CT PUBLIC SPACES

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FIIAPP
COOPERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA

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EUROPEAN UNION HIGH RISK SECURITY NETWORK

The *CT Public Spaces* team welcomes you to its first newsletter, covering the activities carried out in 2020

CT Public Spaces is funded by the EU, managed by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), implemented by the Spanish Guardia Civil and coordinated by the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP F.S.P.).

The general aim of the project is to prevent and reduce terrorist attacks and their impact in public spaces. Likewise, it is to collaborate with partner countries (initially Ghana, Kenya and Senegal) to protect possible targets.

The expected results from the project to protect public spaces are:

COOPERATION with national authorities to increase awareness and capability to protect people and goods at these sites.
COLLABORATION with law enforcements in partner countries to improve command and control systems, risk assessment, tactics, techniques and procedures for protection, reaction to and recovery from potential attacks.
C**REATE OPPORTUNITIES** for public sector cooperation with local venue operators and private security.

"There cannot be sustainable development without peace and security, and without development and poverty eradication there will be no sustainable peace"

European Security Strategy 2003

"Security is an issue that affects everyone. All government bodies, businesses, social organisations, institutions and citizens must fulfil their own responsibilities in order to make our societies more secure."

European Security Strategy 2020

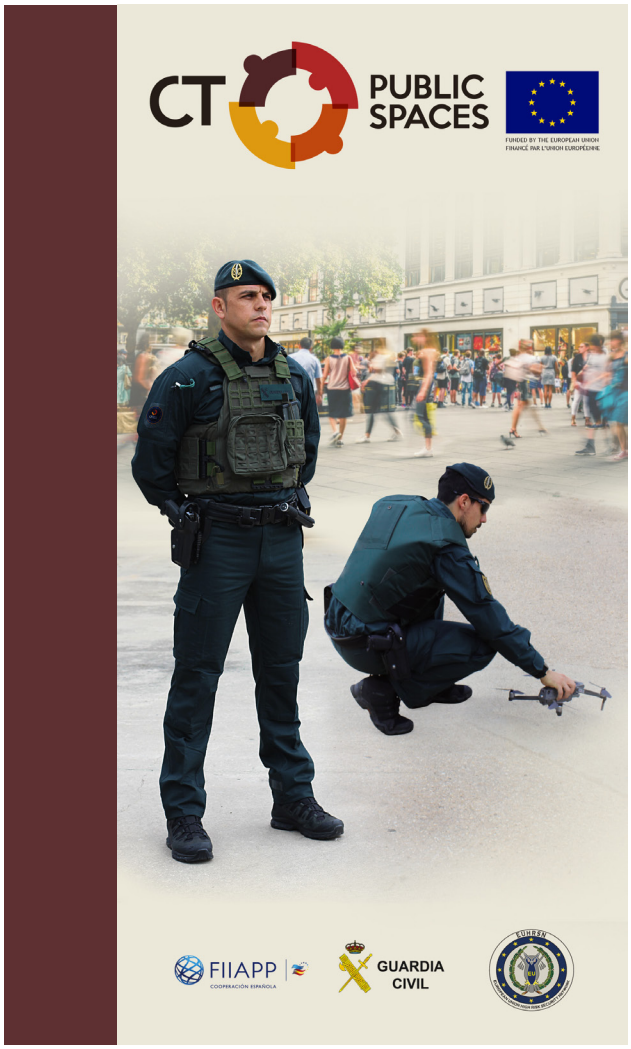
CT Public Spaces : The origins

Since its creation as a political and economic community, the European Union (EU) has been working relentlessly, inside and outside its borders, to promote stability, peace and security.

According to the 2003 European Security Strategy a country's sustainable, economic and social development is only possible when a certain level of security, peace and stability is achieved. Later in 2020, the European Security Strategy highlights the importance of the different stakeholder role to ensure societies are more secure.

This is effectively the premise of the *CT Public Spaces* project, which seeks to improve security and stability in partner countries, by reducing terrorist attacks in urban public spaces, thus preserving the human rights in these spaces. *CT Public Spaces* works in cooperation with the public and private actors involved in the protection of public spaces and in counter-terrorism activities in partner countries. Its recent launch in 2019 allows FIIAPP and Guardia Civil Española, as coordinating and implementing partners respectively, to work on preventing and reducing terrorist attacks and their impact in public spaces in partner countries, supporting the strengthening of peace and security in these countries and thus contributing to their development.

CT Public Spaces is in turn guided by the Action Plan to Support the Protection of Public Spaces, drawn up by the European Commission at the end of 2017. This Plan saw the launching of the EU High Risk Security Network (EU HRSN), an entity associated to the project which gathers counter-terrorism police units in EU member states who participate in the fight against a new terrorist threat. The initiatives are set out to cover an EU security priority, the improvement and strengthening of the protection of public spaces with large groups of people and other sensitive targets.



ACTIVITIES

The *CT Public Spaces* project will provide 33 "training for trainers", aimed at staff selected by the authorities in the partner countries. These activities will be carried out at the Special Forces Experiences Complex (PEFE) based in Logroño, Spain, which is used by anti-terrorist units from this and other countries. Through these trainings, a nucleus of experts in public spaces protection will be created at the heart of the security forces in the partner countries. The *CT Public Spaces* project will collaborate with this nucleus of experts in carrying out another set of specific trainings to protect public spaces, with support from EU-HRSN experts. These trainings will be complemented with exercises, seminars and mentoring.

The project activities will improve command and control systems, protection, reaction and recovery capabilities as well as risk assessment of public spaces in the partner countries. Likewise, they will focus on strengthening Ministries and national authorities' awareness and capacity, while also improving opportunities for public-private sector cooperation. After *CT Public Spaces* launching in early 2020, Ghana, Kenya and Senegal were preliminarily selected as partner countries. From that moment on, the team made the necessary efforts to conduct the assessment missions that would allow the project to be presented to the different national authorities responsible for counter-terrorism and/or protection of public spaces in the mentioned countries. Different results were obtained:

GHANA	KENYA	SENEGAL
Contacts were initiated with authorities of the Ministry of National Security of the Government of the Republic of Ghana.	In this first phase of the project, implementing partners contacted the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) and the Kenyan National Police Service (KNPS).	Contacts with the Senegalese National Police (PNS), the Senegalese National Gendarmerie (GNS) and the Inter-ministerial Coordination Panel for Counter-Terrorism Operations Operations (CICO) have been fluid.
Although Covid-19 and recent general elections affected the speed of conversations, the general political will and the interest of the Ministry of National Security of Ghana in participating in the CT Public Spaces project has been confirmed.	An assessment mission programmed for March had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. It finally took place from the 19th till the 23rd of October.	An assessment mission to Dakar was carried out in March 2020. During this visit, the PNS, the GNS and CICO confirmed their interest in participating in the project.
A future visit to the country is pending.	The mission allowed to present the project to Kenyan authorities involved in the fight against terrorism and protection of public spaces. The NCTC and the KNPS confirmed their interest in participating in the CT Public Spaces project.	A second visit to the country in September 2020 allowed to plan the start of the training activities in Logroño. Three tactical trainings took place in November 2020 for two weeks.

Inception phase

First mission to Senegal to identify institutional partners

The project team, accompanied by the Director of the Security, Peace and Development Unit of FIIAPP, had the opportunity to meet with different Senegalese and international institutions for the correct identification of needs and partners. It is worth highlighting a special meeting that was held with the European Union Ambassador in Senegal, Mrs. Irene Mingasson, who, together with the Delegation's Governance and Security team, guided and supported this first mission by the *CT Public Spaces* team.

CT Public Spaces team in meetings with relevant Senegalese institutions, such as the Senegalese National Police (PNS)

The members of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs of the Spanish Embassy accompanied the *CT Public Spaces* team in the different meetings held with the most relevant Senegalese institutions: for example, the meeting held with the Director General of the PNS, and the meeting with the Deputy Chief of the GNS. Both the PNS and the GNS were very interested in and supportive of this proposal, as it will improve local capacities for analysis, protection, reaction and recovery from possible attacks in public spaces.

Ongoing activities to improve the security of public spaces in Senegal

In September, Dakar hosted the second mission of the *CT Public Spaces* team in Senegal. Over the course of a week, project members held meetings with Senegalese authorities, Spanish and European representatives in the country to strengthen institutional relations and plan the coming technical and training activities.

The project's Spanish representation, comprising managers, coordinators and a key expert, from the Guardia Civil and FIIAPP met with the Director General of the PNS, the Deputy Chief of the GNS and the Director of CICO, the *CT Public Spaces* Point of Contact (PoC) as well as their corresponding technical teams.

In these meetings, the framework protocol for the project, the work plan, the schedule of upcoming initiatives, as well as the profile of the students who will attend the training course, were established, paying special attention to gender equality.

Likewise, the *CT Public Spaces* team, accompanied by members of the Spanish Embassy's Interior Department in Senegal, shared the current situation regarding the project, the planned activities and the expected results with the European Union Delegation (EUD) and with the Spanish Ambassador.

One of the technical meetings held in Dakar with Senegalese authorities in September 2020

First mission in Kenya by the *CT Public Spaces* project

In November 2020, the project team met with several institutions in Kenya, looking for partners to cooperate with during its implementation.

Two experts from the Spanish Guardia Civil had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Kenyan National Police Service (NPS), the Administration's Police Service (APS) and the National Counter-Terrorism Center (NCTC) in order to introduce the project and lay the foundations for working together in the future.

The project team has also been supported by the EUD and had a meeting with the Spanish Ambassador in Kenya, who has also shown great interest and support for the project.

CT Public Spaces Specialists from the Spanish Guardia Civil in meetings with potential Kenyan partners

Capacity building

Output	Indicators	Activities
2. Improved capacities of law enforcement for the use of command and control systems, risk assessment and TTPs for protection, reaction and recovery.	2.4. 3 law enforcement trainings dedicated to public spaces protection. 2.5. 12 law enforcement participants, all of whom were men, trained on public space protection.	3.3.6. Precision snipers training in Spain. 3.3.9. Inter. dog handler in Spain. 3.3.10. Expl. dog handler in Spain.

Training of trainers started in Logroño

Some key moments of the first training of trainers cycle held in the facilities of the Rural Action Unit (UAR) of the Guardia Civil.

The *CT Public Spaces* project carried out its first train the trainers cycle for a dozen members of the GNS and the PNS who travelled to Logroño and received training in the facilities of the Rural Action Unit (UAR) of the Guardia Civil. In particular, this unit encompasses, on the one hand, the Rapid Action Group (GAR), dedicated to counter-terrorism and the execution of high-risk operations, or which require a rapid response; and on the other hand, the Special Training Centre (CAE), dedicated to the training of agents in this field.

The program has included tactical formations of precision marksmen, and handlers of canine intervention and explosive detection dogs. The Senegalese technical team has welcomed the depth of knowledge that is transmitted and exchanged with their Spanish colleagues during the theoretical-practical and intervention sessions.

Following this training, we were able to interview 4 representatives of the GNS and PNS to learn first-hand about the content and impact of the activity back in their home country. You can read the interview here.

PERSPECTIVES

Due to the global crisis caused by Covid-19, during most of the time covered by this newsletter international flights were cancelled, borders were closed, and meetings limited for health protection reasons. Therefore, it was not possible to conduct the assessment missions and meetings with national authorities as scheduled. This is the reason why the inception phase ended in October 2020, after receiving confirmation from the Ghanaian authorities of participating in the project and after having conducted assessment missions in Senegal and Kenya.

During this first inception phase of the *CT Public Spaces* project, the crisis caused by Covid-19 has not allowed to keep the timeline of programmed activities. However, this has only meant a delay of some months in the delivery of activities and meetings, not a cancellation of the program.

Despite the geographical, cultural and historical differences, the reality regarding the protection of public spaces is very similar among the three possible partner countries. The actions planned in the project have been well received by partner countries, who have shown initial interest in participating in all of them. It has been possible to establish a work plan with the Partner Countries, and specific trainings have been prepared and delivered in the last months of 2020. The continuous contacts of the team with the UAR staff have contributed to developing different project materials, including the above mentioned work plans to be implemented in 2021, the Statement of Requirements (SORs) of the training actions and the Programs of Instructions (POIs) to be taught.

A project website has been created in order to enhance the visibility actions of the project, which will serve as the project's main platform for public communication. In addition, social networks tools will be used to enhance visibility actions and keep public in general updated about the project progress.

CONTACT

info@ctpublicspaces.eu

(+34) 941 051 500

www.ctpublicspaces.eu

SOCIAL NETWORKS

CT Public Spaces

@ctpublicspaces

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