

Welcome to the latest newsletter of EXERTER, an EU Funded H2020 project. EXERTER commenced in May 2018 and is a five year project which seeks to connect practitioners into a pan-European network of explosives specialists.

Message from the Project Coordinator

I would like to thank you all for the engagement in our virtual events this spring; the annual conference in May and the webinars. Your active involvement as speakers and participants, with a busy discussion amongst you in the chat and with the speakers, made these really informative and a nice way to interact. In this Newsletter you find some summaries and outcomes from these events.

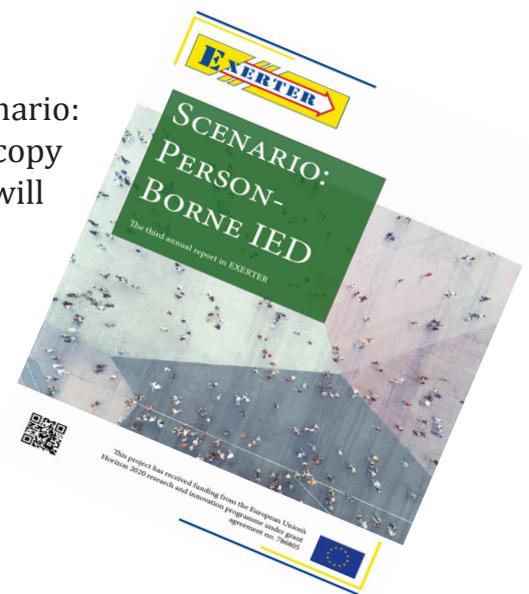
For the coming year the work in EXERTER will focus on issues related to Criminal use of explosives, and in relation to that we also plan a number of webinars and online workshops with varying focus. We hope that you will all participate and share your expertise in these events. Of course we hope that the situation will allow also for physical meetings, for example our yearly Stakeholder requirements workshop in October/November, and we keep the possibilities open for this for now. More information will follow regarding this.

As you see below we are putting some extra effort to further involve manufacturers and industry in the EXERTER network, in order to add another dimension to all of us from the practitioner, research and development side. We hope that this will contribute to a continued diverse and active network!

EXERTER Annual Report

EXERTER have published the third Annual Report, titled 'Scenario: Person-Borne IED' in June 2021. You should have received a copy with this newsletter, however if not please email and a copy will be forwarded to you.

The report focuses on the research completed in year three relating to Person-Borne (Suicide) IED attacks. As with previous years the report looks across the four attack phases, summarising the key findings. We hope you find it interesting and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to email the Project Coordinator. Please feel free to share with you colleagues or wider network.



For more information visit:
www.exerter-h2020.eu

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no.786805



EXERTER Virtual Conference

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the EXERTER Annual Conference was again held as a virtual conference in May 2021.

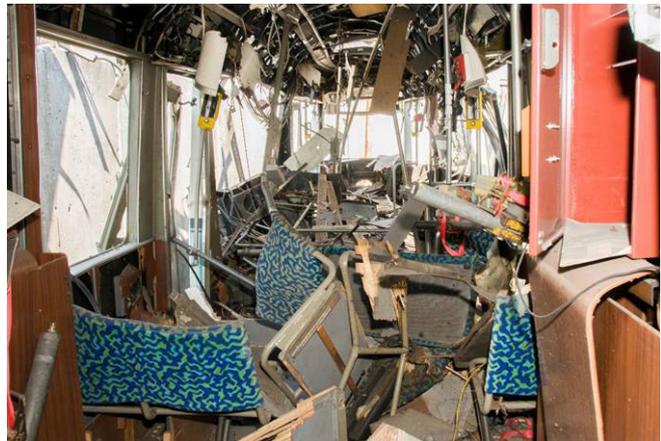
95 participants attended to discuss and evaluate the year 3 core subject “Person-Borne IED” from multiple perspectives in connection with the four EXERTER counter attack domains of Prevent, Detect, Mitigate and React.

Presentations included lessons learned by tests, like a simulated Person-Borne IED attack on a streetcar or the indoor phase of a research project on suicide vests and training how to counter a marauding terrorist attack.

The human factor perspective discussed the knowledge of how to influence the behaviour of an suicide bomb attacker with the aim of mitigating or even preventing the worst effects of an attack.

Two international projects, namely the Serious Gaming part of ENTRAP (Enhanced Neutralisation of explosive Threats Reaching Across the Plot) and the Response Support Model (ReSuMe) of the European Union’s 7th Framework Programme project SUBCOP (Suicide Bomber Counteraction and Prevention), presented the results of their research on and the resulting possibilities, in which way a suicide bomber attack might be encountered, prevented, mitigated or detected.

In a virtual live demonstration the state of the art development of mmWave-based security scanners, was demonstrated by a manufacturer of security systems. The system’s high-traffic application provides a possible solution to today’s security demands on the detection of prohibited metallic and non-metallic items.



Blasting Tests conducted by BKA

The conference concluded with an outlook for the EXERTER year 4 scenario “Criminal use of explosives”, in which the project will focus on the misuse of Improvised Explosive Devices in “normal” crime scenes. The use of IEDs in criminality will be researched, considering the use of various IED types, potential mitigation methods, improving detection and investigative methods as well as regulation of precursors often used in the manufacture of IEDs for this purpose.

EXERTER Year Four Scenario/ Research

In each year of the EXERTER project, a set of scenarios are defined to constitute a foundation for the discussions forming input to the work in other work packages. The scenarios should include variations and emerging or future threats in a way that opens up for discussions on requirements, gaps, other factors which can impact on society and LEAs required to prevent, detect, mitigate or react to the illegal use of IEDs.

The scenarios are the basis for the compilation of end-user requirements and gaps derived through discussions with practitioners and other stakeholders both within the network and externally. The EXERTER network thereafter dedicate the efforts within the associated yearly cycle to identify ways of addressing the requirements and gaps.

The topic chosen for this year's workshop has been broadened from the traditional terrorism related IED incidents to look at the use of IEDs by criminals, and will be discussed from different views and perspectives. In order to fully use the potential of this broad topic and not be locked to one specific scenario, several scenarios have been suggested by LEA partners based on operational experiences in Member states, where some parameters are varied. This allows for a discussion where different problems and aspects can be highlighted in the various scenarios to cover as many obstacles as possible that exist in LEAs work today. The common factor in the scenarios should be the illegal use of explosives and the motive should not be terrorism-related, but focussed on criminality and the criminal use of IEDs.



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EXERTER Interactive Workshops

On Tuesday 5th October 2021 the EXERTER consortium is organising a first in a series of virtual interactive webinars. The theme of the first webinar will be:

“Is standardization an enabler for exploitation of innovations in security against explosives?”

The 3 hour webinar (including breaks) will consists of 4 highly interactive blocks:

- Block 1: Setting the scene: Overview presentations outlining different aspects with room for interaction through the chat function
- Block 2: Special Topics: Pitch presentations addressing detailed aspects in more depth
- Block 3: Break-out sessions: moderated by EXERTER professionals this entails dedicated discussions on sub-topics with participants from every angle: law enforcement, policy makers, scientists, equipment manufacturers, R&D institutes and other stakeholders
- Block 4: Harvesting the webinar results: to make sure you have the highest yield for your precious time

The webinars are in preparation, so keep track of the EXERTER website and future newsletters for updates on the program and sign up options to participate in the webinar.

Networking & Events

EXERTER Events

EXERTER Interactive Workshop

5th October - Time and registration details to be confirmed.

"Is standardization an enabler for exploitation of innovations in security against explosives?"

EXERTER Annual stakeholder workshop

Autumn 2021 - Date and Venue to be confirmed and subject to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions

Other Related Events

CERIS SSRI Event - Public Procurement as a catalyst of innovation in the domain of Security- 02 July 2021

Registration platform and event agenda are available following this link:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CERIS_SSRI_2July2021

Blast Injury Conference 2021 - 08-09 July 2021

The conference will be held virtually. Details can be found on the previous page, or at the conference website, <https://www.blastinjury.org.uk/>

Forensics Expo Europe - 14-16 September 2021

London, UK

<https://www.forensicseuropeexpo.com/>

International Security Expo (ISE) 2021 - 28-29 September 2021

London, UK

<https://www.internationalsecurityexpo.com>

EFEE 11th World Conference on Explosives & Blasting - 26-28 Sep 2021

MECC Maastricht, Netherlands

www.efee2021.com

EXERTER End User and Expert Community

EXERTER End user and Expert Community (EEC) is important to the network, in order to give valuable input to scenarios, requirements, evaluations and upcoming threats.

It consists of practitioners, academia, research institutes, industry and policy makers. If you are interested in becoming a member of the EEC, or are aware of someone who would benefit in participating in EXERTER, please contact the Project Coordinator. Alternatively if you only wish to receive regular information and updates on the project you can get this through visiting the website and the project newsletter. Please contact the Project Coordinator to be added to the project mailing list.

Facts & Figures

Project duration:

01/06/2019 – 31/05/2023

Budget:

€ 3 498 868.75

Contact

If you wish to find out more, are interested in our End user and Expert community or wish to receive the EXERTER Newsletter with updates of the project, please contact us:

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Security of Explosives pan-European Specialists Network

Partners

