letsCROWD

Law Enforcement agencies human factor methods and Toolkit for the Security and protection of CROWDs in mass gatherings

PROJECT KEYWORDS

· Crowd protection
· Intelligence sharing
· Human centered tools
· Dynamic risk assessment
· Real time behaviour forecasting
· Semantic Intelligence
· Policy making toolkit
· Strategic decision making
· People re-identification
· Cyber security
· Database of empirical data

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Europe has suffered many criminal actions and terrorist attacks during mass gatherings, which have great impact on the citizens and the society, in the last few years.

LEAs must face this new scenario (considered a priority by the European Union), which imposes a multitude of heterogeneous challenges. Hence, the key is to deter, prevent, protect, pursue and effectively respond to criminal and/or terrorist actions, achieving the best possible protection for people gathering in a specific area where particular events are taking place, thus increasing also the sense of security whit the necessary balance between protection and rights of EU citizens. For all these reasons, novel methodologies and tools must be investigated for strategic and operational activities, involving also strong cross-border cooperation and intelligence sharing, and planning solutions for all these issues, where the human and sociological factor is often the key driver. In fact, humans play a key role in every dimension of crowd protection against criminal and terrorist acts: as perpetrators, protectors and victims.

LETSCROWD will overcome challenges preventing the effective implementation of the European Security Model (ESM) with regards to mass gatherings, by providing the following to security policy practitioners and in particular, LEAs: (1) A dynamic risk assessment methodology for the protection of crowds during mass gatherings centred on human factors in order to effectively produce policies and deploy adequate solutions. (2) A policy making toolkit for the long-term and strategic decision making of security policy makers, including a database of empirical data, statistics and an analytical tool for security policies modelling, and (3) A set of human centred tools for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), including real time crowd behaviour forecasting, innovative communication procedures, semantic intelligence applied to social networks and the internet, and novel computer vision techniques.
The project will put citizens at the centre of the research and will assess and evaluate how security measures affect them, and how they perceive them, while respecting EU fundamental rights. Lead by ETRA Investigación y Desarrollo S.A. (Spain), LETSCROWD will be implemented by a consortium of 17 partners, from 8 different countries (including SMEs, universities, LEAs), operating in the critical areas of government, security, energy, finance, transport and utilities.