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Welcome to the third issue of the APPRAISE newsletter.

It is a joy to share with you all of the great progress and results we have achieved since our last newsletter in July 2023.

We are a 27-partners' strong consortium, now motivated to test all of our tools throughout 4 extremely ambitious pilots!

Progress summary...

Dear colleagues and collaborators, it is a pleasure to share the third issue of the APPRAISE newsletter with you. So much has happened in the last few months regarding our progress, achievements, and exciting news on the two recent pilot events!

The last few months have been hectic but immensely satisfying for the APPRAISE project. We continued to see genuine results and accomplishments, particularly in our Basque Country and Gdansk pilots. As Coordinator, I am delighted to update you on all our excellent research and activities and share more about how APPRAISE has been tested in recent pilots. You will also learn more about the events we've attended over the last few months, share the profiles of our advisory board members and look ahead to the final months of the project.

Our final pilot in Turin is just around the corner, and we look forward to seeing the culmination of our work in APPRAISE one last time. Do you have a question? Let's have a discussion using our community!

Yours sincerely,
Yana





Pilot No. 1 - Itzulia Cycle Race

The APPRAISE Consortium successfully held its second pilot (pilot no. 1) in the Basque Country focused on the Itzulia Cycle Race in July. Hosted at the Ertzaintza premises the event planning and organisation was led by:

- Ertzaintza - Police force for the Basque Country
- ALSE Group - Private Security Operators
- RAID - French SWAT team
- Vicomtech - Technical Partner based in San Sebastian
- OCETA - Race organisers



Pilot Format

The pilot was designed to simulate a coordinated terrorist attack from green activists, with the goal to harm the sponsor due to its non-environmentally-friendly practices and wishes to have a high media impact.

The race format was a time trial, that crosses over the border from Spain into France as the attack takes place.

Outcomes

The pilot successfully tested many elements of the APPRAISE system including the social media monitoring, CCTV analysis, drone patrols over the area, malicious drone detection and pilot localisation and detection of abnormal behaviour from the video stream all brought together through the command and control system.

The emphasis of the pilot was to demonstrate the effective collaboration between the Basque Police, the private security operator and the SWAT team in France (RAID) through the APPRAISE system.



French Firefighters' Congress

During this year's National Congress of French Firefighters that took place in Toulouse, France (4-8 Oct. 2023), CS GROUP presented the APPRAISE DITHO (Digital Twin based Hypervision and Operations Management) system based on its Crimson solution. This was an opportunity to demonstrate the versatility of the product and showcase its added value to ease the collaboration between public and private security operators, including cross-border information exchange, when it comes to protecting soft targets against terrorist attacks.

ARES Conference

At the ARES2023 conference, a representative from ITTI shared insights from a novel Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS) dataset, an essential tool for researchers and cybersecurity professionals aiming to sharpen intrusion detection mechanisms. The dataset was built with real-world complexity in mind, covering a variety of intrusion tactics and techniques, making it one of the most valuable resource in the domain. It was completed in conjunction with partners from Ljubljana, as a result of work in Pilot 3. The presentation was well-received, sparking engaging discussions around the opportunities and challenges this new dataset presents for advancing the state of the art in network security.

EU CIP Event



On 20-21st September, APPRAISE presented at the EU-CIP 1st Annual Conference on Critical Infrastructure Resilience focusing on "Reinventing Resilience", which was co-organised with the European Cluster for Security Critical Infrastructures (ECSCI).

Represented by Tassos Dimous from CERTH, APPRAISE was joined by other projects in the cluster, AI4CYBER, ATLANTIS, CyberSEAS, DYNABIC, EU-HYBNET, eFORT, PRAETORIAN, PRECINT, SUNRISE, IRIS, and CybAlliance identifying several key takeaways and recommendations for security research:

- The importance of **breaking down silos and fostering a community-oriented** approach to CIP.
- The significant impact of **AI on critical sectors**, particularly as a tool for anticipating attacks.
- The necessity of **dynamically adapting incident response** strategies to emerging threats.
- The importance of **disseminating project results** after their conclusion, creating a timeline of relevant projects by area and sector, and establishing links between their work.

EuroCrim 2023



The 23rd annual European Society of Criminology (EUROCRIM) conference in September saw APPRAISE partner, Plus Ethics, present their establishment of an ethical framework for the democratic use of technologies for urban security.

Additionally, they introduced the project, its objectives and introduced how we are integrating this ethical analysis framework within APPRAISE.



Pilot No. 4 - TRAKO Fair - Gdańsk, Poland

The APPRAISE Consortium successfully held its third pilot (pilot no. 4) on the 21st September, 2023. The event took place at the Gdańsk International Fair – AMBEREXPO during the TRAKO fair.

The pilot organisation was led by:

- Polish Platform for Homeland Security
- Gdańsk International Fair (AmberExpo)
- Provincial Police Headquarters in Gdańsk

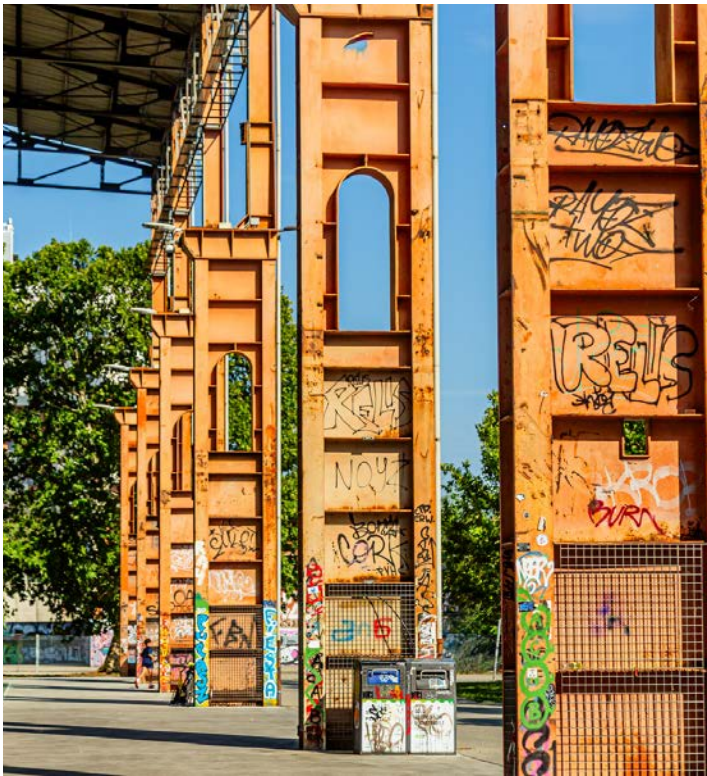
The pilot concentrated on online content analysis, cyber-attack detection, real-time video analysis for the identification of weapons/objects and drone-based area surveillance. There were also elements of communication through a crowdsensing app that enabled attendees to inform security agents that a potentially dangerous event was taking place and to send instructions on evacuation to the crowd by security officers.

The pilot involved public and private security forces, and volunteers from the Naval Academy of the Heroes of Westerplatte, enabling us to demonstrate the APPRAISE tools to more than 20 stakeholders. The stakeholders had a chance to interact with the technological partners and ask questions related to each specific tool during an open carousel session.

Outcomes

It was the first pilot that took place in a real environment during an ongoing event. This posed many challenges regarding the organisation and preparation of the pilot but at the same time gave the consortium a unique opportunity to test the APPRAISE solution in a real environment during the TRAKO fair. Pilot 4 proved that the technologies developed within APPRAISE work in real conditions during a public event which is what we aim to achieve. The exercise served also as a way to better cooperation between public and private security operators in the field of protection of public spaces in the event of attacks.





Pilot No. 2 - Parco Dora - Turin, Italy

The primary objective of the Pilot is to conduct a simulated terrorist car attack on a soft target, serving as a practical test for the tools developed as part of the APPRAISE project. The Pilot is scheduled for 30th November at the Parco Dora in Turin. The scenario is based around the Kappa FuturFestival held every year at the Parco Dora. This is a large music festival that attracts thousands of mainly young people over a weekend in July. The event has been 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. Extensive inspections have been carried out at the Parco Dora to determine the optimal locations for installing sensors and cameras, which will play a crucial role in the pilot.

This is the final pilot for the APPRAISE project and will bring together many technologies that will have reached a highly mature state having been developed and improved since previous pilots. This unique setting brings together interesting challenges for the cooperation of public and private security operators and we are looking forward to sharing the results with you in December.

Upcoming Blog Series

In November, APPRAISE is launching a blog series to dive in depth into a few of the key elements of the project and to find out more about what has been achieved over the course of the project. Look out for updates coming from November onwards covering topics such as:

- Federated learning
- HoloLens technology
- Use of video analysis across the whole system
- Threat intelligence
- Audio detection
- Drone surveillance
- Societal acceptance
- Command and control

We are looking forward to sharing these new updates with you in the near future!



Introduction to our Advisory Board Members

We are delighted to introduce our External Advisory Board members who have supported APPRAISE throughout the project with their expertise and knowledge. We also thank those members with operational policing roles who are also represented on the advisory board.

Juan Arraiza

Organisation: EACTDA

Bio: Juan currently works as Business Manager of the European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association (EACTDA). Prior to that, Juan worked as Programme Manager at Vicomtech, and previously as Project Management Office's manager at Thomson Reuters Aranzadi. Juan holds a PhD in Project Management and a MSc in Computer Science.



Andrej Maslo

Bio: Andrej is an expert in corporate security with more than 15-years of experience and skills in the area of protection of people, property, organisations, information security, internal investigations, management of business continuity system. In 2020, he received the professional award for the best corporate security manager of the year.

Giannis Meletiadis

Organisation: Zarifopoulos S.A.

Bio: Ioannis Meletiadis has a Diploma Electrical Engineering and a further Professional Doctorate in Engineering Degree from Eindhoven Technical University. He currently works for ZARIFOPOULOS S.A. as the Technical Supervisor for Northern Greece which includes working on design and application of low voltage application systems, focused on Fire Protection, Intrusion Security, CCTV and Access Control. He has extensive knowledge in the design of security and fire protection systems.



Patrick Padding

Organisation: Netherlands Police / ENLETS

Bio: Patrick Padding is a sworn police officer of the National Police of the Netherlands Central Unit, Commissionaires Staff. He is the Core group leader of the ENLETS network since 2013, bringing member states law enforcement together to share their interest in front-line policing, crime and Public protection. He holds an extensive operational background in leading police units as well he has been advising the European Commission.

Meeting with JRC



In early October, APPRAISE shared with the Joint Research Centre our approach to the protection of public spaces and soft targets

Presentation at INFINITY Final Event



In July, CENTRIC presented APPRAISE at the final INFINITY demonstration event which focused on how immersive reality solutions can support investigations.

Alongside the STARLIGHT project, APPRAISE was able to share our experience in the protection of public spaces and test the INFINITY solution.

A great opportunity to introduce APPRAISE to new LEAs.

New Policy Paper

A new policy paper titled '**Protecting Soft Targets from Terrorist Attacks - Security and Foreign Policy**' has been composed for the APPRAISE project by Triantafyllos Karatrantos and Irene Keremidou of ELIAMEP.

Key takeaways:

- Terrorist attacks, especially from 2015-2018, have shown a **recurrent targeting of public spaces** as part of the perpetrators' modus operandi.
- Considerable attention has been paid in many countries to methods and techniques which can **enhance the security of soft targets** and provide protection for public places.
- While Member States are primarily responsible for the protection of soft targets, the **EU still plays an important role**.
- Some attacks were **complex and high-intensity** (combining explosives and firearms), others were "low tech" and carried out with everyday items such as a vehicle for ramming or a knife for stabbing.
- The European Commission defines soft targets as locations that **"are vulnerable and difficult to protect and are also characterised by the high likelihood of mass casualties in the event of an attack"**.
- The **"Security by Design"** approach introduces the concept and practical implementation of building security into the design and redesign of public spaces.
- The protection afforded to Europe's citizens can benefit from **the effective cooperation between both public authorities and private security practitioners**.



"An important issue to reflect on is the fact that minorities and vulnerable individuals, including persons targeted because of their religion or gender, can be disproportionately affected, and therefore require particular attention."

Join the APPRAISE

community...

Do you work in the area of the protection of public spaces? LEA, first responder or private security?

APPRAISE needs your knowledge and expertise. Join our community and create a direct impact on the research outcomes of the project plus much more!

Email us at appraise-h2020@csgroup.eu and get involved.

Contact us

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Social Media

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