

News from the EU City.Risks Project
(H2020 - 653747)

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City.Risks Newsletter - April 2016



The City.Risks project is now concluding its first year. Main results presented below.

City.Risks is investigating crime perception in London, Sofia and Rome

A survey has been conducted in the three cities to investigate citizens' perception of urban crime and their attitude in using ICT to improve safety in everyday life.

City.Risks focuses on key research findings in urban crime

Key research findings have been identified that reveal risk factors associated with urban security, and how such risk factors may be employed for risk assessment and prevention.

The main findings is that a large proportion of all crime occurs at a few places, and only a few people account for a great amount of all criminal victimisations. Places at risk for hosting crime are characterised by a high density of people, weak social cohesion, low socio-economic status among the residents, and located in innercity areas. The presence of alcohol outlets and public transportation nodes are also expected to increase the risk of crime. Men, young people (under 25), individuals with low socio-economic status, ethnic

minorities, and single/divorced/widowed persons generally suffer from higher risks of victimisation. Tourists may also be at elevated risk for victimisation due to their often reckless behaviour in search for authentic experiences. Also, persons previously victimised are at higher risk for further victimisation.

The prevention efforts of City.Risks should be based on a situational approach, centred on reducing crime opportunities. This may include route planning for the safest route and information to individuals in order to modify their behaviour, but also provide information that makes people aware of the crime situation when visiting new areas and give people the opportunity to be connected in networks, to improve knowledge of their surroundings and increase the feel of safety. [[More info in D2.3](#)]

City.Risks will address the following use cases

City.Risks has elaborated six scenarios where the adoption of modern technologies can assist in addressing security threats. Emphasis has been laid on using citizen engagement in criminality detection and response, building communities to improve citizens' perception of security and to reduce their fear of crime, and using citizens' mobile devices and generated content as tools for gaining insights into security threats and for addressing them more effectively.

The following scenarios have been identified: theft of personal belongings, vehicle theft, information gathering and dissemination for ongoing events, tourists' and women's safety, citizen engagement, neighbourhood safety. Each of them have been analysed to produce a comprehensive set of technical requirements, both functional and non-functional, necessary for the development of the City.Risks technical solutions. [[More info in D2.4](#)]

City.Risks has completed the design of the core platform

The core platform designed by City.Risks comprises an infrastructure for managing user communities and policies, that will allow citizen users to specify their profile and preferences: e.g. to configure how to view information and when/what notifications and alerts should be received. It also provides a fine-grained mechanism for allowing citizen users to create (possibly nested) communities, like family, friends, colleagues, neighbours and to specify rules and policies for sharing information and experiences among them, e.g. which users can see one's location, or to/from which users to send/receive alerts. The City.Risks platform provides the open APIs and its set of interfaces plus a SDK, i.e. an implementation tooling that allows third parties to build custom-made applications and to integrate them into the City.Risks platform. It also includes components for low level system monitoring and event logging. [[More info in](#)

[D2.5\]](#)

City.Risks is developing an innovative theft detection sensor

City Risks project intends to design and implement an innovative, small and discrete sensor coupling Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) and radio-based technologies to transparently identify and locate stolen objects within a specific urban range through the usage of the City.Risks network of citizens. The key challenge of the design is how the distance between a Base Station and BLE device can be covered. Therefore, instead of implementing a WuR (wake-up radio receiver) along with a BLE device positioned in the asset, a BLE/WiFi gateway should be deployed that would equally cover and reach the BLE anti-theft sensor. Two alternative activation mechanisms have been foreseen: via BLE/WiFi gateway, and via the smartphones of the community users, which forward the wake up signal to the BLE device.

The core components of the system architecture are the following: battery powered BLE sensor device, BLE/ WiFi Radio gateway to enable communication with the City.Risks Platform and City Risks Mobile application to communicate with BLE devices and report asset's position to the City.Risks platform. [\[More info in D2.5\]](#)



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