

## EU Innovation Hub (annual event - 13/09/22)

The EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security is a collaborative network of innovation labs that was established by the Council's Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) in February 2020 ([5757/20](#)). The EU Innovation Hub is a cross-sectorial EU platform and aims to ensure coordination and collaboration between all innovation actors of the wider field of the internal security. The Innovation Hub, being composed of various EU Agencies (Europol, Frontex, eu-LISA, Eurojust, EUAA, EMCDDA, Ceuol, FRA), European Commission (including JRC), the Council General Secretariat and the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator, works to provide the latest innovation updates and effective solutions to support the efforts of internal security actors in the EU and its Member States, including justice, border security, immigration, asylum and law enforcement practitioners. More detailed information can be found under <https://www.europol.europa.eu/operations-services-innovation/innovation-lab/eu-innovation-hub-for-internal-security#downloads>

The agenda of the annual event included the following four panels:

### Panel #1: Fundamental Rights Compliant Use of Data

- ED of FRA referred to AI tools that comply with the Charter (not only with regard to privacy and data protection but also with regard to non-discrimination, freedom of speech, freedom of movement, right to a fair trial). After reminding the participants of the settled case law with regard to limitations of fundamental rights, he stressed that FRA's participation in the Hub is a guarantee that tools developed are in conformity with the Charter;
- From the panel discussion it was evident that projects strive to comply with data protection requirements but there is a lack of proper understanding of key concepts and principles of data protection law and fundamental rights law in general;
  - For instance the panelist from [AIDA project](#) did not seem to fully grasp the difference between anonymised and sanitised data;
- The concept of human rights impact assessment was mentioned. [Aligner project](#) aims at developing, in between others, guidelines on how to perform human rights impact assessment in law enforcement

### Panel #2: Innovation in Monitoring and Surveillance

- Three innovative monitoring projects were presented;
- One of them [REDACTED] did not have implications to personal data. However, the other two could have severe impact on individuals.
- [Nestor project](#) aims to establish a fully functional next generation holistic border surveillance system providing pre-frontier situational awareness beyond maritime and land border following the concept of the European Integrated Border Management.
  - It will include tools [REDACTED] to detect, assess and respond to illegal activities in the borders;

- Tools aim to be interoperable in the Eurosur context and to function without human participation;
- Different trials will take place in the near future [REDACTED]
- It is evident that extensive data processing will take place during the trials as well - may want to get in touch with Hellenic DPA to get more concrete information;
- These processing operations do not appear to be in our scope of competence as Frontex is not part of the consortium and does not process data. Issues will probably arise in case such tools become operational;
- [Promenade project](#) with regard to vessel tracking (behaviour analysis and automatic anomaly detection). Personal data could be processed [REDACTED]

### **Panel #3: Digital Investigation Tools: From Research to Use**

- In this panel the main barriers that impact on the use of the developed tools by practitioners were discussed;
  - lack of knowledge with regard to existing tools; lack of proper training; lack of skills in LEAs; lack of understanding with regard to the right to fail in the law enforcement community (LEAs wish to have great certainty that the tool works properly);
- Europol's innovation lab aims, in between others, at filling the gap between the SoA of digital tools and what LEAs really use, by e.g. developing a tool repository (tools provided by LEAs or other researchers and made available to other LEAs - during the first day of its functioning an indexing tool was downloaded 50 times)

### **Panel #4: Justice and Accountability: Visions for the Future of Innovation for Security – towards Responsible Use of Technologies**

- eu-LISA referred to:
  - the systems in which they are currently trying to implement AI components (e.g. evolution of ECRIS for judge cooperation; e-CODEX; platforms for JITs) and
  - the joined prepared with Eurojust [report on AI](#).
- NLP, speech to text and translation tools were considered tools that do not entail serious risks for individuals and could even contribute to making judicial process more accountable;
- Importance of accountability was raised again - should refer to the whole lifecycle of a tool and goes hand in hand with effective use of new technologies;
- [AP4AI project](#) referred to its deliverable on accountability ([Accountability Principles for Artificial Intelligence in the Internal Security Domain](#))

**With regard to our supervision of Europol maybe we would like to assess whether a different threshold should be in place for processing operations in the context of research and in the context of operational analysis.**