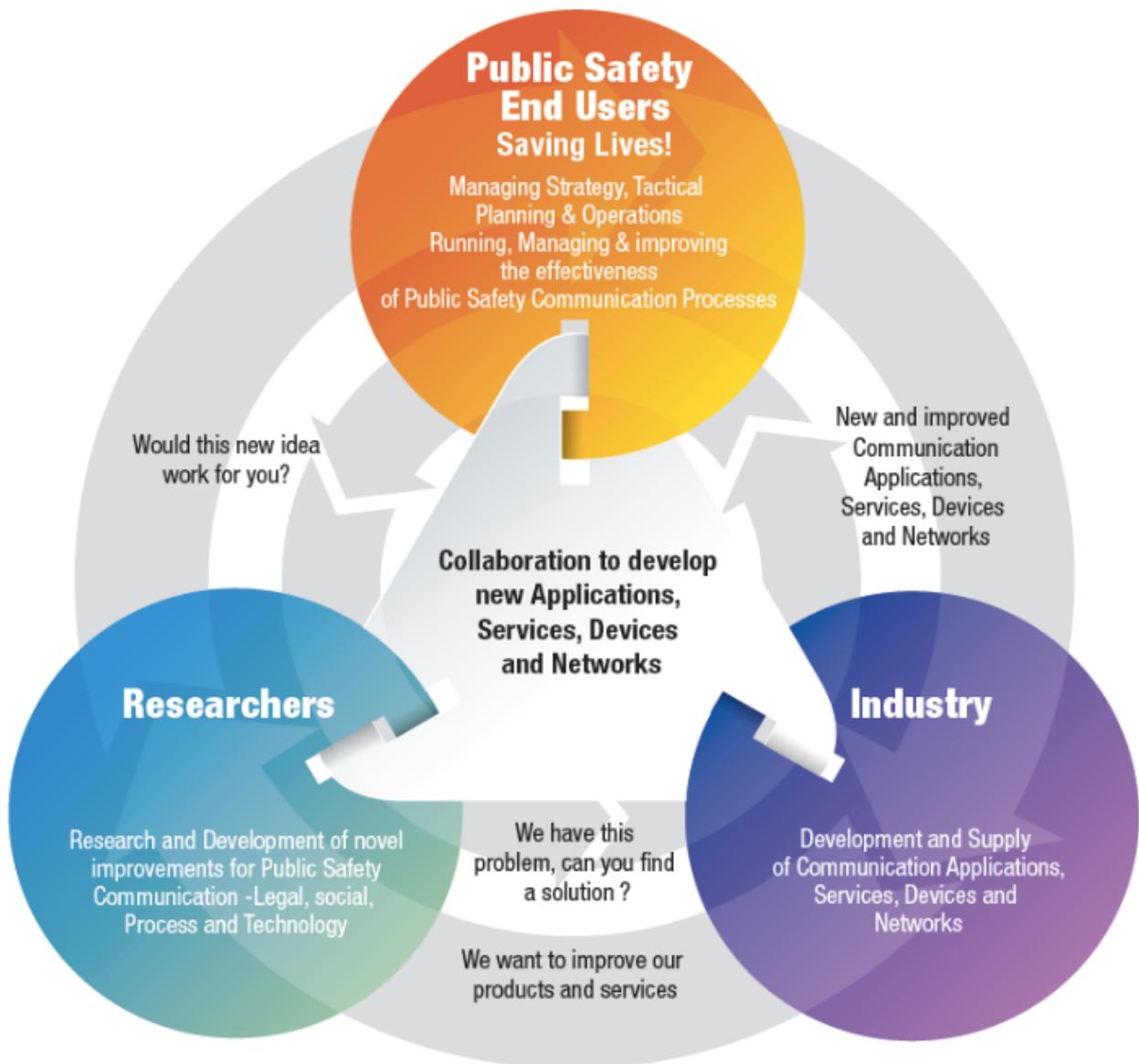


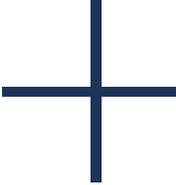
WHAT IS PSCE?

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 BOARD

On 12 June 2023, **the General Assembly endorsed** the election of Mario Drobics as new Chair of the Research Committee and thus as Board Members:



Charlotte Roesener - **President** (2021 - 2025)



Uwe Kippnich - **Past President** (2019 - 2024)

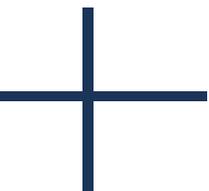


David Lund - **Vice-President & Treasurer** (2022 - 2026)



Mario Drobics - **Relation & Communication Officer** (2023 - 2027)

PSCE Board



PSCE ACTIVITIES

The last year of PSCE was marked by a series of important events for our organisation:

- **Monica Buscher** concluded her mandate with us and in June her position was passed onto **Mario Drobics**, the newly elected Chair of the Research Committee. Mario also joined the PSCE Board as Relation and Communication Officer
- **Committee meetings** (industry, users, researchers) gathered twice: online (June 2023) and in-person in The Hague (December 2023)
- the **bi-annual conferences** in Lavrio, Greece (May 2023) and in The Hague, The Netherlands (December 2023) providing opportunities for industry, sponsors, national and EU projects to showcase their innovations in the exhibition stands and poster sessions spaces and to actively network during the Conferences.

PSCE was also very active in keeping updated its Members and the public safety community with the latest information on PSCE activities, EU News, and PSCE project developments and through social media engagement.



PSCE welcomed a number of **new Members** in 2023: Leonardo (Italy), French National Fire Officers Academy (ENSOSP), Cyprus Police, Aalto University (Finland), Finnish Critical Communication national agency (Erillisverkot), Hellenic Rescue Team (Greece).

INDUSTRY



USERS



RESEARCH



CONTRIBUTION TO PROPOSALS

As every year, PSCE was contacted to join several consortia and participate in a number of project proposals funded by various programs, often collaborating with partners from previous and/or ongoing projects, highlighting the interest from other organisations to continue working with PSCE on new projects.

Particularly for one of the proposals, PSCE initiated a call for Members in May during the PSCE Spring Conference. The proposal focused on ***“Increased Technology Solutions, Institutional Coordination and decision-support system for first responders of last-kilometre emergency services”***, aiming to bring the most needed solutions to First Responders and provide funding opportunities for technology developers. The effort was coordinated by one of PSCE members, HALITEC, and it attracted the interest of many PSCE members: the final consortia was composed by 10 partners, **8 of which are PSCE Members.**

In addition, PSCE is now officially a partner in the project **6G4Society**, who has recently been awarded the EU funding. The project will be looking at the **societal implications in the field of 6G**. The kick-off meeting will take place in The Hague (The Netherlands) on 17-18 January 2024.

COLLABORATION WITH 6GIA



This year, David Lund was re-elected Board Member for 6GIA, representing PSCE in the Association. PSCE is a member since 2021 and in the past years its involvement in the group has led to a number of achievements:

- bringing a PPDR focus into the SNS work programme by joining key task forces
- give a voice to users within the SNS community and 6GIA
- be updated on key synergies among different verticals to push forward the objectives of PSCE
- actively contribute towards processes aiming to integrate societal values into the fields of 5G & 6G

EVENTS

While PSCE carried out its regular activities, including the organization of major events for the projects where the organization is involved in, this year we also continued to provide to our members and external stakeholders the occasion to gather and exchange on some of the most pressing topics in public safety communication. Both the Spring and Winter Conferences were organized as part of a series of events taking place in the same weeks to allow interested participants to join multiple events within one location as well as expand their networking opportunities.

1) SPRING CONFERENCE IN LAVRIO (MAY 10 & 11)

The PSCE Spring Conference took place in Lavrio (Greece) on 10th & 11th May, in collaboration with and hosted by the National Technical University of Athens and the Institute for Communication and Computer Systems. The event was preceded by a standardization workshop and a final conference organized in the framework of the project Search and Rescue and it concluded with a workshop organized by the Community for European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS).

59
PARTICIPANTS



This edition of the Spring Conference focused on four main thematic: i) Security Threat posed by fake-based technologies, ii) Military Cooperation for crisis management, iii) New technologies for Search and Rescue Operations, iv) Horizon Scanning in public safety.

The event saw the participation of almost 60 people from Europe and beyond. Participants had the opportunity to hear from **high-level speakers** and engage in **dynamic and creative exchanges during** a collaborative session on **'the role of interconnectivity for PPDR'**. In addition, a wide representation of EU-funded projects had the opportunity to share their work and progress during the dedicated elevator pitches and project booths. The projects presented included:



[Video Recap](#)

2) WINTER CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE (DECEMBER 5 & 6)

To conclude the year, PSCE held its second conference in The Hague, The Netherlands; the event was hosted at the Dutch Police Training Centre. The event followed a half-day workshop organized by EITHOS Project and dedicated to Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and was concluded with a two-days meeting for BroadEU.Net programme.

84
PARTICIPANTS

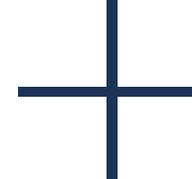
With the number of large event taking place over the course of 2024 (with a highlight on the Paris Olympic Games), this edition of the Conference wanted to leverage on the opportunity to gather industry, researchers and users to **start a discussion around the current challenges relative to the management of large-scale events.**

Over the course of the two-day event, over 80 people attended with the possibility to hear from high-level speakers from a number of institutions within and outside of Europe. Among our cross border speakers, we were happy to welcome the **US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), FirstNet Authority** and the **Brazilian Federal Police**. The audience also had the opportunity to learn about some innovative solutions in the field of PPDR through the projects 5G-Epicentre and Shield4Crowd.

The event concluded with a special collaborative session on Mission Critical Apps. The session, which continued the work started in Riga (Latvia) in the framework of 5G Techritory, invited participants to discuss the **current challenges, needs and enablers that will be able to ensure a transition towards a sustainable interoperable Mission Critical Communication system**.



[Conference Report](#)



3) WEBINARS 2023 UNDER PROJECTS

Over the course of the last year, PSCE supported the organisation of various webinars and workshops across different projects, for a total of **13 events organized**:

CORE

- **Webinar #3:** Safety Culture for Disaster Preparedness and Management (June 2023)
- **Webinar #4:** Emerging Technologies in DRR: insights from CORE project and beyond (November 2023)
- Stakeholder Forum (September 2023)

EITHOS:

- **Webinar #1** (for public), **Webinar #2** (for LEAs only): Online Identity Theft - EITHOS observatory overview (October 2023)
- Workshop for LEAs (December 2023)

FIDAL:

- **Webinar #1:** Open Call Overview (October 2023)
- **Webinar #2:** Open Call: Technologies and Key Value Indicators (November 2023)

Respond-A:

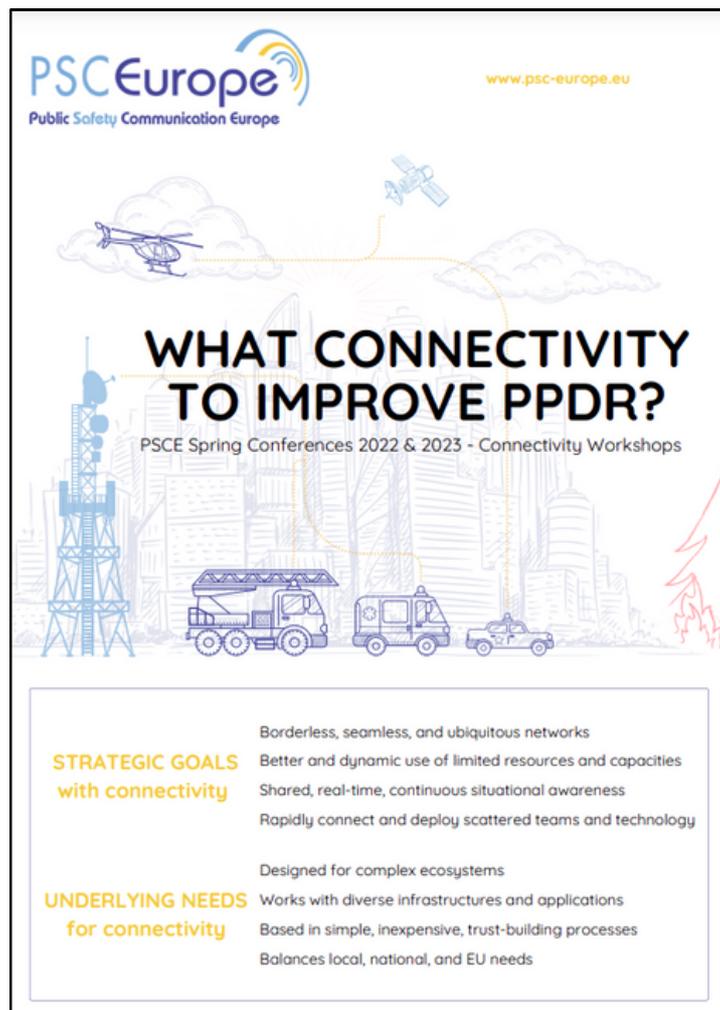
- Final Conference (April 2023)

Search and Rescue:

- Final Conference (May 2023)
- **Workshop #5:** Citizen & Community engagement in SAR operations (March 2023)
- **Workshop #6:** Advances in Search and Rescue Operations (April 2023)
- **Workshop #7:** Standardization for SAR operations (May 2023)



4) PAPERS: INTERCONNECTIVITY FOR PPDR



‘*What Connectivity to Improve PPDR*’ is the product of the exchanges that took place during the series of collaborative sessions organized by PSCE in 2022 and 2023.

During these workshops, participants were asked to **discuss challenges and identify priorities for connectivity** of platforms, systems and people towards improving PPDR.

The collaborative sessions engaged participants with design-thinking, co-designing and promoting value-centred design practices. During these exercises, activities were guided by key questions related to PPDR and connectivity.

One of the key outputs is around the understanding of SAFETY, which needs to be considered in relation within other areas of life including innovation. From the definition of safety, the sessions led participants to define what are the **strategic goals and underlying needs** when considering connectivity.

[Connectivity Paper](#)

PSCE POLICIES

BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS



THE EVOLUTION FROM BROADWAY TO BROADNET

Project BroadWay provided the confidence that the standards and technology have the potential to realize a **European Critical Communication System (EUCCS)** by testing innovative solutions procured through a pre-commercial procurement. The relevance of the work of BroadWay was also emphasized in 2021 by the European Council that invited *'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'*.

The end of BroadWay marked the start of a new programme aimed at continuing the work carried out so far. The programme took the name of BroadEU.Net (familiarily known as BroadNet) which is currently working to provide the **support to prepare the technologies and the operational procedures to establish the EUCCS**. Building on the results of BroadWay, and prior to that, BroadMap, BroadEU.Net is setting now the required foundations that will allow a **seemingly information exchange** between responders of different agencies in different countries and allow for secure and resilient mobile communication unrestrained by geopolitical boundaries.

To pave the way towards the EUCCS, the European Commission has established the **Mission Critical Communication (MCCG)** expert group. The group was created earlier in 2023 and involves experts from all EU and Schengen Member States with the aim to assist the EC in the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives that will contribute towards the establishment of the EUCCS. The group has met twice last year, with the latest meeting taking place in Madrid on 24th and 25th November.

PSCE is the coordinator of BroadEU.Net and was recently appointed as an observer in the European Commission expert group.

The need for solutions that strive to make Europe safer within and across its borders has also been stressed in the opening speech of Ylva Johansson (Commissioner for Home Affairs) during the Security Research Event that took place in Brussels on 24th and 25th October. Commissioner Johansson highlighted the outstanding developments in research, praising particularly the **latest innovations that have made cross-border communication more secure, reliant and efficient.**

In addition, Oliver Onidi, Deputy Director General at DG for Migration and Home Affairs also referred to BroadEU.Net as a programme that '**will allow the rolling out of a secured network by all responders in the EU and possibly in the Schengen associated States**'.

BroadEU.Net is being acknowledged as a key player in the revolution towards the establishment of the EUCCS, proved by the number of invitations it has been receiving to present within and outside of Europe. Over the course of the past years, this has also translated into the geographical expansion of the project: moving from the technical focus (BroadWay) to establishing a pan-European governance (BroadEU.Net) with the objectives to cover as many EU countries as possible, **BroadEU.Net is currently working with 16 countries** (BroadWay involved 11 countries). More Member and Schengen States are expected to join the programme at its next phase in 2025.



[BroadEU.Net](#)



FIDAL: FIELD TRIALS BEYOND 5G

FIDAL project started in January 2023. The aim of the project is to perform advanced technological and business **validation in large-scale field trials** of highly innovative and advanced applications that can exploit beyond 5G technologies, thus cultivating the ground for 6G. FIDAL works by building on the success of previous projects, with the aim to deliver advanced, multi-domain experimentation infrastructures.

PSCE is coordinating several tasks within the project including:

- **Provide commercial and sustainability knowledge** that will lead to the creation of viable business models for Media and PPDR services through business market analysis and assessments
- **Establish matrices and standards** for the integration of societal values into 5G and 6G processes, including the development of Key Value Indicators
- Coordinate all activities related to **dissemination and communication** including building synergies within the [SNS JU](#) and [6GIA community](#).

The FIDAL Open Call

The first project Open Call was launched on 15th September offering third parties such as SMEs, start-ups, research institutions, entrepreneurs, app developers and infrastructure owners, **funding opportunities for up to EUR 250,000 to test innovative solutions Beyond 5G in the fields of Media, and PPDR**. The Open Call was closed on 30th December with 92 applications received.

[FIDAL Project](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE



FOR A MORE RESILIENT SOCIETY

2023 was a year full of events for the CORE project, which will be concluding its activities in August 2024. Since its beginning, the project has worked with the aim to strengthen societal resilience in face of emergencies and disasters.

In 2023, PSCE supported the organization of the **Stakeholder Forum**, on 28th September in Brussels, one of the key events of the year which gathered four other sister projects within the Societal Resilience Cluster. The Forum focused on ***Improving collaboration and transfer from research to policymakers in the DRR context***, to explore challenges and opportunities in fostering the uptake of research inputs by policymakers. The initiative will be followed up on by DG HOME in 2024 with the preparation of a policy paper on joint policy recommendations.

In 2023, PSCE also contributed to disseminating two key surveys in five languages: i) **Safety Culture survey** (June 2023) and ii) **Trust and risk perception factors influencing people's behaviour to build resilient societies** (October 2023).



[CORE Project](#)

CYBERSECURITY



EUROPEAN IDENTITY THEFT OBSERVATORY SYSTEM

In October 2022, PSCE embarked on a new 3-year journey with project EITHOS, which is developing a **novel Identity Theft Observatory System**, empowering European citizens, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), and policymakers to further **contribute to the prevention, detection, and investigation of online identity theft (OITD) related crime**. Through targeted awareness campaigns and innovative engagement activities, EITHOS aims to **raise public awareness** about Online Identity Theft and associated risks and societal impact.

The positioning of PSCE as the Dissemination and Communication leader for the project has been key for a number of activities:

- supporting the development of a two-year **Awareness campaign** to sensitize the population on OITD and the growing number cyber threats
- actively engaging with LEAs with a first dedicated workshop organized in The Hague at the Dutch Police Training Centre
- strengthening ties and synergies with key European agencies, particularly the Innovation Lab at Europol
- promoting the viability of innovative solutions that are being developed and tested to counteract the cyber threats
- identify knowledge gaps, challenges and opportunities better inform policymakers, bridging the existing gaps in the cybersecurity field

EITHOS Project

FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Between 2020 and 2023, PSCE supported the activities of two projects focused on the **development and testing of innovative solutions to better support first responders during crisis**, thus enhancing disaster management: **Respond-A and Search and Rescue**.

1) RESPOND-A

Respond-A is a broader project addressing crisis management at large. By the end of the project, **25 technologies were developed and tested** by the consortium including: sensors wearables and mobile devices, missioncritical systems, robots and unmanned vehicles and augmented and virtual reality.

2) SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search and Rescue addressed the needs of first respnders during search and rescue operations. In the three years, the project **developed 29 solutions** including: wearable devices and sensors, object detection algorithms, drone and collaborative drone platforms and situtaion awareness modules.

In both projects, PSCE was in charge of Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation activities. It supported the organization of various events to present the results of the projects such as workshops, technology demonstrations organized back to back to PSCE Conferences (Lavrio 2023), conferences, videos and webinars.



[Respond-A Project](#)

[Search and Rescue](#)



FUTURE PRIORITIES

Leveraging on its role as a broker, its strong positioning within the PPDR community, and its expertise, in 2024 PSCE will focus on:

- Working towards **facilitating the achievement of Operational Mobility** and thus contributing towards the realization of a European Critical Communication System
- Developing and **establishing solid and long-term relationships** with key entities working in the field of public safety and security, fostering, where opportunities arises, synergies between practitioners, industry, researchers and decision-makers
- Advocating for the **development of standardized matrices and indicators** that will promote the integration of the societal value and societal impact assemements in all activities implicated with the development and utilization of the latest available technologies.



Rue des Deux Eglises, 39,
1000 Brussels



secretariat@psc-europe.eu



www.psc-europe.eu



+32 2 738 07 63



+32 2 738 07 64

CONTACT US

PSCEurope
Public Safety Communication Europe