



# Welcome

## Final SHIELD Newsletter

This is the last issue of our Newsletter. In fact, the SHIELD project is over and, while sharing the following final contents and deliverables, we would like to thank all our readers.

*A warm goodbye!*

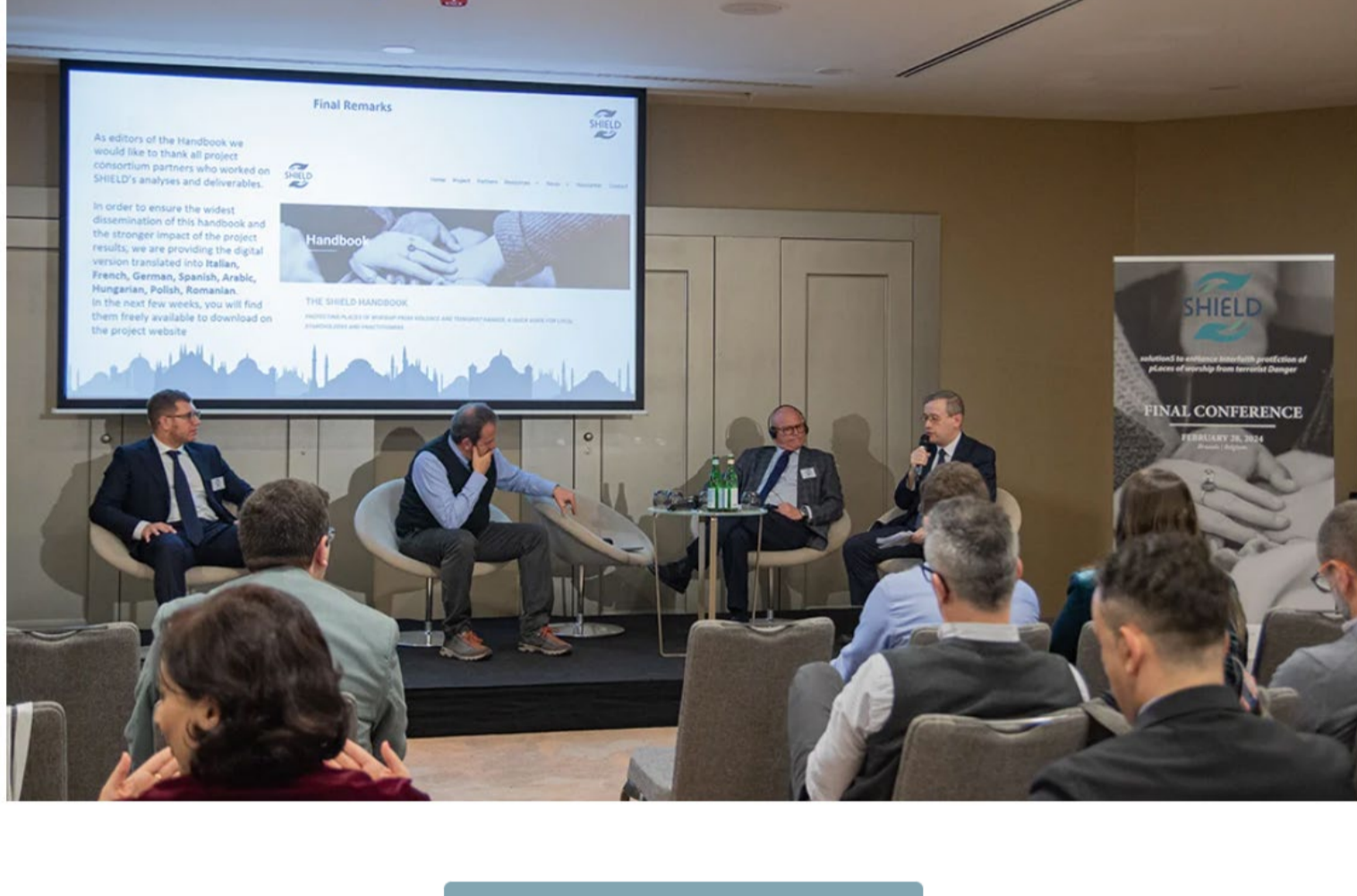
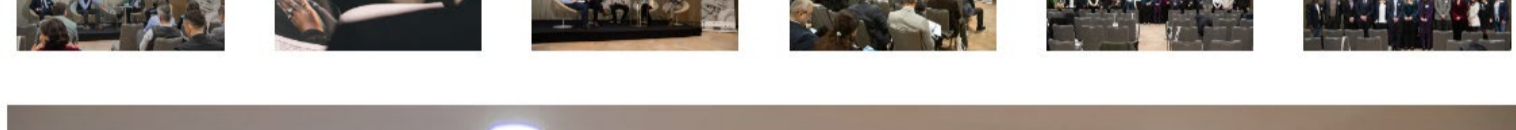
### SHIELD FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT

BRUSSELS 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024



## SHIELD FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The SHIELD project, an innovative initiative aimed at enhancing the security of places of worship, successfully convened its final conference on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Brussels, Belgium. This milestone event brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including security experts, policymakers, religious leaders, and representatives from sister projects, to explore strategies for safeguarding religious sites from potential threats.



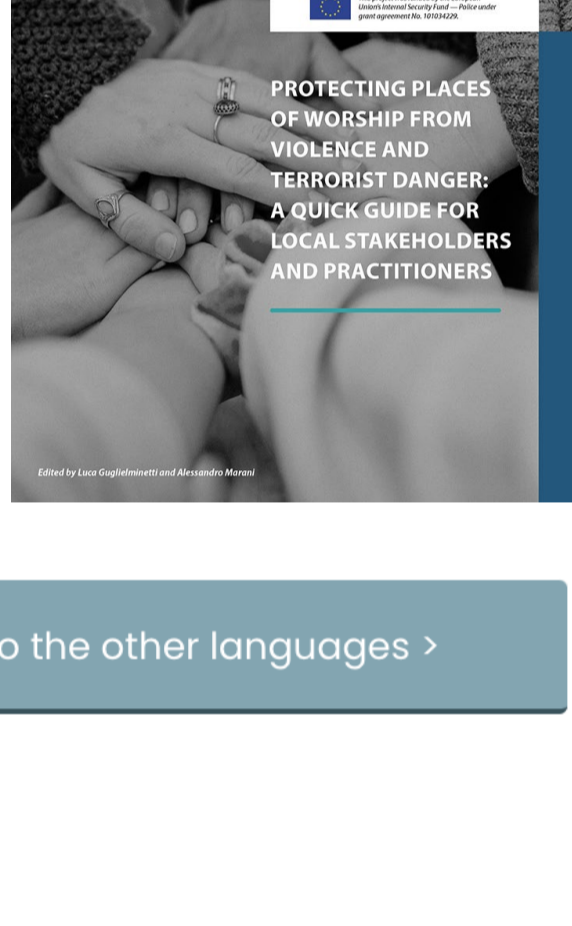
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### THE SHIELD HANDBOOK

#### PROTECTING PLACES OF WORSHIP FROM VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST DANGER: A QUICK GUIDE FOR LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS AND PRACTITIONERS

The SHIELD project has compiled its main deliverables, reports and findings into an easy-to-use handbook, designed specifically for leaders of religious communities, decision makers and law enforcements agencies at local level, with ait to support a comprehensive protection system for the places of worship, including the project outcomes in the broader framework of the European policies on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) and on supporting the victims of terrorism.

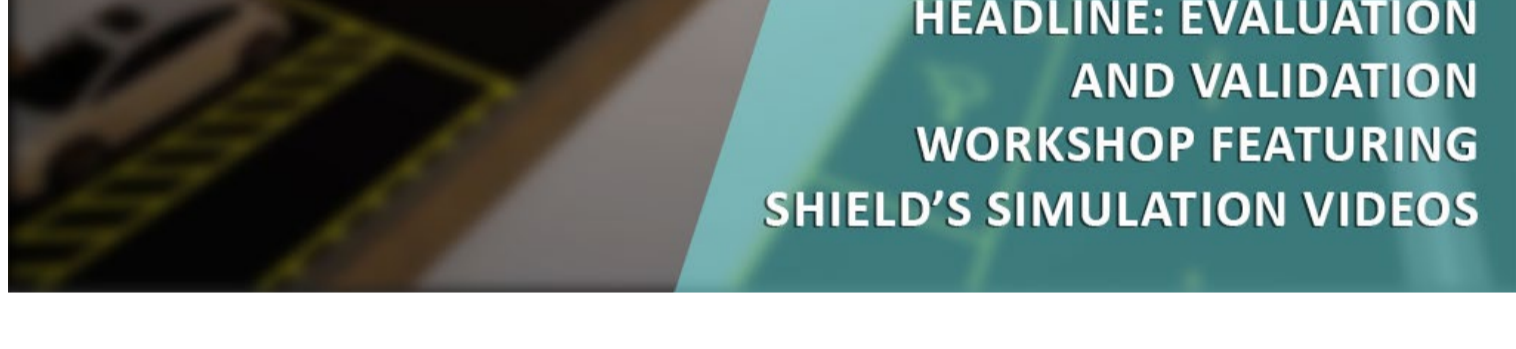
Click on the image to download the Handbook.



[Click here to get the translated versions into the other languages >](#)

### NEWS

#### Headline: Evaluation and validation workshop featuring SHIELD's simulation videos



SHIELD consortium held an online workshop on **December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023** presenting **three developed simulation videos** of potential attacks on places of worship and obtaining elaborate feedback for their validation.

[Read more >](#)

#### Smart City as a Place to Pray



### SMART CITY AS A PLACE TO PRAY

The Authors of this paper, engaged in the EU-funded **SHIELD project** – within the framework of this project and the exchange of experiences with its participants and participants of other projects oriented on the presence of religions in the modern urban spaces – carried out a research entitled *Smart City as a Place to Pray*, presented at the **2023 IEEE International Smart Cities Conference (ISC2)**.

[Read more >](#)

### PROJECT

SHIELD is a project funded by the **European Union's Internal Security Fund** aimed at protecting places of worship from the risks of violent extremism. Implementing risk factors' analysis, SHIELD is to enhance security postures at places of worship through improving the coordination, cooperation, and communication between law enforcement agencies, public authorities, faith leadership and congregations.

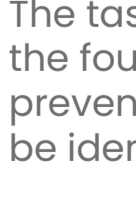


The combination of the Shield protective and risk factors' analysis brings together stakeholders and target groups to develop new measures to ensure the safeguard of these places and the resilience of believers with different faiths.

SHIELD's consortium is made up of **18 partners** from **10 EU countries**, engaged for two years: **from January 2022 to December 2023**.

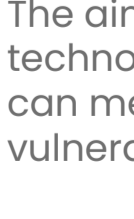
### SHORT OVERVIEW

SHIELD project foresees the following working packages (WP):



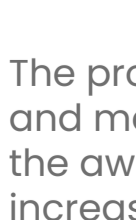
#### analysis of critical points, resilience activities and risks.

The tasks of WP2 activities will lay the foundations for the definition of prevention and mitigation strategies, to be identified in WP3



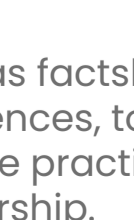
#### identification of safety and security measures.

The aim of WP3 is to identify technologies and procedures that can meet the needs and mitigate the vulnerabilities outlined in WP2



#### WP4 aims at developing training sessions and simulations to test.

Validate and evaluate the methodological, technological and procedural solutions identified in WP3



#### the dissemination and communication plan.

WP5 will ensure to reach and involve the stakeholders and target groups to promote and ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes

The project outputs will be publications, as factsheet and recommendations, and meetings, as workshops and conferences, to raise, in the target groups, the awareness and the information on the practical measures and tools for increasing the protection of places of worship.

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