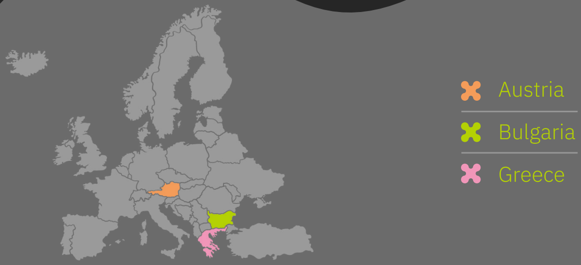
GATHERINGS
Living Labs at a Glance

Exploring Surveillance Practices in
Public Gatherings Across Europe

The **GATHERINGS Living Labs are central to the project's mission** of understanding how surveillance is used at public gatherings across Europe.

By working closely with local communities, stakeholders, and security professionals, these real-life labs test and co-create solutions that enhance public safety while protecting individual rights and promoting inclusivity.

Located in **Austria**, **Bulgaria**, and **Greece**, our Living Labs focus on understanding and improving surveillance practices at various public gatherings - striving to find the right balance between security, privacy and cost.



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Austria

Location

Austria

Operationalised by

VICESSE in collaboration with the Austrian Police

Focus Area

Examining practices and effects of surveillance at public gatherings, including concerts, sports events, fairs, markets, and spontaneous public gatherings. The Living Lab aims to understand how different stakeholders coordinate to provide security and safety, focusing on surveillance practices and technologies.

Methodologies

Engaging event organizers, security providers, and vulnerable groups through surveys, focus groups, and observations to develop best practices for managing security at public gatherings.

Key objectives

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the experiences of diverse individuals attending and organizing public gatherings.
- Develop common standards and best practices for the surveillance of public gatherings through participatory methods, such as dedicated co-learning panels.

Curious to learn more?
Watch the video here

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Bulgaria

Location

Bulgaria

Operationalised by

European Institute Foundation (EIF) in collaboration with the Bulgarian Police

Focus Area

Exploring public gathering security while balancing economic and social costs, with a citizen-focused approach that considers the perspectives of vulnerable groups and fosters collaboration with stakeholders for improved security measures.

Methodologies

Creating a citizen-focused approach to safety, particularly considering vulnerable groups, and fostering collaboration with stakeholders for improved security measures.

Key objectives

- Assess the effectiveness of security measures at public gatherings in terms of balancing economic and social costs.
- Understand the feelings of security among event visitors.
- Foster collaborations with public and private stakeholders, as well as citizens, to co-create a vision for more effective, citizen-centered security at public gatherings.

Curious to learn more?
Watch the video here

Greece

Location

Greece

Operationalised by

Center for Security Studies (KEMEA) in collaboration with the Hellenic Police

Focus Area

Capturing the experiences of multiple stakeholders involved in public gatherings to contribute to the GATHERINGS project's outputs, with a focus on understanding the interplay between safety, security, and surveillance measures in public spaces.

Methodologies

Engaging law enforcement, public administration, business communities, citizens, and vulnerable groups through stakeholder interviews, surveys at public events, and focus groups exploring gendered and cultural aspects of surveillance and securitisation of public spaces.

Key objectives

- Develop common standards and best practices for the surveillance of public gatherings through participatory methods, such as dedicated co-learning panels.

- Enhance transparency and direct citizen participation in surveillance practices.
- Ensure a deep and enduring impact of the developed standards in local settings, especially among local law enforcement agencies, local administration, business communities, and citizens involved in the surveillance assemblage.

Curious to learn more?
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These Living Labs exemplify a collaborative approach to balancing security measures with individual rights, ensuring that surveillance practices at public gatherings are both effective and respectful of privacy.

Want to learn more about our Living Labs?

Visit our website

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Contact us:
info@gatherings-project.eu

Website:
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