



Yana Lazarova
Project Coordinator
CS Group

Welcome to the fourth and final issue of the APPRAISE newsletter.

As we approach the end of APPRAISE it is a joy to share with you all of the excellent progress and results we have achieved since our last newsletter in November 2023.

As a 27-partners' strong consortium we have now successfully tested all of our tools throughout 4 extremely ambitious pilots!

Progress summary...

Dear colleagues and collaborators, we have now reached the end of APPRAISE and we would firstly like to thank you, the reader, for your continued interest in the project, for attending our many pilots, events and workshops and for your on-going support during this crucial project. APPRAISE kicked off in September 2021 aiming to ensure the safety of public spaces while preserving the freedom of citizens in European societies. Recently, we ended with a very successful final event in the beautiful city of Lisbon, Portugal, with many new lessons learned.

This final edition of the newsletter brings some highlights from the project in its last phase where we concluded our pilot exercises at the Parco Dora in Turin, simulating a vehicle-ramming attack, a venue inspired by the Kappa FuturFestival. You can also learn about how APPRAISE was tested during the pilot, recent events we have attended and an appreciation for our Ethics Advisory Board whom have supported APPRAISE from the outset. We hope you will enjoy the read as much as we enjoyed the time spent working on the project!

I would personally like to thank the APPRAISE consortium and advisory boards. It has been a pleasure to work alongside you, thank you for your personal investment, tireless support, hard work and expertise over the last 2.5 years. I am extremely proud of how as a team we successfully achieved the objectives of the project and I look forward to our next collaboration!

Yours sincerely,
Yana



Pilot No. 2: Kappa FuturFestival

Pilot No.2 took place on 30th November at the Parco Dora in Turin. The scenario was based around the Kappa FuturFestival held every year at the Parco Dora, a large music festival that attracts thousands of mainly young people over a weekend in July. The primary objective of the Pilot was to conduct a simulated terrorist car attack on a soft target, serving as a practical test for the now more maturely developed tools within the project. The event was meticulously planned to incorporate the key elements of the park and the transition from the outer queue through to attackers' attempts to enter into the densely populated festival.

The key tools tested within the pilot included: online content analysis, real-time video analysis for the identification of logos, weapons and objects, crowd analytics and threat intelligence. It also incorporated reporting and notifications via the crowd sensing app, and overall monitoring and coordination of the response.



Pilot Format

- **Step 1:** Threats are made against the Festival on social media ahead of the event.
- **Step 2:** As people queue, a vehicle rams the crowd and the driver tries to reach the covered area.
- **Step 3:** The attacker continues, brandishing a large knife.
- **Step 4:** Inside, people try to hide, while some fall and are injured during the escape.

Outcomes

Pilot 2 was the final APPRAISE pilot with the opportunity to test the tools at their most mature stage. The project was fortunate to have several members of the press in attendance to publicise the results.

A huge number of APPRAISE technologies were deployed in tandem to carry out the full pilot with attendance from the local stakeholders to enact the scenario.



Security Research Event

In late October, APPRAISE was fortunate to share the projects' results at the Security Research Event (SRE) 2023 in Brussels. SRE is an annual event where industry, research, policymakers and practitioners in the security domain come together to discuss the state of play and current challenges for security research in Europe.

Representatives from across the consortium were on hand to share the results of the project so far, with the booth set up to present the videos from the pilots so far and the overviews of the different tools created within APPRAISE.

APPRaise Publications

APPRaise has written a number of scientific publications, alongside policy documents, throughout the course of the project. The publications are now available to view on our website you can access them [here](#). See below a small summary of what you can expect to find:

- Bayerl, P. S., Bates, L., & Akhgar, B. (2023). **Securing the smart city: patterns of public acceptance for integrated technological solutions**. In 2023 IEEE International Smart Cities Conference (ISC2) (pp. 1-6). IEEE.
- San Biago, M., Cipolla, M., La Mattina, E., Morreale, V. (2023) **Revealing terrorist threats in social media**. In 1st International Conference on Intelligent Systems and New Applications (ICISNA'23). (pp. 218 - 223) Research and Technologies for Society and Industry Innovation (RTSI) (pp. 102-108). IEEE.
- Policy Paper - **Protecting Soft Targets from Terrorist Attacks - Security and Foreign Policy**.

Pilot summaries and key results

Four APPRAISE pilots have been successfully completed. Each scenario considered highly diversified soft targets, in terms of: accessibility, existing security measures, current infrastructure, people density, level of criticality, and their societal impact to evaluate and validate the solutions that have been developed within the project. To establish the key results from each pilot a summary is available to download from our website [here](#).

You can also watch the APPRAISE technologies in operation via our YouTube channel. Videos of each action-packed pilot scenario and a full recap are available - just click the YouTube logo!





Ertz at Milipol in Paris

Ertzaintza participated in the 23rd edition of the Milipol Fair, which took place in Paris, France, from November 14th - 17th. The APPRAISE project was shown at the Ertzaintza stand, along with other European projects.

Over 30,000 people from 160 countries attended the fair, providing an excellent opportunity to show the activity carried out within APPRAISE.

ICS Corporate Security Days

The Institute for Corporate Studies Ljubljana (ICS Ljubljana) participated in the 9th international conference 'Corporate Security Days 2023', organized by the Serbian Association of Managers on November 13th and 14th, 2023.

ICS Ljubljana appeared at the conference with a presentation of APPRAISE with the title '**Mitigate terrorism scenarios against soft targets such as hotels, shopping and entertainment centers – best practices from EU project APPRAISE**'.



CERIS Annual FCT Event

On the 14th-15th December HoloLight and CERTH were delighted to attend the CERIS FCT annual event in Brussels on behalf of APPRAISE. The aim of the event titled '**An exploration into cross-cutting issues impacting security research and innovation: research data and involvement of NGO/CSOs**' was to share experiences and research findings, identify current achievements, possible synergies, and inspire other attendees while strengthening collaboration on European level.



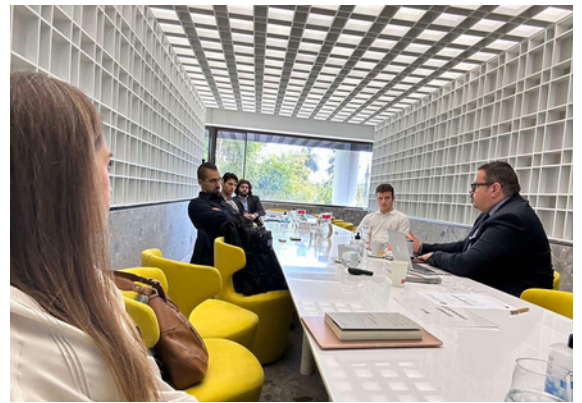
SHRINEs Project workshop

In January AITEK attended Security workshop organized as part of the EU-funded SHRINEs Project in Turin. The workshop centered around technological advancements to enhance security within different environments.

AITEK presented innovations in video surveillance aimed at ensuring the security of individuals through video analytics powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI), showcasing their pivotal role in the APPRAISE project.

Co-creation workshop

At the end of October, APPRAISE partner ELIAMEP hosted a workshop on the protection of public spaces focused on the legal, ethical and privacy challenges associated with new technologies. Dr. Lilian Mitrou, Professor at the Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering, University of the Aegean and President of the Institute for Privacy Law, Personal Data and Technology was the keynote speaker at the workshop.



Blog Series now live!

The APPRAISE blog series is now available on the ['Updates'](#) section of our website. Each blog delves into some of the key technological elements utilised and developed within the project.

Take a look to discover more on topics such as:

- **Augmented Reality Solutions for Enhanced Security**
- **Threat Intelligence and Monitoring**
- **Crowd panic detection in video streams**
- **Natural Language Processing for the protection of public spaces**
- **Leveraging Speech Recognition Systems to Prevent Terrorism Against Soft Targets**

Visit our website to find out more!



Introduction to our Ethics Advisory Board

Throughout the project, APPRAISE has been supported by members of the ethics advisory board.



Professor Ruth Fee PFHEA

Organisation: Ulster University

Bio: Professor Fee is a Professor of Public Services Education and Director of Policing at Ulster University. Professor Fee has worked on a series of European Commission projects within the security domain contributing to the development of social, ethical, legal and privacy framework across a diverse portfolio of projects encompassing policing, counterterrorism, cyber security and digital forensics. Projects within the H2020 portfolio include INSPEC2T, ASGARD and GAP with current membership including ITFLOWS, APPRAISE and RESCUER.

Efthymios Lyssaris

Organisation: Hellenic Police

Bio: Efthymios Lyssaris is a Police Major, with more than 13 years of leadership experience as the head of the "Electronic & Telephone Communication Security & Protection of Software and Intellectual Property Rights" Unit of the Cyber Crime Division of the Hellenic Police. He has participated in numerous cyber security and cybercrime-related EU projects, contributing to End-user requirements, platform development, pilot testing, as well as Legal, Ethical and Data Protection Management.



Dr. Emma Teodoro

Organisation: Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB)

Bio: Dr. Emma Teodoro is a senior researcher at the Institute of Law and Technology (IDT-UAB). Her participation in EU projects focussed on identifying EU/National ethical and legal applicable framework; assessing the potential risks posed by the foreseen research activities from an ethical, legal and social perspective; and providing continuous legal and ethical advice and support to the project's Consortium. She also serves as independent ethics advisor of the Ethical Advisory Boards in EU Security projects.

Professor Panayotis J. Tsakonas

Organisation: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Bio: Panayotis is Professor of International Relations, Security Studies and Foreign Policy Analysis at the NKUA. He has 25 years of academic experience where his research and published work mostly relates to the theory of international relations and foreign policy analysis (FPA), regional security issues, Greek foreign and security policy and Greek-Turkish relations. Professor Tsakonas has been involved in Greece's policy making in the fields of defense policy, foreign policy, and internal security policy.



Vasileios E. Papakostas

Organisation: Hellenic Police

Bio: Vasileios E. Papakostas holds the rank of the Police Colonel and he is currently serving as the Director of the Cyber Crime Division of the Hellenic Police Headquarters. He is a PhD Candidate in artificial intelligence and worked for 13 years in the IT department of the Hellenic Police. Vasileios has been honoured with Medal of Prosperous Service of the Third Class, Medal of Police Value of the Second Class, Commander of the Order of the Phoenix, Gold Cross of the Order of Honor and First Class Command Medal.

APPRAISE Final Event

The APPRAISE final event took place at MAI-ISCPSI in Lisbon, Portugal from 21-22 February 2024 titled: **Securing the Unfortified: Navigating the future of counter-terrorism with a focus on soft target resilience**. The two-day event marked the successful culmination of the APPRAISE project, brought to light key insights into the ever-changing challenges of security & safety facing public spaces, and provided an opportunity to share the results of APPRAISE with the wider stakeholder community.

Day one provided an overview from the MAI-ISCPSI and the APPRAISE consortium with a hands-on technology fair demonstrating several of the APPRAISE tools. The afternoon sessions focused on the outcomes and results from the four APPRAISE pilots.

The second day involved speakers from the APPRAISE Consortium and Community. Discussions included;

- The **collaboration** between public and private security operators, countries, sectors and technology providers all seen within the project.
- The **societal aspects** of the project, such as surveillance, privacy and freedom and its interaction with the protection of public spaces.
- The **importance of training**, to improve the protection of public spaces.



Event summary

With over **150 participants**, attendees included the APPRAISE Advisory Board, sister projects, external collaborators and students and police officers in the area of the protection of public spaces. MAI-ISCPSI live streamed the event on both their Facebook and YouTube channels with over over **400 attendees** watching the event online.

Read all the event details and watch the recap video on the APPRAISE website [here](#).

Keep in touch with

APPRAISE...

APPRAISE may have come to an end but you can find everything you need to know about the project through our channels found below.

Events and updates



[appraise_h2020](https://twitter.com/appraise_h2020)



[appraise-project](https://www.linkedin.com/company/appraise-project)

Objectives, Publications & Results



appraise-h2020.eu



appraise-h2020.eu/results

Pilots and project videos



[APPRAISE YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



appraise-h2020@csgroup.eu



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