

WWEDU Center for European Security Studies
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Research project information sheet

CPSI – Changing Perceptions on Security and Interventions

CPSI – Changing Perceptions on Security and Interventions – is a multinational research project funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union, under the 1st Security Research Call ("Security and Society"). The goal of the project is to provide governments and related organizations with a methodology to increase insight into the determinants of actual and perceived security, and into which interventions are effective for increasing security. The deliverables of this project represent practical and ready-to-use tools, which can be employed by policy makers and other end-users to formulate policy regarding security. In this project we will develop 1) a conceptual model of actual and perceived security and their determinants, 2) a methodology to collect, quantify, organize, analyse and interpret security-related data, 3) a data warehouse to store and extract for analysis data amassed using the methodology, and 4) carry out a validation study to test the model, methodology and data warehouse. We will test if it is possible to answer relevant security-related questions from the field using the methodology. The project deliverables can be used by end-users to assess security at the international, national and local levels and to draw conclusions regarding such issues as: What are the levels of actual and perceived security in specific locations?, Which interventions work where?, and Which interventions should be implemented in which locations?

The Consortium

- Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research TNO (NL) (leader)
- World Wide Education – Center for European Security Studies (AT)
- Swedish Defence Research Agency FOI (SE)
- University of Kent (UK)
- Sogeti Europe (FR)
- TEMIS SA (FR)
- European Commission – Joint Research Centre, Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (IT)
- Social and Cultural Planning Office (NL)

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The Center for European Security Studies is responsible for the following CPSI work packages:

Public opinion (contribution)

This work package consists of a qualitative sociological and historical analysis of what contributes to shaping public perceptions, as well as how these factors have changed over time. It is one of our contentions, which we will seek to confirm/disprove, that one of the key elements in shaping such perceptions today consists of messages, both explicit and implicit, from the authorities charged with ensuring security.

Culture analysis

The overall objective of the work package is to investigate how culture guides security and threat perception. An important milestone is the elaboration of a qualitative analytical framework to identify and make comparable the cognitive foundations for a society's knowledge management and attitudes in respect of security issues. This knowledge-based approach also contributes an integral component of the project's milestone to produce a conceptual model for factors that play a role in determining feelings of (in)security and contributes to explaining the relationship between actual security, perceived security and related factors.

Dissemination

- Organization of workshops
- Web-portal including paper room and e-learning courses
- External communication