CONNEXIONs Newsletter

InterCONnected NEXt-Generation Immersive IoT Platform of Crime and Terrorism

DetectiON, PredictiON, InvestigatiON, and PreventiON Services

EDITORIAL

The new year found the CONNEXIONs project running its last months of implementation with a full agenda and exciting new activities. Even though 2021 was a very challenging year for humanity, impacting multiple aspects of our everyday life due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CONNEXIONs project stayed focused on its objectives and managed to create impactful outputs and continue its fruitful work. A few months before the project completion, three pilot test demonstrations took place and two successful project events were organised where multiple related EU projects participated and new synergies were created! The CONNEXIONs consortium is wishing a happy new year with prosperity and committing to continue its hard work until the project's end.

PROJECT PROGRESS

As the CONNEXIONs project is marching towards its conclusion, the consortium partners are working intensively to wrap up the activities of this EU-funded project in a successful way.

More specifically, the **CONNEXIONs 1st Workshop** took place successfully on the 19th of October (page 2 of this newsletter), while the **CONNEXIONs & CREST joint Workshop** took place on the 16th of December 2021 (page 3). In January and February 2022, the **final iterations of the pilot tests** are taking place, with the main aim of fulfilling all user requirements and validating the developed next-generation prevention, investigation, and mitigation services in the fight against crime and terrorism.

In order to present those services to interested end-users, the CONNEXIONs project is currently preparing to host its **Final Conference in Lisbon**, Portugal, on February 23-24, 2022 at the premises of Polícia Judiciária (PJ) in a hybrid (physical & online) event. This Conference will be the final dissemination event prepared and hosted by CONNEXIONs and it aims to provide interested stakeholders and LEAs with an opportunity to get more familiar with the final outcomes of the project.

The project will be completed by the end of February 2022 and its outcomes will be presented in detail in the **final review** that will be conducted by the EC within the next months.

Last but not least, CONNEXIONs has been invited to present its achievements to the next **Security Research Event (SRE)**, which will take place on March 1-2, 2022, at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris. The CONNEXIONs consortium is currently preparing for the participation in the exhibition area of this prestigious event for security projects, having the chance of presenting its research outcomes and exhibit the achievements of the project.

CONNEXIONs Workshops!

CONNEXIONs 1st Workshop

On October 19, 2021, the first CONNEXIONs workshop was realised! The workshop was organized online due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, its online nature did not limit any of the activities and allowed participants to interact and exchange opinions and knowledge!

The workshop was focused on ''**Crime investigation and training through 3D reconstruction''**, an area addressed by the third Pilot Use Case of the project. The respective pilot test was organized in May 2021 by project partner University of Applied Sciences for Public Services in Bavaria, Department of Policing with the support of the Munich Police Department. During the workshop, the CONNEXIONs **3D Reconstruction and VR Applications** were demonstrated in real time allowing participants to have a clear picture and better understand the implementation and advantages of those specific tools developed in the project. The presented solutions evoked enthusiastic comments, especially by the LEAs participants, proving their efficient use both for training and investigation purposes. Participants were also interested in the chosen technologies for the platform creation and all their respective questions were answered by the project's expert consortium members.

Moreover, a panel discussion took place around the challenges of the aforementioned technologies **on reconstructing and re-visiting crime scenes** and on the following slot, a guest speaker from the **National Bureau of Investigation, Hungary,** presented the importance of 3D scanners in every-day real-world investigation tasks and proved the added value of using and advancing tools to reconstruct and re-visit crime scenes.

Finally, we had the great pleasure to host two **EU sister projects,** INFINITY and SHOTPROS who presented their objectives and achievements.

The workshop's audience covered a wide range of participants from different entities, including **Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), Research Centres, Universities, and Industry** forming a wonderful audience for discussions, interaction, and knowledge exchange!

For more information regarding the CONNEXIONs first workshop, a detailed blogpost is available on the project's website and can be accessed here.

CONNEXIONs & CREST joint Workshop!

The second project workshop was organized jointly with the EU sister project CREST! On December 16th, 2021 the joint workshop took place online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The workshop was focused on the technologies developed and challenges addressed by the two projects in reference to **security in public spaces and large-scale public events**, as well as their relevant Pilot Use Cases.

In the beginning of the workshop, the two projects were presented and, as sister projects, their synergies were also demonstrated emphasizing the similarities and differences between them. These presentations provided an opportunity to the audience to better understand the outcomes of the two projects, acting also as an introduction to the pilots demonstration and the workshop's core theme.

First, the CONNEXIONs project pilot use case related to ''Counter-terrorism security in large scale public events" was demonstrated. The pilot demonstration took place at KEMEA premises in May 2021 where technologies such as **mission planning using a Virtual Reality application and a 3D reconstruction model, a Command Center for real-time operation management, and video analysis services were tested and validated** by Hellenic Police officers and KEMEA experts. Following, the CREST pilot use cases on **"Counter-terrorism security in crowded areas"** and **"Protection of public figures in motorcades and public spaces"** were presented with additional solutions related to **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Adaptive mission planning, UAV swarming, and Concealed object detection** further analyzed and explained.

After the demonstrations, a panel discussion followed where members of the two consortia discussed the **Challenges and Opportunities in the Use of Advanced Technologies for Protecting Public Spaces, explaining important details** and responding to participants' queries.
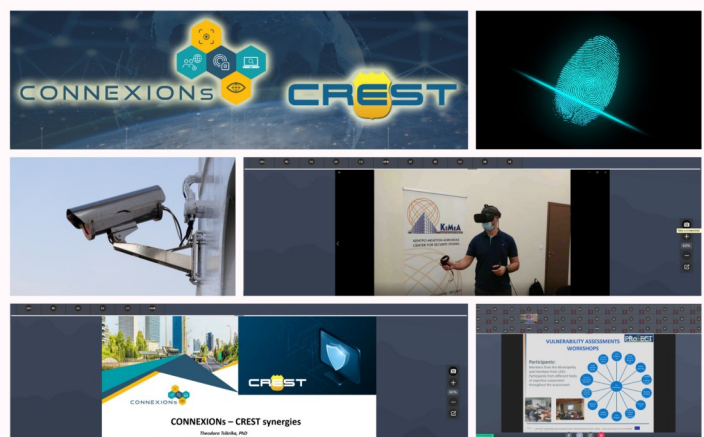
We also had the opportunity to explore four EU sister projects; PREVISION, IcARUS, PROTECT, and CYCLOPES that presented their project objectives and scope providing an opportunity for synergies creation with the two projects.

The workshop's audience included participants from distinct organizations, including Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), Universities, Research Centres, SMEs and NGOs giving their expertise and creating fruitful discussions.

For more information a detailed blogpost is available on the CONNEXIONs website and can be found here.

CONNEXIONs DISSEMINATION & COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The CONNEXIONs project continued its dissemination activities participating in online events, updating its social media, and publishing interesting outputs. Additionally, the consortium partner **University of Vienna** published a detailed blog article on their official website including interesting information and presenting the **CONNEXIONs project,** as well as information regarding the project's implementation and legal and ethical considerations. The participating team, namely the **Department of Innovation and Digitalization in Law**, being part of University's of Vienna School of Law, is a recently founded research unit dedicated to scientific research on a wide range of legal questions concerning the modern media and information society that result from the rapid, continuing rise in technological innovations. **More information** and the detailed blog post can be found here.

CONNEXIONs Project Next Steps

The **CONNEXIONs project** is working hard in wrapping up all the planned activities successfully and achieving its final objectives. The CONNEXIONs consortium is currently preparing a **final conference** that will take place in **Lisbon, Portugal**, on February 23-24, at the premises of Polícia Judiciária (PJ) as hybrid (physical & online) event. The aim of this conference will be to present the CONNEXIONs outcomes to interested stakeholders and end-users in the field of countering crime and terrorism and elaborate on the usability of the tools provided by CONNEXIONs.

Stay tuned with the **CONNEXIONs project** by following our social media and frequently visiting our website!

Stay Connected with CONNEXIONs