



SOAR

STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE
OF AT-RISK RELIGIOUS SITES AND COMMUNITIES



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SOAR PROJECT - CONTACT



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www.soarproject.eu

Working to Keep Places of Worship and Communities Safe in Europe



SOAR Project

SOAR stands for 'Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities' programme. Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI) are the lead coordinators of this EU-funded project and are working alongside two European project partners Finn Church Aid and Architects' Council of Europe. The project is also supported by the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC) and the Network of religious and traditional peacemakers.

A key component of the programme is to advance the protection of religious sites by implementing a 'security by design' (SBD) concept. The programme will provide training and support on how to protect your places of worship and adjoining buildings, especially where there are multipurpose complexes. The programme will also provide time for security experts to visit selected places of worship to discuss security needs and concepts that are important to the leadership and worshippers. A dedicated website will also be developed to support the training and network of people interested in protective security.

EFI Enhancing
Faith Institutions
PLACES • PEOPLE • PROGRAMMES

FCA

Finn Church Aid

Architects' Council of Europe
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe

ACE
CAE
EU

Project Delivery Partners



Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI): A not for profit consultancy firm that provides expert guidance and training to faith communities in leadership, governance, and security. It also helps translate policy into practice by working with national and local governments when connecting with grassroots communities. <https://efiorg.eu/>



Finn Church Aid (FCA): Finland's largest international aid organization with operations in 13 countries and more than 70 years of experience. FCA specialises in supporting local communities in three priority areas: Right to Education, Right to Livelihood, and Right to Peace. <https://www.kirkonulkomaanapu.fi/en/>



The Architects' Council of Europe is the European (ACE): organisation representing the architectural profession at European level. Its headquarters and Secretariat are located in Brussels. Its membership currently consists of 43 Member Organisations, which are the regulatory and professional representative bodies in all European Union (EU) Member States, and accession Countries, Switzerland and Norway. Through them, the ACE represents the interests of over 565.000 architects from 31 countries in Europe. <https://www.ace-cae.eu/>



UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC): Established in 2005, as the political initiative of Mr. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General and co-sponsored by the Governments of Spain and Turkey. UNAOC attempts to "galvanize international action against extremism" through the forging of international, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation. The Alliance places a particular emphasis on defusing tensions between the Western and Islamic worlds. <https://www.unaoc.org/>



This project has received funding from the European Union's ISFP-2020- AG-Protect programme under grant agreement No 101034222

Encouraging hate crime reporting - The role of law enforcement and other authorities



The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)'s report "Encouraging Hate Crime Reporting" outlines the nature, context and frequency of bias-motivated violence and harassment, emphasizing the scale of victimization that goes unreported. The report observes the reasons of underreporting and challenges that might occur during the reporting process. It does not only look at the reasons of underreporting but also "illustrates how the social environment and national structures and practices can support efforts to understand and remove existing barriers to reporting hate crime and actively encourage victims to report hate crime and seek justice."

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2021/hate-crime-reporting>





Addressing the Rise in Hate, Intolerance, Violence and Discrimination Across the OSCE Region

The OSCE PA's 2021 Remote Session took place from 30 June to 6 July in a hybrid format. One of the three urgency items of the 2021 meeting, addresses the rise in hate, intolerance, violence, and discrimination across the OSCE region. Referred to as the Question of Urgency Under Rule 26, the resolution "Addressing the Rise in Hate, Intolerance, Violence and Discrimination Across the OSCE Region" highlights *"the recent escalation of anti-Semitic incidents, attacks on persons of Asian descent, anti-Muslim incidents, and systemic racism impacting people of African descent and others along with the rise of conspiracy theories targeting various vulnerable communities throughout the OSCE region during the pandemic"* Accordingly, the resolution "[u]rges the participating States to immediately adopt an OSCE Anti-Discrimination, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan".

To learn more visit:

<https://www.oscepa.org/en/meetings/annual-sessions/upcoming-annual-session>

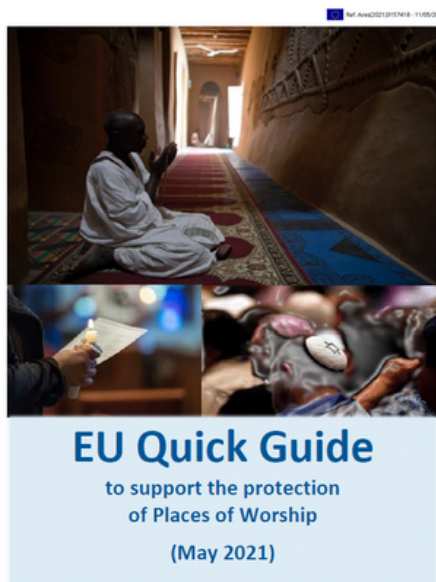
New Reporting Nationwide Platform - I REPORT



A new German nationwide reporting platform aims to record anti-Muslim incidents. The platform launched in July 2021 and tries to cover the underreporting gap present within the country. The portal starts with a trial phase in Germany and Austria. *"The next step is to enable cases to be entered in English, Arabic, Turkish and Kurdish as well."* Individuals can report acts of violence, attacks on mosques, threatening letters, graffiti, insults or discrimination when looking for a job and apartment. The new reporting institution is a much awaited and needed platform that will help address the issue of Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Racism. To learn more: <https://www.i-report.eu/>

I RE PORT



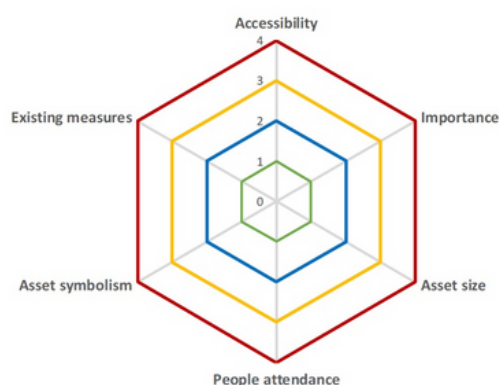


EU Quick Guide to support the protection of Places of Worship

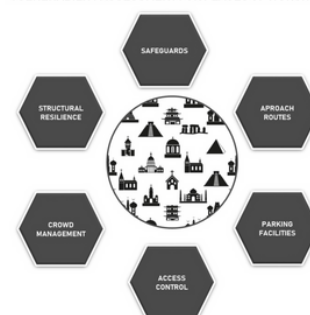
The European Commission's Quick Guide to support the protection of places of worship is part of the EU Counter-Terrorism Agenda. The 20-pages Guide discusses such subjects as managing the risk, building awareness, and principles for security evaluation for places of worship. To learn more:

http://www.comece.eu/dl/tNLqJKJKkLMOJqx4KJK/EU_Quick_Guide_to_support_the_protection_of_Places_of_Worship_May_2021_HL.pdf

EU Quick Guide to support the protection of Places of Worship May 2021



VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP



Join the Practitioner Network

- Do you have a security background?
- Are you involved with security in a place of worship or linked to a religious institution?
- Are you involved in the management and leadership of your place of worship and interested in learning about security?

If the answer is yes! then get in-touch and potentially be involved with the pan European security peer to peer network being facilitated by the SOAR project

send an email to: info@soarproject.eu









Media documented attacks against Places of Worship and related Incidents

01-24 July 2021

The following list does not represent the true extent of attacks against religious sites within the given time frame. Rather, it is a representation of incidents present in and covered by the media in this period.

-  02 July 2021: Anti-Semitic graffiti sprayed on a building. (Germany)
-  04 July 2021: Islamic institute vandalised with Islamophobic graffiti. (France)
-  04 July 2021: Hagia Sophia Mosque vandalized. (The Netherlands)
-  05 July 2021: Jewish man abused twice in an hour on London transport network. (UK)

-  07 July 2021: Mosque vandalized. (Spain)
-  07 July 2021: Swastikas sprayed on Auschwitz memorial. (Grenoble, France)
-  10 July 2021: Nationalists disrupt commemoration for Jewish pogrom victims. (Poland)
-  12 July 2021: Church Vandalism. (Germany)
-  July 2021: Attempted Church vandalism. (Poland)
-  24 July 2021: A mosque smeared with paint (Germany)





Is your faith group interested in participating in the SOAR project Training?

The project is open to all faith groups.

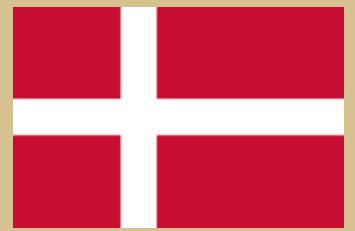
Training, research and risk assessment advice will be accessible to all. The training provided will be FREE and geared to supporting and keeping faith institutions safe and secure across Europe.

To register to receive free training updates. Visit the SOAR website:

www.soarproject.eu

The programme is looking to advance the protection and safeguarding of places for worship across the 7 pilot countries we are working across Europe in:

- France,
- Germany,
- Belgium,
- Austria,
- Hungary, Netherlands and Denmark



SOAR WEBSITE LAUNCHED

www.soarproject.eu

We are pleased to welcome you on our SOAR Project Website. The website was designed to provide an extensive overview into our work, and mission. It also aims to act as a point of contact between the project and our audience.

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<https://www.facebook.com/SOAREurope>



<https://twitter.com/SOARProjectEU>



Architects' Council of Europe
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe

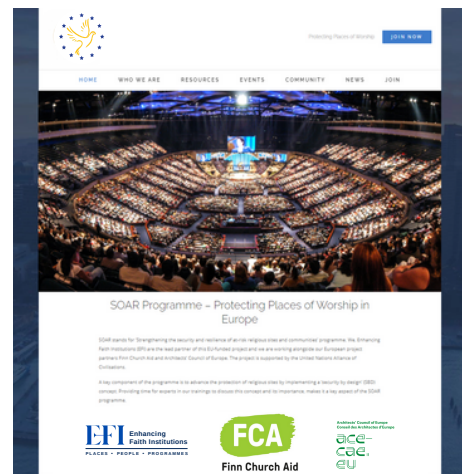


ACE calls for Experts on Security by Design (SBD)

Work with us on the EU Project S.O.A.R. Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities. The ACE is responsible to run a EU wide competition to identify best practice architectural examples of security by design. These will be used to develop design guidelines improving security of religious sites and their associated public spaces for all congregants and visitors.

The concept of 'Security By Design' (SBD) incorporates security features into the design and fabric of the building. Experts in the fields of SBD such as public authority planners, architects, designers, engineers as well as faith leaders will be providing support and training in the seven pilot countries. National, regional and local training in these countries will be provided and include a focus on increasing collaboration and cooperation between security offices and leaders of places of worship with their wider communities and public authorities. For this work the ACE is looking for experts on security by design to join the jury of the competition and work as experts in trainings and policy meetings.

Please contact ACE, if you like to put your application forward until the 15th August at info@ace-cae.eu



What does the SOAR website have to offer?

- **Resources-** The Resources section will offer a library of good practices and information related to protective security of Places of Worship in Europe linked to the SOAR programme.
- **News-** The website provides a "News" section which is to be updated with the latest developments and highlights.
- **Events-** This section will keep you up to date with our events, and will pinpoint the location of our upcoming engagements (either online or on site).
- **Newsletter access-** Our Newsletter will be delivered on a monthly basis upon subscription.
<https://soarproject.eu/newsletter/>
- Practitioner Network
- Peer to Peer learning

SOAR Survey



Tell us what your thinking with regards protecting your places of worship?

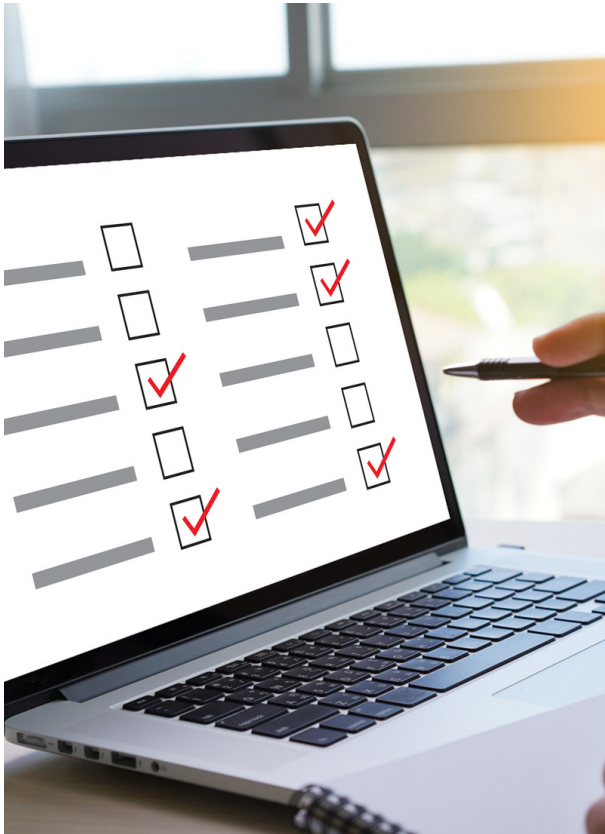
Help us design and shape European policy and develop an effective training programme that will be delivered across Europe.

This questionnaire is meant for faith leaders and religious site staff of all faiths.

Taking part in this survey will help improve the security of religious communities and sites by giving individuals a chance to express their concerns and wishes on how to improve safety and wellbeing, while simultaneously providing a better understanding about the security challenges religious communities face for policy makers.

Click to the online survey - open to all faiths

<https://soarproject.eu/questionnaire/>



Book Your FREE Security Training

<https://soarproject.eu/join/>

If you are a faith group with a place of worship based in either Germany, Belgium, Netherland, Denmark, Hungry Austria or France, the following training will be available (*Subject to availability*)

Training topics :

- *Keeping your places of worship safe*
- *Understanding Risk*
- *Protective security for faith leaders*
- *Processions and events safety*
- *Health and Safety*
- *and much more*

▪ **get in touch:** info@soarproject.eu



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