PReparedness against CBRNE threats through c**O**mmon **A**pproaches between security pra**CTI**tioners and the **V**ulnerabl**E** civil society

The PROACTIVE Project

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13/10/2021

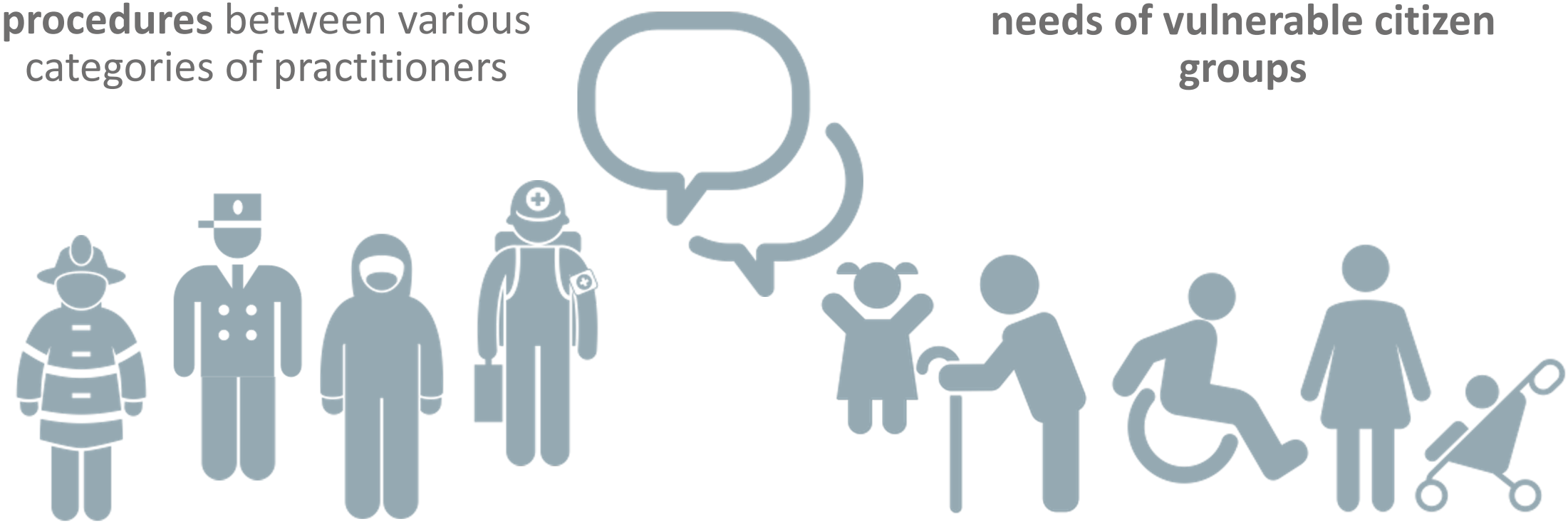
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 832981

Objectives

Enhance preparedness against and response to a CBRNe incident through:

a better **harmonization of procedures** between various categories of practitioners

and a better articulation with the **needs of vulnerable citizen groups**



Workflow

- **Literature review** of CBRNe terrorism in Europe and beyond
- **Engagement** of LEAs and other Practitioners & of the Civil Society
- **Toolkit** for LEAs, security Policy-makers and civil society
- **Joint exercises**, evaluation and validation of the tools
- **Legal, Ethical and Acceptability Requirements**

Literature review of CBRNe terrorism in Europe & beyond

Aim	Recommendations

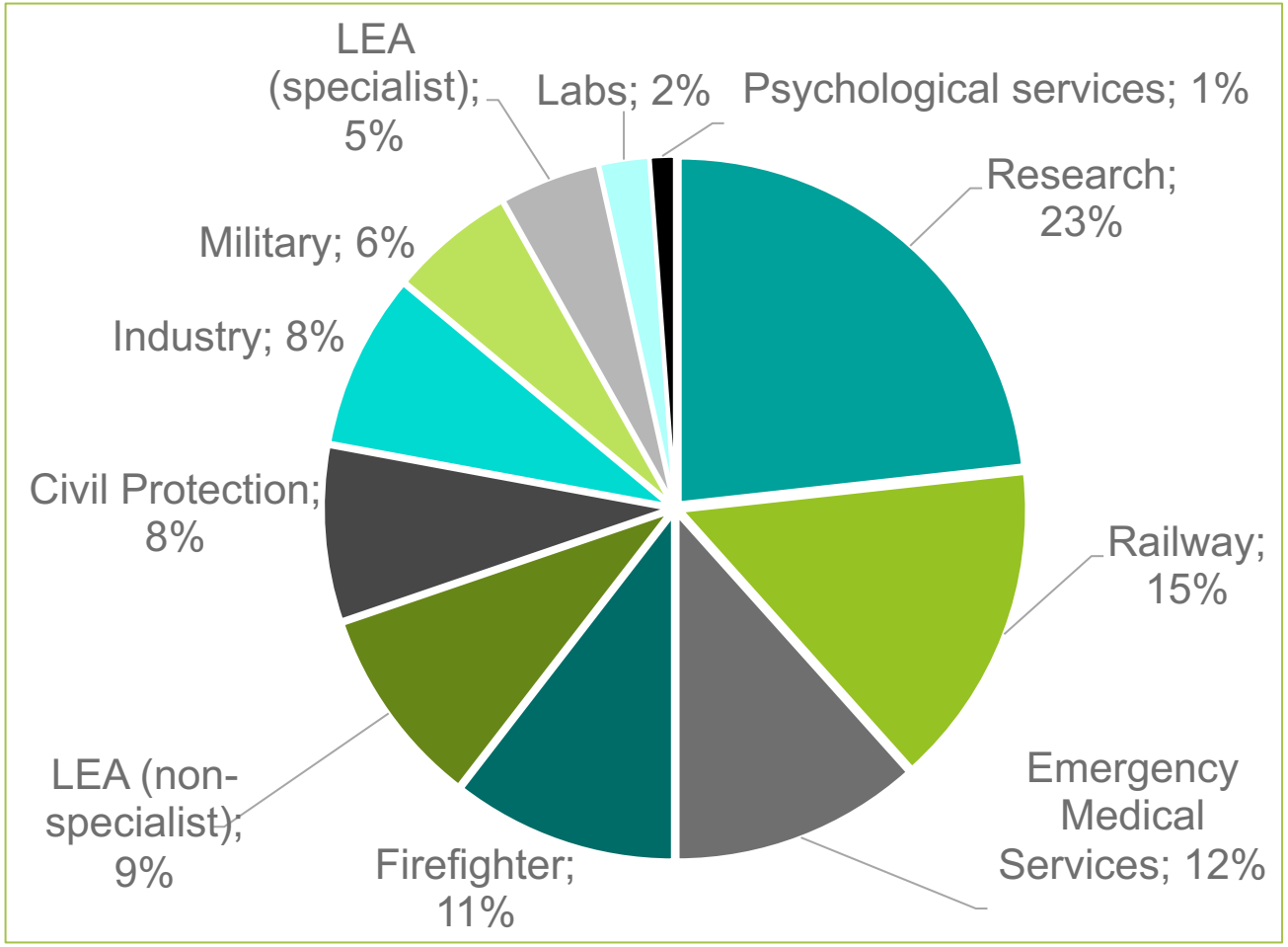
Guidance documents	• Seek to be uniform
	• Provide evidence-based advice about
	  ○ communicating with the public
	  ○ likely public behaviour
	  ○ strategies to increase public compliance
	• Inform responders about the needs of vulnerable groups

Counter Low Knowledge	• Implement information campaigns & education programmes • Pitch messages at the appropriate level (language & complexity)
Dissemination	• Be honest, empathetic, assertive & reliable • In written form (non-complex) • Via multiple platforms in a consistent manner • Pre-planned
Communication with the public	• Communicate effectively (re: above recommendations) • Inform about loved ones, actions to apprehend terrorist, importance of complying with instructions & delivered by a credible spokesperson • Reduce anxiety by providing self-efficacy • Inform about risks
Vulnerable Populations	• Provide information in multiple languages, pictographic form, and sign language. • Be culturally appropriate by respecting religion and values • Give more consideration to those with mobility issues

Engagement of Practitioners

- Practitioner Stakeholder Advisory Board (PSAB)
  - Panel of experts from different areas of knowledge and CBRNe practitioners
  - 87 current members

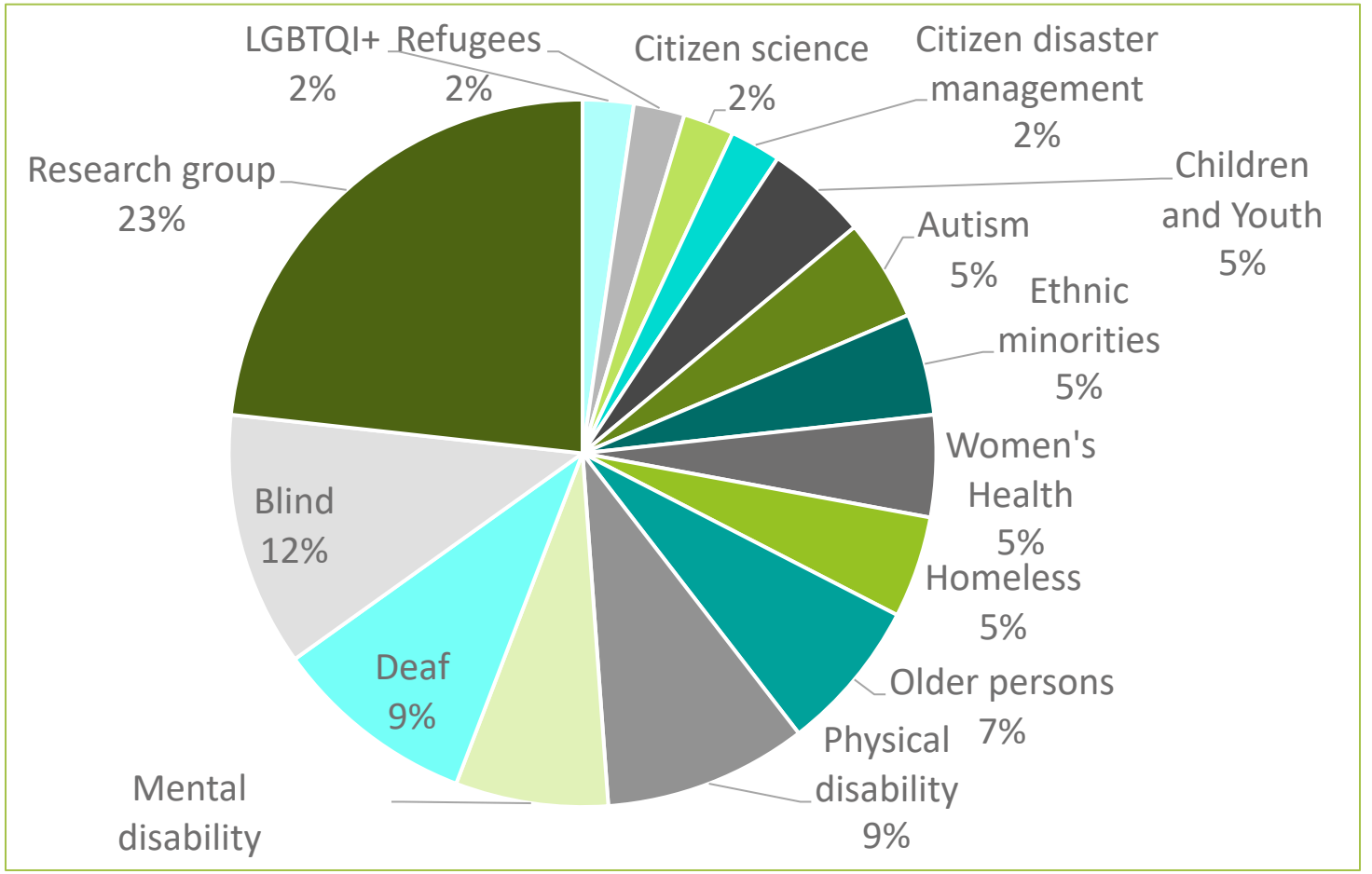
  –> **Permanent recruitment**



Engagement of Civil Society

- The Civil Society Advisory Board (CSAB)
  - Members of the public
  - CSOs to best represent human diversity
  - 43 current members

  –> Permanent recruitment



Engagement of Practitioners & Civil Society

- Interview & questionnaire based studies for a gap analysis
- Practitioners
  - 223 participants from 23 different countries & 18 interviewees
  - 9 total recommendations, including:
    - SOPs should include information about vulnerable groups;
    - Involve vulnerable persons in exercises;
    - Needs of vulnerable groups need to be addressed in communication strategies;
    - More cooperation between practitioners and CSOs at institutional level.
- Civil Society Orgs
  - 91 participants from 20 different countries
  - 15 total recommendations, including:
    - SOPs should include information about vulnerable groups;
    - Include vulnerable persons in exercises;
    - Responders in PPE should attach a photo to their clothing;
    - Involve carers.

Engagement of Practitioners & Civil Society

- Together with EU project COVINFORM,

  5 communication recommendations:

  1. Accessible and inclusive
  2. Actionable
  3. Trusted and credible
  4. Relevant and timely
  5. Understandable and transparent

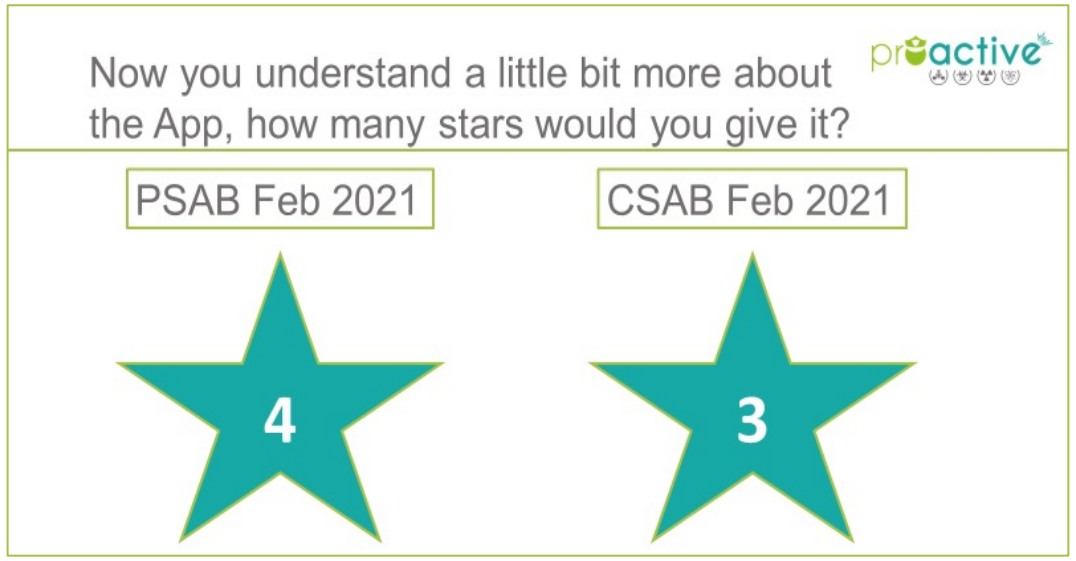
https://bit.ly/3me4Utz

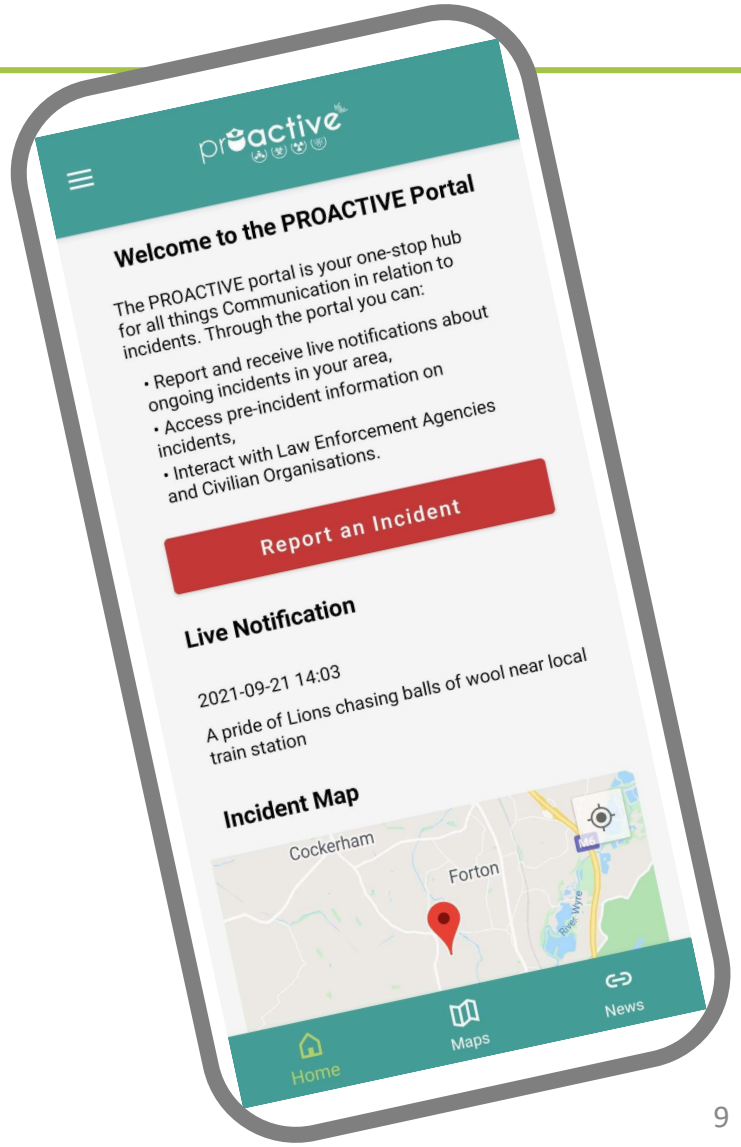
Toolkits for LEAs, security Policy-makers and Civil Society

- Web portal available at:

  https://www.proactive-app.net/

- Iterative, co-creation process
  - Workshops held with PSAB & CSAB





Joint exercises, evaluation and validation of the tools

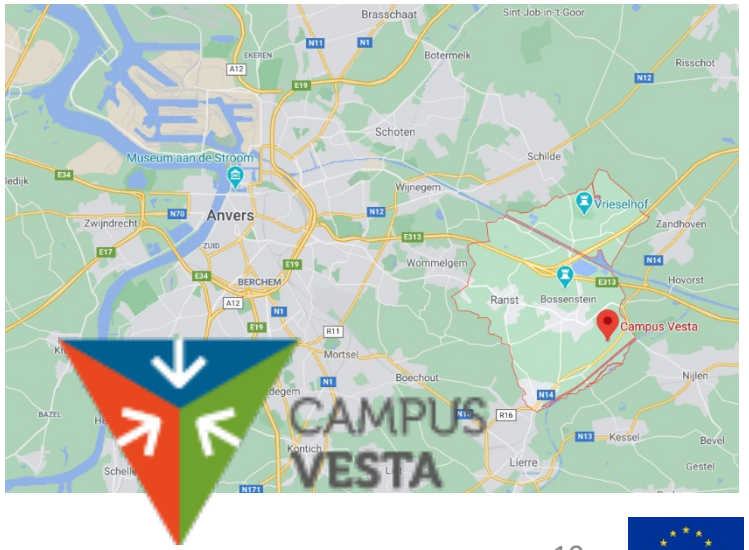
- Three field exercises
- Each in a different country
  - Jointly with project eNOTICE
  - Followed by an evaluation workshop

Members of vulnerable groups will participate as role-play volunteers in the exercises

1. Dortmund, Germany (Apr 2022)

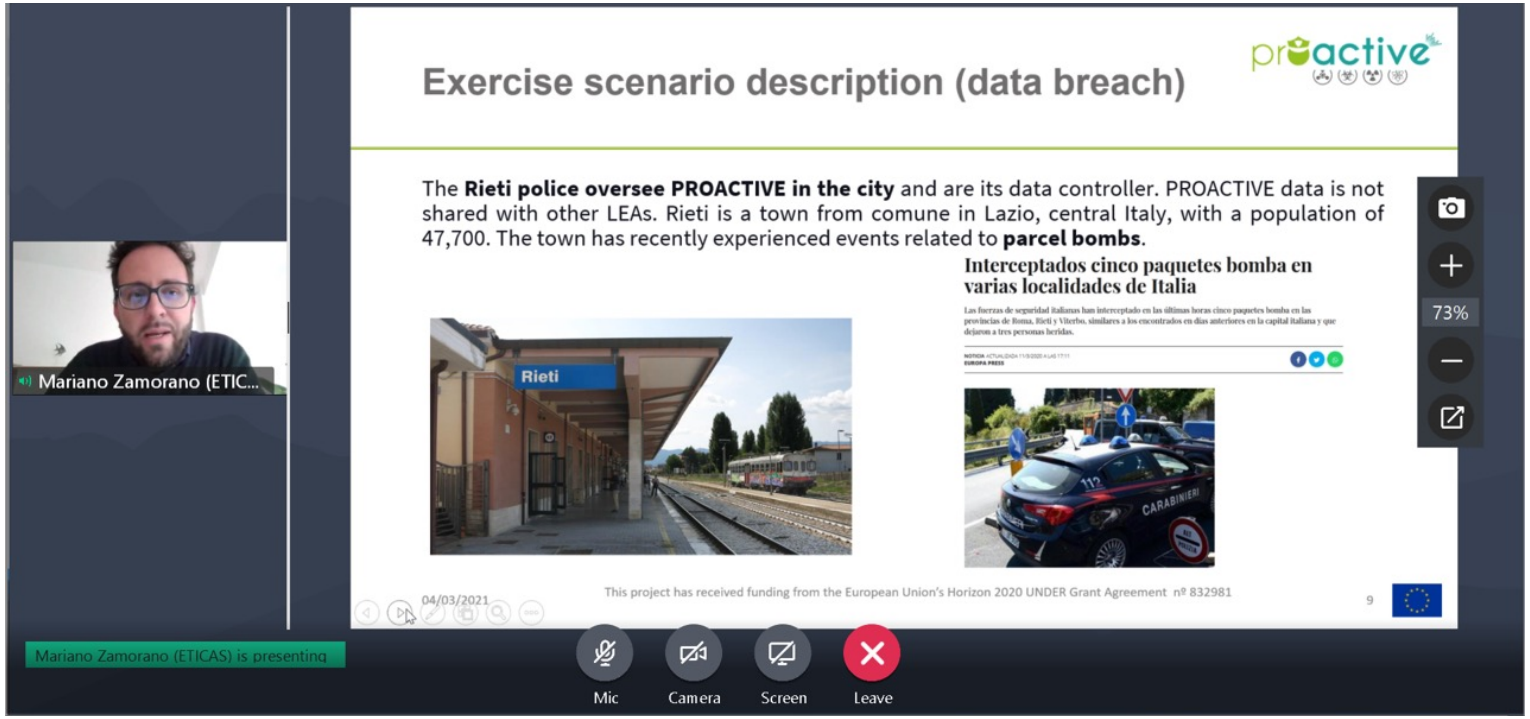
2. Rieti, Italy (Oct 2022)

3. Ranst, Belgium (May 2023)



Legal, Ethical and Acceptability Requirements

- Involvement of vulnerable groups requires strict ethical oversight
  - 3 public deliverables
  - External Ethics Advisory Board
- Consideration for the toolkits



PReparedness against CBRNE threats through c**O**mmon **A**pproaches between security pra**CTI**tioners and the **V**ulnerabl**E** civil society

Topic: H2020 SU-FCT01-2018
Type of program: RIA
Grant Agreement no.: 832981

Time frame: 05/2019 – 04/2022
Budget: 4.97 M€
Coordinator: UIC Security Division

Website: https://proactive-h2020.eu/
Twitter: @PROACTIVE_EU
LinkedIn: PROACTIVE_EU

15 Consortium Partners

8 LEAs
2 practitioners
1 research centre
4 SMEs

Extended Network

87 practitioners
43 civil society stakeholders
3 external ethics experts

Mixed Research Methods

Systematic reviews
Workshops
Online surveys
Interviews & focus groups

31 deliverables

completed

20 deliverables

publicly available on the website

12 countries

9 EU Member States
3 associated countries

Synergies with 14 projects

eNotice, NO-FEAR
BULLSEYE, EUPROTECT, MELODY, RESIST, TRANSTUN
ENCIRCLE, IN-PREP, INCLUDING, SHOTPROS, PERSONA
Healthy Gateways JA, COVINFORM

3 joint field exercises

Germany
Italy
Belgium

Toolkits

Web platform for practitioners
Mobile app for citizens
Policy recommendations

Thank you

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