



PRECRISIS

NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

A FAREWELL BUT NOT A GOODBYE



This is the final newsletter of the **PRECRISIS project**. After two years of intensive work, PRECRISIS – supported through the **EU's Internal Security Fund (ISF)** – comes to an end. Our **consortium** is proud with the achievements that contribute to strengthening the protection of public spaces by preventing attacks and mitigating their impacts through integrated smarter innovative security.

What is PRECRISIS? There are so many aspects that we want to talk about and details we wish to share from our fascinating journey. For sure, this is a conversation that will

continue beyond the formal boundaries of a project newsletter. Here, in Issue #4, we prioritise the moments and memories, conveyed through the specific emotions of the photo camera... And we offer a brief textual overview of the latest project activities. As always, we look forward to receiving **feedback** from the whole ecosystem of colleagues, partners, and friends across Europe.

This last issue of the PRECRISIS newsletter features a word by David Fortune, Director of **SAHER (Europe)** that leads our project. From Issue #4, readers will also learn about the successful validation of the PRECRISIS Platform and the project's conclusive event in Cyprus that showcased our achievements and strengthened our partnerships with stakeholders from a large and diverse ecosystem of practitioners.

Keep following PRECRISIS on **LinkedIn** and **the website** for more updates – now, and after the completion of the project.

Warmest regards,
European Institute Foundation (Bulgaria)
Project Dissemination Manager



NEWS

CONNECTING ACADEMIC LEARNING WITH REAL-WORLD AI APPS

Dr. Tobias Mattes, researcher at the Bavarian Police University (HföD) organised a discussion event at the Faculty for Electrical Engineering and Information Technology of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Amberg-Weiden, Germany. Twenty-two Master students in information security and functional safety participated in the event.

Dr. Mattes introduced the PRECRISIS project and explained how it explores innovative approaches to anticipating and mitigating risks in public spaces. From his lecture, the students gained insights into risk-based security analysis and the strategic planning of protective measures — using the OTH campus as a practical case study.



A particular highlight was the demonstration of threat analysis software and awareness toolkits developed and used by the Bavarian Police, emphasising the importance of early detection, risk communication, and public awareness in modern security strategies.

This lecture offered an opportunity to connect academic learning with real-world AI applications in applied security research. ❄️

Find out more

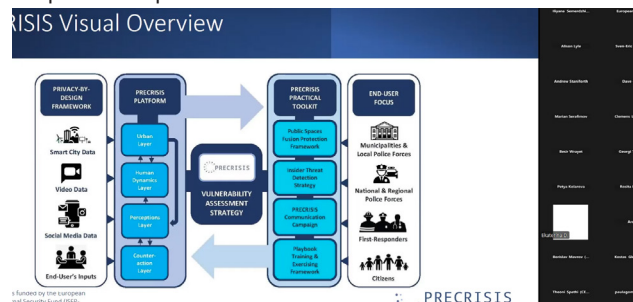
- ▶ AI and security in the public sphere
- ▶ Counter terrorism preparedness

PRECRISIS WEBINARS: DIALOGUE AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The PRECRISIS project team conducted ten online meetings to explore incident management systems. The sessions, organised by the **Bavarian Police University (HföD)** with support by the **European Institute Foundation (EI)**, brought together a diverse range of participants, including LEAs, surveillance experts and citizens.

The objective was to foster collaborative dialogue and knowledge exchange. The webinar series provided a comprehensive platform for learning, collaboration, and the development of integrative approaches to safeguarding public spaces in a rapidly changing security landscape.

These discussions focused specifically on the application of multi-stakeholder approaches in identifying the most effective and context-appropriate solutions for the protection of public spaces.



Throughout the webinars, experts presented the most up-to-date information on emerging and evolving threats to public space safety, highlighting real-world scenarios and case studies. In addition, innovative technological and procedural solutions were demonstrated, offering practical tools and strategies to enhance the resilience of public environments.

The discussion also addressed the **legal and regulatory framework** relevant to the implementation of these solutions. Special attention was given to ethical considerations, such as privacy, data protection, and the potential societal impacts of surveillance and security technologies. These critical reflections ensured that the measures, proposed by the **PRECRISIS team**, align with fundamental rights and democratic values.

Find out more

- ▶ PRECRISIS webinar on EU legal framework
- ▶ Explanation: the importance of EU-wide cooperation in the face of interconnected threats

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

David Fortune, SAHER: We Will Continue Supporting Public Authorities in Charge of Safety



*On the eve of the formal completion of PRECRISIS, the newsletter team offers a conversation with **David Fortune**, Director of **SAHER (Europe)** – the project coordinator. Dave has served as a Naval Officer and has had an outstanding career in police for 30 years. He has worked on numerous security-related projects in domains such as counter drone technology, protection of public places, environmental crime, counter radicalisation and cybercrime. He has contributed to numerous academic papers and publications and sits on the advisory board on other EU projects.*

On such occasions, the typical first question would be whether this is a definitive “farewell”, or just “a goodbye” ...?

As we close the project, we know that this is only the ending of the formal phase of PRECRISIS. I am confident that all the involved colleagues will continue to both use the knowledge gained in their other work and seek to maximise its impact.

Is the policy context today different from the circumstances we had at the start of PRECRISIS?

The PRECRISIS project started in 2023, and we were very mindful of the fact that we were working against a backdrop of fast changing and evolving policy, legislation, and guidance on the use of Artificial intelligence (AI) by LEAs and for public surveillance. Our comprehensive compliance framework and the constant monitoring of the current state of the art in terms of its use in public safety and security was a challenge I think we overcame well.

We also knew that no project works in isolation, and we know that a proactive approach to collaboration with sibling projects working in the public safety and security domain would pay dividends for us in terms of shared learning and understanding. This collaboration also helped maximise the project's impact both operationally and for the EU-wide policy development. We worked very closely with several projects during the life of the project, and this was a significant achievement for us.

What is the most significant achievement of PRECRISIS?

The development of the PRECRISIS platform itself is a major outcome of the project and it is very pleasing to get such good evaluation from end-users about its functionality and operational potential in the domain. However, we also know that technological solutions, no matter how smart they are, do not operate in a vacuum. Wrapped around our solution, with its different functional layers, are significant work activities on public crisis communications strategies, how to consider that there may be insider threats when dealing with public safety and seeking the views of the citizens about their acceptance of the

use on technologies like AI when to increase safety and security attending public events.

As I said, the value of the PRECRISIS project is not so much about academic or technical innovation – it is about how we turn this activity and apply it in real work to help shape policy and future operational deployments.

How do you see the way forward?

We have had a great deal of interest from authorities who have public safety responsibility from across Europe. We intend to work with these valuable contacts to support them in their work, and ultimately help increase the safety and security of citizens from the many and constantly evolving threats they face. For sure, at the same time, without infringing on their rights.

Finally, the project could not have been the success it has without the full support and engagement of all the team at SAHER and all

the partners involved. Coming from across the EU and from different operational perspectives, we have blended well into a great team. I thank each and every one of them for their support in challenging times, as well as in good times.

There is a saying that time flies fast when you are having fun. The PRECRISIS project has flown by very quickly. So, we have had lots of laughs and smiles along the way, too! And am sure we will continue to collaborate on the exploitation of our work to date and hopefully on future projects. ❁

Find out more

- ▶ [SAHER \(Europe\) official website](#)
- ▶ [How PRECRISIS started: the kick-off interview with SAHER’s Andrew Staniforth](#)



Based in Estonia and operating on a global level, SAHER (Europe) is a safety and security research, training and consultancy focused SME. Its name, Saher, is taken from the Arabic word for “watchman”. The strategic aim of Saher (Europe) is to develop the intersection between the four key stakeholders in the international security domain:

Citizens; Government Intelligence / Law Enforcement Agencies; Industry; and Academia. Saher’s mission is to provide a collaborative platform for professionals, policy-makers, practitioners, and the public to advance and amplify international security innovations.

PRotECting public spaces thRough Integrated Smarter Innovative Security

ZOOMING IN: PRECRISIS FINAL CONFERENCE IN CYPRUS

On 4-5 June 2025, the [Development agency of Lemesos \(Analem\)](#) hosted the final conference of PRECRISIS in Limassol, Cyprus. The participants included end-users from Cyprus and other EU Member States.

The PRECRISIS Validation and Evaluation Workshop (VEW) took place on Day One. The tech partners conducted a demonstration of the latest version of the [PRECRISIS platform](#). The AI-supported tools, developed by the [PRECRISIS consortium](#), are designed to complement the measures necessary for the protection of public spaces and for keeping people safe.



Next, during a piloting session, the participants had the opportunity to test and validate the tools. In the discussions and through an evaluation questionnaire, they shared their feedback on the platform's practical applicability, capabilities, user-friendliness.

"It was very rewarding to see LEAs actively using the platform that we developed with great dedication. They genuinely appreciating its potential to support their day-to-day operations. While we anticipated a positive response, the enthusiasm we witnessed during the Cyprus Pilot far exceeded our expectations. LEAs were especially impressed by how the PRECRISIS Platform seamlessly brings together multiple data sources to provide a clear understanding of what's happening in



a city, and by how intuitive and well-designed the system is. This feels less like the end of a project and more like the beginning of a new journey for PRECRISIS – on its way towards real-world deployment" – Lorenzo Vaquero from [Fondazione Bruno Kessler](#) commented.

Day Two of the event hosted a thematic conference on the trends, technology and policy priorities in public space protection. In their presentations, [Jonanniter](#) researchers Sahar Kainz and Veronika Simanko shared the results of their research on public perceptions of AI- and human-based surveillance at large events. During a panel discussion, Clemens Liehr shared thoughts on the risks and benefits from using AI in surveillance technologies – from the perspective of a first-responder organisation.

Find out more

- ▶ [LEA Practitioners Praised the Potential of the PRECRISIS Platform in Limassol](#)
- ▶ [Klemens Liehr/Johanniter explains how pilots support the development of AI algorithms for detecting suspicious behaviours](#)



PRECRISIS CONSORTIUM



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