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Due to the increase of terrorist attacks occurred in European territory, the European Parliament along with the Council gave birth to the EU Directive 2017/541, focused on the fight against terrorism, which served as a bridge for the creation of the Public Spaces Protection Plan, in 2017, that became the bases for the High Risk Security Network (HRSN), in 2018.

The main goal of the HRSN is to improve the safety and security in public spaces, once we've learned that past protective approaches are not enough, aware of the intrinsic vulnerabilities of these so-called "soft targets" that result from their open nature and public character, as well as the involvement of a high-volume number of assistants that can be potential victims of this new type of criminal and terror acts. The network aims to keep the openness and inclusiveness nature of European public spaces without resembling fortified, avoiding to constrain their daily use for social interaction and collective living, reducing vulnerabilities, mitigating the consequences of attacks and improving cooperation among responders.

As mentioned in the Public Spaces Protection Plan, High Risk Security Network brings together representatives of specialized law enforcement units responsible for the protection of high risk public spaces, providing a platform for common training and joint exercises, in order to support Member States in improving their preparedness against current and future threats and enhancing their capacity to react in case of an attack.

The HRSN is divided 5 working Groups, with a different development scope and focus, aiming for learning faster and better together, taking a collective advantage of the security challenges we face daily back in each member country:

Portuguese Chairmanship



WG 1: Vulnerability Assessment

In coordination with the Protective and Security Advisors program (PSA), the WG is focused on identifying, detecting, deterring and mitigating the threats. The PSA program enables the network to provide experts to assess the CT security aspects of civilian critical infrastructures, transport nodes, big events and public spaces, in general, taking better advantage of the knowledge and expertise of the HRSN members.



WG 2: Tactical UAV / C-UAV



It approaches the theme of UAVs and countering UAVs in public spaces with the focus on soft targets, actively developing guidance at the technical, tactical and operational level.

With this WG, the network is able to provide guidance and support, if needed, with UAS and C-UAS teams for the protection of public spaces, especially during high complex major events in European ground. It can also provide tactical training in the use of these devices, sharing knowledge and expertise to appointed units with UAV/C-UAV capabilities in this quickly evolving technological environment.

WG 3: Tactical Rescue Response

It gathers first response Instructors and high-level operators in order share good practices and methodology on the skills development in reaction to active attackers' incidents. Field training exercises scenarios for operators, tactical analysis, discussions and immediate manage of Multiple Victims are prepared, aiming for saving lives of first responders in action.

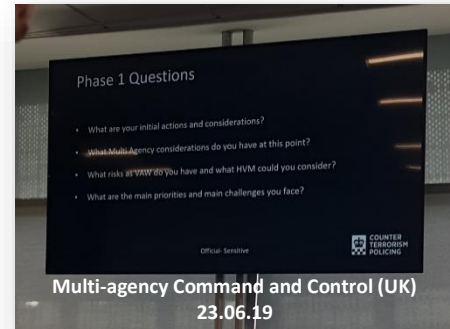


WG 4: Human Factor

It focusses on training officers on their soft skills needed to face incidents related to the HRSN field and how to detect hostile behavior, aiming to anticipate and better prevent mass casualties and terror attacks.

WG 5: Multi-agency Command and control

This group study, analyze and develop different methods in use by the network members, aiming to have a better coordination and cooperation among public servers and other entities, in case working together in complex safety and security incidents, operating with different chains of command, focusing on working together for damage control and best outcome.



HRSN ACTIVITIES 2023

The Portuguese Chairmanship of the network started on the 2024, January 1st, by Guarda Nacional Republicana Public Order Intervention Group, after being held by the Spanish Guardia Civil, through the GAR unit (2021-2023), who organize and coordinated the following activities during 2023, in accordance to the objectives of the network's statute:

- 23.03.20 Attendance to 2nd Law Enforcement Networks Working Group meeting in Brussels (Belgium).
- 23.03.21 EU-HRSN Presidency – Vice-presidency along with Project Manager Katarina Tiger, Management and Coordination Meeting in Brussels (Belgium).
- 23.04.12 - 23.04.15 EU-HRSN Working Group 4 Human Factor in Logroño (Spain).
- 23.05.23 EU-HRSN Steering Group Meeting in Logroño (Spain).
- 23.06.06 Attended the EU Forum for the Protection of Public Spaces in Brussels (Belgium).
- 23.06.07 Attendance to the 3rd Law Enforcement Networks Working Group meeting in Brussels (Belgium).
- 23.06.19 – 23.06.21 EU-HRSN Ramming Vehicle Workshop and Working Group 5 Multiagency Command and Control meeting in London (United Kingdom).
- 23.10.15 – 23.10.20 EU-HRSN Tactical Rescue and Response Working Group 3 Tactical Training in Kaunas (Lithuania).
- 23.11.15 EU-HRSN Steering Group meeting in Logroño (Spain).
- 23.11.16 EU-HRSN General Conference in Logroño (Spain). Chairmanship transference of Authority for the Portuguese Guarda Nacional Republicana.

Portuguese Chairmanship

