

# Welcome to the first GATHERINGS newsletter

## COORDINATORS' INTERVIEW



The GATHERINGS project aims to find methodologies that will help organisers of large-scale events and law enforcement agencies find a balance between **security**, **privacy** and **cost** of the surveillance of public gatherings.

In the remaining two years of the project, our consortium will continue to work with key stakeholders to understand their needs and experiences and ensure they are reflected in the project outputs.

Want to know how our very own GATHERINGS coordinators, **Lucas Melgaço and Mattias De Backer from Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)**, view the importance of the GATHERINGS project? Find out in the interview below!

[READ MORE](#)

## Get to know GATHERINGS

Find out how we will work to balance privacy, security and cost of the surveillance of public gatherings across Europe. Read our brochure and get all of the essential project information!



[DOWNLOAD THE BROCHURE](#)

## NEWS & ARTICLES



### Our Living Labs

The **three GATHERINGS living labs** combine research organisations with national Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to ensure the project reaches all of its crucial stakeholders through an effective engagement strategy.

We map the effects of surveillance of public gatherings on citizens and visitors and develop common standards that harmonise surveillance practices in EU Member States.



### Living Labs - Austria

Living Labs - Austria

The Austria Living Lab of the GATHERINGS project, led by VICESSE and the Austrian Police, examines how surveillance practices at public events balance safety and privacy. Engaging organisers, security providers, and vulnerable groups, the lab gathers insights through surveys, focus groups, and observations to develop best practices for managing security at public gatherings.

[AUSTRIA](#)

### Living Labs – Bulgaria

The Bulgaria Living Lab of the GATHERINGS project, based in Sofia, explores public gathering security while balancing economic and social costs. The goal is to create a citizen-focused approach to safety, particularly considering vulnerable groups, and foster collaboration with stakeholders for improved security measures.

[BULGARIA](#)

### Living Labs – Greece

The surveillance of public gatherings is a crucial issue in everyday life, as surveillance measures in public as well as in private spaces have increased in recent years. Find out how our Greek Living Lab, led by KEMEA and the Hellenic Police, is capturing the experience of the multiple stakeholders in Athens involved in public gatherings and contributing to the GATHERINGS outputs.

[GREECE](#)

## The GATHERINGS Community of Practice

The GATHERINGS project launched and successfully expands a network of surveillance professionals – this is our **Community of Practice (CoP) network**. Moderated by the European Institute Foundation and facilitated by Trilateral Research, this CoP serves as an expert platform for dialogue.

The CoP Network integrates the needs and interests of different **public and private stakeholders** that play a role in large-scale surveillance of public spaces. Its members include **surveillance professionals, law enforcement agencies, local authorities, researchers and academics, NGOs, local communities, and citizens**.

To date, the CoP Network has 66 members, affiliated to 20+ organisations, operating across 8+ member states including Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, and Austria.

[READ MORE](#)

## Want to join our CoP network?

Contribute to our project and become part of the GATHERINGS community by filling in our form!

[JOIN US](#)

## In case you've missed it!

You may have missed it but we'll bring it back to you. Check out what happened on GATHERINGS!

### EFUS Security, Democracy & Cities Conference 2024

**Date:** 20th March 2024  
**Location:** Brussels, Belgium

[Read More](#)

### CERIS workshop - 'Innovating Smart Cities Resilience through Research and Best Practices'

**Date:** 11th April 2024  
**Location:** Brussels, Belgium

[Read More](#)

### PRECRISIS Project Seminar: Protecting Public Spaces – Innovation Challenges and Priorities

**Date:** 23th April 2024  
**Location:** Sofia, Bulgaria

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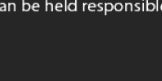
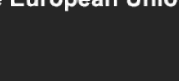
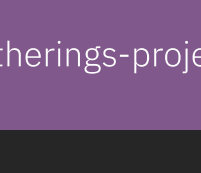
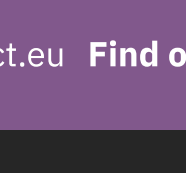
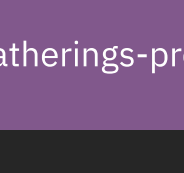
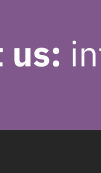
### The 10th Biennial Surveillance Studies Network / Surveillance & Society Conference

**Date:** 28th May -31 May 2024  
**Location:** Ljubljana, Slovenia

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## Our Consortium

The GATHERINGS Consortium consists of 10 diverse partners ranging from Research Institutions and Civil Society Organisations to Law Enforcement Agencies spread across Europe.



[KNOW MORE](#)

Keep up with our activities, events and findings through the **GATHERINGS social media**.



**Contact us:** [info@gatherings-project.eu](mailto:info@gatherings-project.eu) **Find out more:** [www.gatherings-project.eu](http://www.gatherings-project.eu)



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