

*Press release project launch “SHOTPROS” – for immediate release*

**TRAIN – DECIDE – ACT. Horizon 2020 research project SHOTPROS radically changes decision making and acting performance of European police officers under stress and in high-risk situations by developing new training methods**

Vienna, Austria (May 2019). A European wide, multidisciplinary consortium, coordinated by Austrian consulting company USECON, receives 5 million Horizon 2020 EU grant for its SHOTPROS project. With the help of Virtual Reality (VR) trainings SHOTPROS will train first responders’ decision making and acting capabilities under stress and in high risk situations to fight crime, terrorism, CBRNe threats and radicalism.

**New project supports European police officers in their challenges**

The European street patrol police officers’ field of action constantly changes and new challenges are emerging all the time. Being the first responder in novel and ambiguous high-risk situations exposes police officers to high levels of stress and performance pressure. Highly trained staff is required to properly evaluate the situation and to decide and act correctly under stress. Therefore, a decision making and acting based training framework is the go forward solution to support first responders’ action control in threatening situations. SHOTPROS contributes to the improvement of the competences and capabilities of European Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to prevent and mitigate the impact of criminal acts, whilst protecting fundamental European rights of its citizens.

**Better Decision Making and Acting Performance enhanced by VR-Training**

The project aims to create a validated Human Factors Model for Decision Making and Acting under Stress and in High Risk Situations (DMA-SR). Such a model is vital to understand how decisions in the presence of diverse stress cues are made.

For this purpose, SHOTPROS will develop a VR research solution to experimentally assess the degree to which various (human) factors influence DMA behaviour. Subsequently the project will develop a human factor-rooted training curriculum and a corresponding VR training solution to provide a comprehensive framework for practical training for decision-making and acting under stress and in high-risk situations in order to improve DMA-SR performance. Stress influencing human factors can be manipulated in this virtual environment to individualize training and make it more valuable. VR Training that adequately prepares police officers for real-life incidents improves the success of police operations and contributes to the civil security.

Markus Murtinger, Coordinator of SHOTPROS highlights the relevance of this project: “Existing trainings mainly focus on skill training. Processes of decision making and acting and the impact of stress on these processes are neglected. We aim to set up a training framework, enhanced with Virtual Reality, to change the training methods in LEAs to improve decision making processes and minimize use of force, collateral damages and escalations.”

A team of 13 European partners from high-ranked research institutions, business companies and international Law Enforcement Agencies will cooperate for 3 years on SHOTPROS. The project-started with a successful kick off meeting taking place in May in Vienna at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology.

**International Law Enforcement Agency Network**

During the project a pan-European network among international LEAs will be established in order to transfer knowledge gained in the project and to spread the results within the European Security Network. A tight integration of end users is a vital part of the SHOTPROS project and creates competitive advantages in fighting terrorism and radicalization.

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### Short Project Facts

The SHOTPROS project aims to investigate the influence of psychological and contextual human factors (HFs) on the behaviour of decision making and acting (DMA) of police officers under stress and in high-risk operational situations in order to design training curricula for police officers that improve DMA performance. To do so, SHOTPROS will develop a VR (virtual reality) research and training solution to experimentally assess the degree to which these factors influence DMA behaviour. Subsequently, this solution will then be used to train DMA behaviour appropriately and thereby improve DMA performance.



This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation Programme under grant agreement No 833672.

Total cost: 5.1 Million Euro; Duration: 36 months.

### Project Partners

- USECON – The Usability Consultants GmbH / Austria
- AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH - Center for Technology Experience / Austria
- KU Leuven - Department of Criminal Law and Criminology / Belgium
- Stichting VU - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / The Netherlands
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg – Institute of Sport and Sport Sciences / Germany
- Campus Vesta APB / Belgium
- RE-liON Group B.V. / The Netherlands
- Ministry of Internal Affairs Romania - Directorate General Logistics / Romania
- Swedish Police Authority / Sweden
- Der Polizeipräsident in Berlin - Polizeiakademie / Germany
- National Politie Nederland / The Netherlands
- Directorate General Crisis Centre of the Belgian Federal Public Service, Home Affairs / Belgium
- Polizei Nordrhein-Westfalen - Landesamt für Ausbildung, Fortbildung and Personalangelegenheiten / Germany

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SHOTPROS Kick Off Photo / Vienna 2019 @AIT Austrian Institute for Technology



Project Logo

