Integrated system for real-time TRACKing and collective intelligence in civilian humanitarian missions

Fact Sheet

Project information

iTRACK
Grant agreement ID: 700510
Project website

Funded under:
H2020-EU.3.7.
Overall budget:
€ 3 999 213,75
EU contribution
€ 3 999 213,75

Coordinated by:
UNIVERSITETET I AGDER
Norway

Start date
1 May 2016
End date
30 April 2019

Objective

The enduring humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, the unrelenting high levels of violence in Afghanistan and new outbursts of violence in South-Sudan have made 2014 another record-breaking year for acts of violence against humanitarian aid workers. In 2000 41 significant attacks on aid workers were recorded across the globe. By 2014, that number had risen to 190. In this 15-year period, over 3,000 aid workers have been killed, injured or kidnapped. Despite the increasing availability of tracking and monitoring technologies, the number of humanitarian workers that fall victim to attacks continues to rise. Clearly, a novel and innovative approach to tracking and decision-making is needed.

Information systems for fleet management, GPS for navigation and location or RFID tags for inventory management are just a few of the technologies that have changed the humanitarian operations. Until now, however, there is no integrated decision support system that provides real-time analyses from the data streams that are generated by these technologies. This lack of integrated real-time information prevents an understanding of potentially threatening situations, increases response times and creates insecure communications, all leading to inadequate protection and hampered efficiency and effectiveness.

The aim of better protection and more efficient and effective operations can only be achieved by developing technologies along with the policies for their use. GPS, for example, notwithstanding its capability to provide live tracking of vehicles for recovery, cannot prevent an ambush or kidnapping. Technologies therefore need to go hand in hand with procedures and policies in order to provide useful early warnings to decision-makers on the ground as well as decision support for scheduling, navigation, risk management
and coordination. Policies, in other words, provide for the essential guidance on how to use the technologies in the field. This project will develop human-centred technologies that take into account actual real-world practices of humanitarian aid workers, and provide policies for better protection and a more effective and efficient response. Based on principles of Privacy by Design, this project will build the iTRACK system, an integrated intelligent real-time tracking and threat identification system to improve protection of responders and assets, and provide information management and logistics services such as real-time information updates and analyses as well as navigation, routing and scheduling. iTRACK will achieve this through an interdisciplinary, socio-technical approach, which will draw on the latest advances in sensor development, GIS, security & privacy, artificial intelligence, information management, risk analysis, and humanitarian logistics.

Field of Science
/natural sciences/earth and related environmental sciences/physical geography/cartography/geographic information systems
/social sciences/sociology/governance/crisis management
/natural sciences/computer and information sciences/artificial intelligence
/social sciences/sociology/governance/public services

Programme(s)
H2020-EU.3.7. - Secure societies - Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

Topic(s)
BES-10-2015 - Information management topic 1: Civilian humanitarian mission personnel tracking

Call for proposal
H2020-BES-2015
See other projects for this call

Funding Scheme
RIA - Research and Innovation action

Coordinator
UNIVERSITETET I AGDER

Address
Gimlemoen 25
4604 Kristiansand
Norway

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

EU Contribution
€ 693 381,25

Website
Contact the organisation

Participants (13)

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Activity type
Private for-profit entities (excluding Higher or Secondary Education Establishments)

EU Contribution
€ 334 125

Website
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Activity type
Private for-profit entities (excluding Higher or Secondary Education Establishments)

EU Contribution
€ 301 979,70

Website
Contact the organisation
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