



Solution to Enhance Interfaith
Protection of Places of Worship
from Terrorist Danger

D5.4

1st SHIELD Workshop Report



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Executive Summary

The aim of the SHIELD project is to protect places of worship from the risks of violent extremism. In order to achieve this objective, the project will improve the coordination, cooperation, and communication between EU public and private actors who can play a role in protecting places of worship. In particular, SHIELD will gather Christian, Jewish and Muslim organisations, security practitioners, LEAs, municipalities, experts in risk detection and technological partners -to identify, for each religion, critical points in places of worship that are more subject to the risk of terrorist attacks. In addition, SHIELD will identify the religious buildings, such as schools, that are potentially more vulnerable, as well as the types of a terrorist attack that would be more likely to be perpetrated.

The vulnerabilities, evidenced in the analysis of past attacks, will be bolstered through the development of new measures as well as the implementation of existing methods and technologies, such as CCTV, sensors, and improving awareness. In addition, tailored recommendations and guidelines for LEAs and religious leaders will be outlined to favour prevention (e.g. identification of suspicious behaviour) and the implementation of common protocols to mitigate the impact of the attacks (e.g. standard evacuation procedures). Moreover, SHIELD will produce and distribute factsheets and leaflets to religious leaders, who will actively spread them and raise awareness on terrorist threats among respective communities. Furthermore, training sessions for practitioners and religious leaders will be organised to prove the practical feasibility of recommendations as well as the effectiveness of new solutions and methodologies, which will be tested and validated in joint simulations (e.g. to be carried out through the use of virtual reality).

Deliverable 5.4 reflects Task 5.3, which has the objective of organizing two workshops with the aim to share and disseminate the results of the project among relevant stakeholders, including EU policymakers. The first of these workshops was organised in Rome on the 1st of December 2022 and is the focus of this deliverable.

1. Introduction

This deliverable is the result of Task 5.3, in which the SHIELD project is tasked with organizing two workshops, one halfway through the project in M12 and the second at the end of the project in M22. The deliverable reports on the first workshop held in M12, which aimed at increasing the visibility of the project, enhancing the dissemination of its activities and results, and creating new synergies with related projects, the security community and further end users. The participants represented security experts, policymakers, and religious representatives from across Europe as well as LEAs.

The participation of practitioners and, in particular, sister projects is vital to create synergies across Europe. In order to ensure in-person and diverse participation, the workshop was held in one of the capitals of Europe and one of the religious capitals of the world: Rome. This allowed practitioners across Europe to participate and facilitated newspaper coverage of the event, further increasing the visibility of the project.

This deliverable (D5.4) focuses on reporting on the organization and outcomes of the 1st SHIELD Workshop held in Rome on 1.12.2022 during M12. D5.4 is structured in the following way:

- Section 2 reports on the context and the objectives of the workshop
- Section 3 reports on the format
- Section 4 on the participants
- Section 5 focuses on the outcomes of the workshop and the lessons learned

Regarding the present document, its purpose is to provide guidance toward the expected structure and development of the workshops. For this, it will provide a summary of the conclusions and lessons learned from this first workshop in order to implement them in the final workshop.

2. Context and Objectives

The first SHIELD workshop was centred within the context of the SHIELD project, that being that the rise of terrorism in Europe has led to places of worship being targeted due to their open and vulnerable nature. Therefore, it is of great importance to protect these Houses of Worship, in order to save lives and foster intra-religion dialogue and tolerance. As such, when The Mosque of Rome extended their free patronage and graciously offered the Aula Magna as the venue for the workshop, SHIELD seized this great opportunity.

The aim of this workshop was to increase the visibility of the project, enhance the dissemination of its activities and results, and create new synergies with clusters and EC-funded projects. In particular, the GA set specific targets when it came to the participants, requiring representatives from other religions as well as those examined in SHIELD (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam), experts in risk detection, policy makers and security practitioners. Overall, accomplishing these objectives would help ensure the success of the workshop as it would entail the participation of diverse and expert practitioners representing organisations, LEAs, and sister projects who would learn of SHIELD and with whom SHIELD could build synergies.

3. Format

The workshop was held between 9:00 and 15:00 in a hybrid format on the 1st of December 2022 in the Aula Magna of the Mosque of Rome. First, the participants upon arrival were asked to register and then take their seats.

The audience was welcomed by a short speech read out loud on the behalf of Dr. Abdellah Redouane, the General Secretary of the Mosque of Rome. Then the coordinator of SHIELD, Melina Breitteger, gave a short introduction on the project, focussing on its insight from the risk and vulnerability assessment, the importance of exchanges of knowledge with sister projects on the protection of places of worship, and on building a bridge with external stakeholders. After the presentation on the SHIELD project, brief speeches were given by the three religious representatives representing the religions (Islam, Judaism, and Christianity) involved in the project: Imam Nader Akkad from the Great Mosque of Rome; Prof. Rav Scialom Bahbout, Rabbi and President of CIRS; Mons. Jean Marie Gervais, Coadjutor Prefect of the St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The next sessions involved brief speeches from the Member of Parliament H. Andrea Giorgis and from the Vice President of the Senate H. Maurizio Gasparri. Unfortunately, neither could attend, and as such H. Gasparri left a message to be read. Once all the introductory speeches were concluded the first session of the workshop commenced.

Session 1: vulnerability assessment – findings from the SHIELD project was moderated by Alessandro Marani (Z&P) and the panellists were Edoardo Mattiello (FACN), Gabor Werner (BUJS), and Massimo Abdellah Cozzolino (EIA). The panellists illustrated attacks on places of worship including the attack of the Church in Nice and on the Mosque of Bayonne, as well as the merits of the Vulnerability Assessment Checklist (VAC) repurposed from the protection of public spaces to specifically serve as a means to further protect Houses of Worship. The second session on the role of Law Enforcement Agencies in the protection of places of worship was moderated by Luca Guglielminetti (SPIN) and the panelists were Manuel Gonçalves (Portuguese security intelligence service) and Alexander Nikolov (SYNYO, project NOTIONES). The speakers discussed the importance of security intelligence and of collaboration between Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) in risk management. After the end of the second session, there was a short break with coffee and vegetarian cookies where the participants were allowed to network. The third session, focussed on the prevention and protection of places of worship, was moderated by Kristian Reeson (EOS). The speakers were unfortunately unable to attend in person and presented remotely. Panayiota Consanti (CSI) presented the PROSEC UW project and its role in the protection of places of worship through inviting cooperation between public authorities, religious leaders, civil society actors, and the local communities, and developing their capacity to counteract radicalization and hate-speech. Then Bartolomiej Majchrzak gave a presentation on the ProSPeReS project and its aim of increasing the level of protection in places of worship whilst keeping a balance between security measures, in particular a comprehensive protection system, and preservation of the open nature of religious sites. Session 4: trainings and reaction were moderated by Adnan Qaaqa (BayHfoD) and the speakers were Kaashif Awan who presented the SOAR project and Gianfranco Tedesco who presented the PRACTESUR project. A key component of SOAR is to advance the protection of religious sites by implementing a 'security by design' (SBD) concept. Providing time for experts in our trainings to discuss this concept and its importance. The main PRACTESUR outcome is a well-structured framework defining how cities and local police forces can better protect their vulnerable public spaces. At the end of session 4 and before the lunch break, the Fondazione Amici Cattedrale di Novara conducted 3 important interviews with the respective representatives of the 3 religious communities in a secluded place, with the aim of verifying their interest in the aims of the

project. These interviews included the interview with the Head of Security of the Jewish Communities of Italy.

After the four sessions were over, the workshop decided to take a break for a vegetarian lunch and hold the rest of the workshop afterwards. The post lunch session of the workshop involved the final acknowledgments by the SHIELD coordinator Melina Breitterger, the Work Package 5 leader Luca Guglielminetti, and Massimo Cozzolino the consortium member who obtained the free patronage from the Mosque of Rome. Then the participants were invited to visit the Mosque. The workshop ended with a screening of the CSI documentary on victims of terrorism and with the testing of PRACTESUR's training in virtual reality.

Figure 1: Agenda of the workshop

SHIELD First Workshop – AGENDA		
Thursday 1 st December 2022		
9:00 - 9:20	Welcoming and registration	
9:20 - 9:30	Acknowledgments	Dr. Abdellah Redouane, Mosque of Rome Center's General Secretary
9:30 - 9:45	Introduction to the SHIELD project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melina Breitegger, SYNYO
9:45 - 10:00	Greetings and brief speeches from religious representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imam Nader Akkad, Great Mosque of Rome Rav Scialom Bahbout, Rabbi and President of CIRS Mons. Jean Marie Gervais, Coadjutor Prefect of the St. Peter's Basilica in Rome Other religious leaders, representing other confessions
10:00 - 10:15	Greetings and brief speeches from policymakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written message of H. Maurizio Gasparri, Vice President of the Senate
10:15 - 10:45	Session 1: vulnerability assessment - findings from the SHIELD project	Moderator: Alessandro Marani, Z&P Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edoardo Mattiello, FACN Gábor Werner, BUJS Massimo Abdellah Cozzolino, EIA
10:45 - 11:30	Session 2: the role of Law Enforcement Agencies in protecting places of worship	Moderator: Luca Guglielminetti, SPIN SYSTEM Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative of Portuguese Intelligence Security Service - Portugal Mr Arturo Varriale Representative of the Italian Police - Ministry of Interior DCPD NOTIONES project contribution
11:30 - 11:45	Coffee break with buffet	
11:45 - 12:15	Session 3: prevention and protection of places of worship	Moderator: EOS Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROSEC UW project - Center for Social Innovation (CSI) ProSPeReS project
12:15 - 13:00	Session 4: trainings and reaction	Moderator: BayHfoD Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PACTESUR project: Gianfranco Todesco, Chief Commissioner of the Turin Metropolitan Police Kaashif Awan, SOAR project
13:00 - 13:10	Final acknowledgments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Massimo Cozzolino, EIA Luca Guglielminetti, SPIN Melina Breitegger, SYNYO
13:10 - 14:00	Side event of your choice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSI documentary on victims of terrorism or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PACTESUR training in virtual reality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the Center for Social Innovation or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the Turin Metropolitan Police, Chief Inspector Federico Dellanoce
14:00 - 15:00	Lunchbreak	
15:00 - 17:00	SHIELD consortium meeting	SHIELD members only

4. Participants

The Grant Agreement of the SHIELD project had some specific criteria for the participants to this first workshop. The GA indicates that at least 1 representative from another major religion, 2 representatives on behalf of DG HOME, 2 experts of risk detection in public spaces, 3 representatives of religious schools (one for each religion), 3 policymakers, 5 security practitioners and 15 members of the general public should participate in the workshop. Furthermore, sister projects should also be invited to participate.

To this purpose, 57 people attended the workshop, including:

- 1 representative from each religion involved in the SHIELD project: Islam, Judaism, and Christianity
- Several representatives of other religions, including the President of the Hindu Union of Italy and a representative of the Italian Buddhist Union
- Several policy makers
- Several security experts, including those with OSINT, counterterrorism, and police backgrounds
- Representatives from the sister projects: PROSECUW, ProSPeReS, and SOAR

Therefore, the project fulfilled the participant criteria and the diversity in the audience allowed for a great sharing of knowledge among practitioners and policy makers from all over Europe.

Figure 2: SHIELD Consortium Member at the Workshop



5. Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Overall, the workshop was a success. Whilst there was an initial delay due to technical equipment malfunctioning, it was overcome through the use of spare equipment and the workshop continued without interruption. The workshop was a great opportunity to disseminate the results achieved so far by the SHIELD project and share knowledge and experiences with practitioners across Europe, as a result creating synergies with Sister projects. The participants enjoyed the opportunity to network and discuss potential future opportunities for collaboration. The workshop achieved its objective of improving the visibility of the project by organising the workshop and inviting practitioners and experts from across Europe. Furthermore, the workshop allowed SHIELD to interview some of the key participants and to increase its notoriety via the publishing of articles concerning the workshop in newspapers, such as *la Repubblica*, which has nationwide circulation. The workshop also achieved its second aim of enhancing the dissemination of its activities and results through presenting the results achieved so far throughout the project, including the VAC. Finally, the workshop was able to create new synergies among sister projects and practitioners across Europe.

This workshop was a valuable learning experience and has impacted the project with several important lessons learned that will be used to improve the second workshop at the end of the project. The first lesson learned is the importance of bringing and preparing spare equipment in the case that there is a technical issue. Despite the equipment having worked when tested the evening prior, on the day of the workshop several microphones would not work. This resulted in a slight delay as alternative speakers were collected from local consortium offices, brought to the workshop and set up. Therefore, for the next workshop spare equipment will be already on site in case it is needed. The second important lesson is the importance of a less intense agenda. Due to the various sessions, speakers, and activities planned, the workshop was to a degree oversaturated. As a result, there was not as much time for more nuanced discussions and interactive engagement with the audience. To address this point, the next workshop's agenda will have more time for each session planned and the audience will be asked to break out into smaller groups to discuss the topics presented, in order to allow for a more interactive engagement of the audience and more fruitful discussions.

The second workshop will be organized as the final SHIELD project closing conference in Brussels, and will consist in the presentation of the outcomes of the project. On that occasion, the SHIELD consortium will also distribute to participants the information material (such as leaflets, factsheets, etc.) produced within T5.2.

6. Conclusion

The present deliverable (D5.4) reports and elaborates on the main results of the first SHIELD Workshop held during M12 on the 1st of December 2022.

As stated throughout the deliverable, the workshop was a success, and all the objectives were accomplished once some initial delays and problems were overcome. The project's activities and results were disseminated, and synergies were built with sister projects and practitioners from other LEAs and security organizations, thanks to the diverse set of practitioners invited to the workshop.

Beyond, the goals and outcomes mentioned throughout the report, this first SHIELD Workshop was the first time the SHIELD consortium was able to meet in person. Therefore, the workshop not only served as a networking opportunity for the practitioners invited but was also an important team-building opportunity for the consortium.



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