



SOAR

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



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SOAR PROJECT - CONTACT

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Working to Keep Places of Worship and Communities Safe in Europe



Editorial Note

We are delighted to bring you our September 2021 Newsletter! This edition outlines the progress of the SOAR project and provides an update on the most important developments regarding security-protection of places of worship and communities within Europe.

Unfortunately, places of worship continue to be vulnerable targets. They are constantly targeted by hate crimes and terrorist acts. We aim to dedicate our efforts towards the protection of religious sites and communities. Our objective is to achieve this goal by further implementing a 'security by design' (SBD) concept and providing bespoke training throughout our 7 EU pilot countries: Denmark, Hungary, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria, and Belgium.

EFI Enhancing
Faith Institutions
PLACES • PEOPLE • PROGRAMMES

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Questionnaire



Finn Church Aid

Architects' Council of Europe
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe



The Network for
Religious and
Traditional
Peacemakers



Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities (SOAR), is a project aimed at identifying the security concerns of religious sites and communities in 7 EU countries. Taking part in this survey will help improve the security of religious communities and sites by giving them a chance to express their concerns and wishes on how they want to improve their safety and wellbeing, while simultaneously providing a better understanding about the security challenges religious communities face for policy makers.

Tell us what you are thinking with regards to 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.

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



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

ODIHR: three decades and ready for the future. Democracy, human rights and security in the OSCE

WHEN : 14 October 2021, 10:00 - 15 October 2021, 17:30

WHERE : Warsaw and Online

To mark the 30th anniversary of the ODIHR, the two-day conference will discuss the achievements of the last 30 years, current challenges and opportunities, and the "Office's role in continuing to help find solutions and promote democracy and human rights in the future." The conference enables participants to share experiences and best practices.

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/odihr-at-30>





United Nations

International Day of Peace-21 September



United Nations General Assembly established 21st of September the International Day of Peace in 1981. In 2001, the Day was voted by the General Assembly as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

This year's theme for the International Day of Peace is "Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world". On this day we celebrate peace and are standing up against hate. We should spread tolerance, kindness, and hope. We should aim for a violence free world empowered by diversity and peace.

As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we should take this opportunity to further strive for equality, equity, and sustainability. We should continue fighting against discrimination, violence, and hate by building resiliency and encouraging positive change.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

European Action Day Against Islamophobia-21 September

On the European Action Day against Islamophobia the Advisory Council of Youth came with a statement that addresses the importance of tackling discrimination against Muslims.

The statement acknowledges the importance of fighting against all forms of racism and discrimination including anti-Muslim discrimination.

On this day we raise awareness about the reality of Islamophobia, and promote tolerance, religious freedom, equality, and equity.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/-/european-action-day-against-islamophobia>





SOAR is the 'Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities' (SOAR) programme funded by the EU, working in seven EU member states.

**SOAR cordially invites you to the
BRUSSELS SOAR LAUNCH EVENT**

**Renaissance Brussels Hotel
Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium**

12.00pm - 2.00pm / RSVP

Presentation & Lunch provided

Faith Leaders / Faith Institution Management / EU Personnel

Funded by



Delivery Partners



Brussels SOAR Launch Event

WHEN : 7 October 2021, 12:00 - 14:00.

WHERE : Brussels

The SOAR project is happy to invite you to our Launch Event in Brussels. The event welcomes Faith Leaders, Faith Institution Management and EU Personnel.

The registration can be completed [here](#).

For more information please contact the SOAR Community Development Officer (CDO) for Belgium, Netherlands and Denmark, Atefeh Sadegi: atefeh@efiorg.eu.

Security, Democracy and Cities 2021



VILLE DE NICE

WHEN: 20, 21, 22 October 2021.

WHERE: Nice

The Security , Democracy and Cities 2021 Conference is organised by the European Forum for Urban Security and Ville de Nice.

The conference aims to address issues of governance while looking at different solutions to the challenges confronting cities such as (but not limited to) radicalisation, the fight against discrimination, and security.

<https://efus.eu/efusconference2021/>





G20 Interfaith Forum 2021

SOAR and EFI's Community Development Officer (CDO), Atefeh Sadeghi, attended and presented the SOAR project at the G20 Interfaith Forum 2021, which took place in Bologna, Italy from 12th - 14th September.

SOAR's CDO, Atefeh Sadeghi, was part of the Ministerial Session panel titled 'Religious Affairs & Peaceful Coexistence' where she was joined by notable international policy leaders including Pakistan's Minister of religious affairs, Indonesia's Minister of religious affairs, Oman's undersecretary of religious affairs and Bahrain's Minister of Justice.

Shaukat Warraich, Director of EFI, presented the SOAR Project on 2nd September at G20 Interfaith Forum during the webinar titled Protecting Places of Worship Security research and Innovation.

<https://soarproject.eu/soar-attends-the-g20-interfaith-forum-in-italy/>

G20 INTERFAITH FORUM BOLOGNA, ITALY



Atefeh Sadeghi
Community Development Officer (CDO) from EFI will be speaking about the SOAR project in the Ministerial Session 'Religious Affairs & Peaceful Coexistence'.

Today, 13th September, 3 pm (CET)

PROTECTING PLACES OF WORSHIP SECURITY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION WEBINAR



Shaukat Warraich - Director of EFI & SOAR is presenting on 'SOAR- Strengthening the security & resilience of at risk religious sites' program 2nd Sept from 3 pm (UK-BST).



European Academy of Religion Conference 2021

The hybrid #EuAre2021 conference organized by the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany, 30th August-2nd September, focused on the overarching topic of 'Religion and Change'.

SOAR's panel discussion covered key aspects of Security by Design & its principles, as well as explaining the work being done in engaging and training faith leaders, institutional management, and volunteers in local, regional and national events.

<https://soarproject.eu/soar-features-on-its-own-panel-at-the-european-academy-of-religion-conference-2021/>



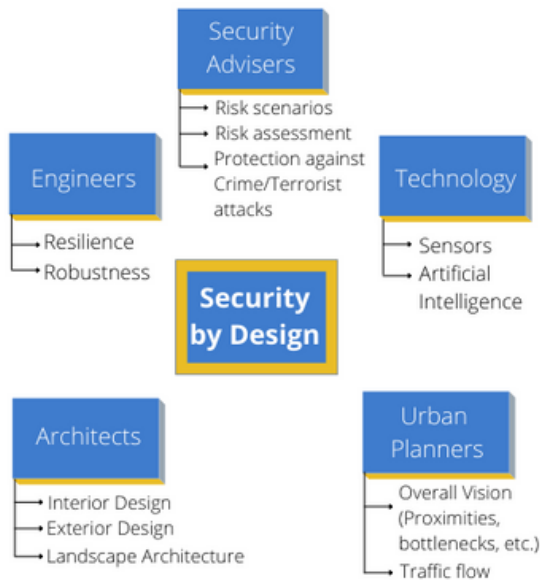
Kaashif Awan
Co-Director, EFI



Atefeh Sadeghi
Community Dev. Officer, EFI



Paul Smith
Senior Project Officer, EFI



‘Security by Design’ (SBD) is a concept in the protection of public spaces that promotes the idea that security is best achieved if addressed from the very beginning of the planning and design of a public space.

For more information please contact EFI on: info@efiorg.eu or visit our website: www.efiorg.eu.

Migration: Key Fundamental Rights Concerns (FRA)

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights published the report "*Migration: Key fundamental rights concerns - Bulletin 2 - 2021*". It addresses the human rights situation of "people arriving in Member States and EU candidate countries particularly affected by migration"

01.01.2021 → 30.06.2021

Furthermore, the report touches upon hate speech and violent crime in some EU countries. It provides a short overview on the reported incidents of hate speech and violent crime against migrants .

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2021/migration-key-fundamental-rights-concerns-bulletin-2-2021>



Media documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents 23 August- 23 September 2021

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

-  • 22-23 September 2021: Mosque attacked. (Germany)
-  • 19 September 2021: Person attack in churchyard. (UK)
-  • September 2021: Hindu Temple vandalism. (UK)
-  • September 2021: Defacing of historic church. (Ireland)
-  • September 2021: Cemetery theft. (France)
-  • 20 September 2021: Church theft. (Italy)
-  • 17 September 2021: Church Arson. (Germany)
-  • 16 September 2021: Church vandalism. (Italy)
-  • 16 September 2021: Around fifty tombs tagged at the Champs Hospital. (France)
-  • 15 September 2021: Synagogue attack plot. (Germany)

-  • 14 September 2021: Attempted Arson in Notre-Dame de Bon Secours basilica. (France)
-  • 12 September 2021: Disturbance of church service. (Italy)
-  • 11 September 2021: Church theft. (France)
-  • 10-11 September 2021: Church robbed and desecrated. (France)
-  • 10 September 2021: Mosque arson. (UK)
-  • 10 September 2021: Jewish Cemetery vandalised. (Greece)
-  • 10 September 2021: Looted Church. (France)
-  • 09 September 2021: Church Vandalism. (UK)
-  • 09 September 2021: Church fire. (France)





- 02 September 2021: Vandalism in church. (Spain)
- 02 September 2021: Church vandalised. (France)
- 04 September 2021: Mosque attacked. (UK)
- 05 September 2021: Attempted church theft. (France)
- 05 September 2021: Graffiti against the Church. (Spain)
- 30 August 2021: Attempted arson in church. (Germany)
- 29 August 2021: Armed man arrested near church. (France)
- 28 August 2021: Cemetery vandalism. (France)
- 27 August 2021: Damage and arson at church. (France)
- 25 August 2021: Church theft. (Italy)
- 23-24 August 2021: Church vandalism. (France)
- August 2021: Desecration of graveyard. (Poland)
- August 2021: Cemetery thefts. (France)
- August 2021: Church vandalised. (France)
- August 2021: Jewish cemetery Vandalised. (UK)

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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 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. . 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.

Full job description [here](#).

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



Community Development Officers (CDOs)

Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI) is seeking Community Development Officer (CDO) for places of worship security and safety scheme (Project SOAR).

Primary Purpose of the CDO Role:

Reporting to the Senior European programme coordinator for safety of places of worship (POW) programme, the Community Development Officer (CDO) will work in an operational capacity, primarily concerned with organizing training events, developing, and maintaining partnerships with leaders of places of worship. The events will be held across various regions in your assigned countries of operation. Full job description [here](#).

To apply, email your CV with a covering letter (In English) to info@efiorg.eu

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



<https://twitter.com/SOARProjectEU>



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

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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