



FEBRUARY  
2023

ISSUE  
20



## EDITORIAL NOTE

### WORKING TO KEEP PLACES OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNITIES SAFE IN EUROPE

We are excited to share with you our February 2023 Newsletter!

This Newsletter showcases the SOAR project's work over the month of February and informs you about our plans ahead. The SOAR project carried out 3 National Policy Dialogues, 1 Management Retreat, 2 Protective Security Training Events and one National Brief. Furthermore, this issue showcases the upcoming February events in our 7 pilot countries.

As per our usual tradition, we recorded 90 Media Documented Attacks Against Places of Worship and Related Incidents between 01 February to 28 February.

### CONTACT US

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# SOAR – NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE, FRANCE

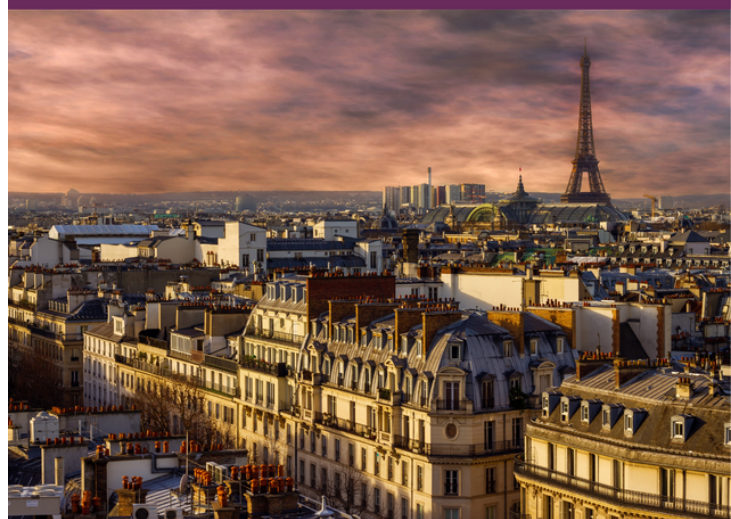


**WHEN: 02 FRANCE**

**WHERE: ONLINE**

The SOAR project carried out a National Policy Dialogue, addressing one of our pilot countries-France. The event took place online on the 02nd of February 2023.

At the national policy-dialogues we bring relevant stakeholders to raise awareness amongst and increase collaboration between religious communities, law enforcements and policymakers, and thus achieve an enhanced dialogue and exchange between the stakeholders.



**National Policy Dialogue-France**

**02 February 2023**



**SOAR Management Retreat**

**Lille**

**03-05 February 2023**

## SOAR MANAGEMENT RETREAT



**WHEN: 03-05 FEBRUARY**

**WHERE: LILLE, FRANCE**

The SOAR Project through EFI, organised a two-day leadership retreat in France for selected faith leaders, institution management and volunteers in France, Belgium and Holland involved in religious institutions who have been engaged already in the SOAR programme.

The two-day leadership retreat is an important opportunity to gather key leadership from different faith groups in France to receive specialist leadership training, detailed support and have dialogue engagement.



# NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE-HUNGARY



**WHEN: 09 FEBRUARY**

**WHERE: ONLINE**

The SOAR project carried out a National Policy Dialogue, addressing one of our pilot countries-Hungary. The event took place online on the 09 of February 2023.

At the national policy-dialogues we bring relevant stakeholders to raise awareness amongst and increase collaboration between religious communities, law enforcements and policymakers, and thus achieve an enhanced dialogue and exchange between the stakeholders.



# NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE-AUSTRIA



**WHEN: 15 FEBRUARY**

**WHERE: ONLINE**

The SOAR project carried out a National Policy Dialogue, addressing one of our pilot countries-Austria. The event took place online on the 15 of February 2023.

At the national policy dialogues we bring relevant stakeholders to raise awareness amongst and increase collaboration between religious communities, law enforcements and policymakers and thus achieve an enhanced dialogue and exchange between the stakeholders.



## TRAINING EVENT – TATA



**WHEN: 16 FEBRUARY**

**WHERE: TATA, HUNGARY**

The SOAR project delivered a Regional Protective Security Training event on the 16th of February 2023, in Tata, Hungary.

In attendance were various faith leaders, faith institution management, Architects and community members and volunteers from Places of Worship.

If you would like to request a training event please do so [here](#).

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [here](#).



**Training Event – Tata**

**16 February 2023**



**Training Event – The Hague**

**18 February 2023**

## TRAINING EVENT – THE HAGUE



**WHEN: 18 FEBRUARY**

**WHERE: THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS**

The SOAR project delivered a Regional Protective Security Training event on the 18th of February 2023, in The Hague, The Netherlands.

In attendance were various faith leaders, faith institution management, Architects and community members and volunteers from Places of Worship.

If you would like to register for our upcoming events, please do so [here](#).



# DENMARK NATIONAL BRIEF



**WHEN: 28 FEBRUARY**

**WHERE: COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**

On the 28th of February 2023, the SOAR project delivered a National Brief event in Denmark.

This national event consisted of presentations and networking opportunities, bringing together faith communities, faith leaders, architects, law enforcement and public officials. The national briefing will provide insight into the work of SOAR in Denmark, sharing the impact and outcomes of our training & engagements in the country over the past two years.



## Denmark National Brief

28 February 2023

## NATIONAL BRIEF – THE NETHERLANDS



**WHEN: 01 MARCH**

**WHERE: THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS**

This national event will consist of presentations and networking opportunities, bringing together faith communities, faith leaders, architects, law enforcement and public officials.

The national briefing will provide insight into the work of SOAR in The Netherlands, sharing the impact and outcomes of our training & engagements in the country over the past two years. The event will also allow attendees to share thoughts and insight.

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

**NATIONAL BRIEFING EVENT**  
**IN THE NETHERLANDS**

📍 **LOCATION:**  
**DE HAAG**

 **NEDERLAND**

English translation available

 **1. MARCH 2023**  
**18:00-21:00 UUR**

# SOAR MANAGEMENT RETREAT – MUNICH



**WHEN: 03-05 MARCH**

**WHERE: MUNICH, GERMANY**

We are delighted to announce a SOAR Management Retreat in Munich, Germany, taking place on from the 3rd to the 5th of March 2023. Registration available upon invitation.

The two-day leadership retreat is an important opportunity to gather key leadership from different faith groups in Germany to receive specialist leadership training, detailed support, and have dialogue engagement as a leadership group to help shape a plan of action and support for at-risk communities across Germany.



**SOAR Management Retreat**

**Munich**

**03-05 March 2023**



## SICHERHEITS SCHULUNG FÜR GEMEINDEN IN LINZ



**ÖSTERREICH**

**WO:**  
(DIE GENAUE ADRESSE WIRD  
NACH ANMELDUNG BEKANNT  
GEGEBEN)



## TRAINING EVENT – LINZ



**WHEN: 12 MARCH**

**WHERE: LINZ, AUSTRIA**

We are delighted to announce a SOAR Protective Security Training event in Linz, Austria, taking place on the 12th of March 2023.

The training will help attendees to understand the security risks and principles of risk reduction for Places of Worship, enabling them to undertake and implement risk reduction measures.

If you would like to register for the event please do so [here](#). To register for our upcoming events please do so [here](#).



# ADVISORY BOARD MEETING - BRUSSELS



**WHEN: 13 MARCH**

**WHERE: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

The SOAR Project will hold an Advisory Board meeting on the 13th of March 2023.

The meeting is to be attended by the consortium members and the advisory board. More information on the advisory board members can be found [here](#). The SOAR Project is working to advance the protection and safeguarding of places of worship across Europe. To keep up with our upcoming events please follow our SOAR [website](#) and social media channels.



## SOAR EUROPEAN POLICY BRIEFING EVENT



**WHEN: 14 MARCH**

**WHERE: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

The SOAR project is delighted to announce the European Policy Briefing Event on the 14th of March 2023.

The briefing event will bring together relevant stakeholders to raise awareness amongst and increase collaboration between religious communities, law enforcements and policymakers and thus achieve an enhanced dialogue and exchange between the stakeholders on the European level.

## NATIONAL BRIEF – BELGIUM



**WHEN: 15 MARCH**

**WHERE: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

This national event will consist of presentations and networking opportunities, bringing together faith communities, faith leaders, architects, law enforcement and public officials.

The national briefing will provide insight into the work of SOAR in Belgium, sharing the impact and outcomes of our training & engagements in the country over the past two years. The event will also allow attendees to share thoughts and insights.

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

# NATIONAL BRIEFING EVENT IN BELGIUM

 **BRUSSELS**  
English and French translation available

**VENUE**  
THE EXACT ADDRESS WILL BE ANNOUNCED  
AFTER REGISTRATION

 **15. MARCH 2023**  
**18:00-21:00 UUR**



## EU ANTISEMITISM SURVEY OPEN FOR PARTICIPATION



**KANTAR PUBLIC**

**WHEN: PRESENT-26 MARCH**

The European Union for Fundamental Rights opened for participation the EU Antisemitism Survey. The survey will be open until 26th of March and addresses 13 EU countries.

*This survey aims to "provide important evidence to the European Union (EU), national policy-makers, Jewish community organizations as well as wider civil society on issues related to Jewish life today, including experiences of anti-Semitism."*



# MEDIA DOCUMENTED **ATTACKS** AGAINST PLACES OF WORSHIP AND RELATED INCIDENTS:

## 01 FEBRUARY-28 FEBRUARY

The following list does not represent the true extent of attacks against religious sites within the given timeframe.

Rather, it is a representation of some incidents presented in and covered by the media. The indicated dates represent either the date of the incident or the date of discovery of the incident.



### Germany

- 01-02 February: Cemetery vandalism.
- 02 February: Church theft.
- 03 February: Cemetery theft.
- 03-05 February: Church theft.
- 04 February: Jewish cemetery vandalised.
- 06 February: Cemetery vandalism.
- 06-07 February: Church damage.
- 08-10 February: Church theft.
- 09 February: Church break-in.
- 09-10 February: Church break-in.
- 09-14 February: Cemetery theft.
- 10 February: Church fire.
- 10 February: Church fire.
- 11 February: Cemetery theft.
- 11-12 February: Cemetery damage.
- 12 February: Church theft.
- 14 February: Theft in the Cemetery.
- 14 February: Church offering box broken into.
- 14 February: Church theft.
- 15-17 February: Offering box broken open in a church.
- 15-21 February: Cemetery damage.
- 15-20 February: Cemetery theft.
- 17-18 February: Church burglary.
- 18-19 February: Church arson.
- 19-21 February: Church window damaged.



20 February: Nine-year-old beaten after pointing to a mosque/xenophobic attack.  
 20-21 February: Church burglary.  
 20-22 February: Church break-in.  
 22 February: Graffiti on synagogue.  
 09-23 February: Cemetery theft.  
 22-23 February: Cemetery damage.  
 22-23 February: Church break-in.  
 22-23 February: Church theft.  
 24 February: Church theft.  
 24 February: Stabbing in the mosque area.  
 24-25 February: Cemetery theft.  
 24-25 February: Church break-in.  
 24-26 February: Cemetery theft.  
 24-26 February: Church burglary.  
 24-27 February: Cemetery theft.



### **The Netherlands**

February: Church theft.  
 17 February: Church fire.  
 17 February: Church vandalised.



### **Belgium**

04-05 February: Church fire.



### **France**

February: Cemetery vandalised.  
 07 February: A man arrested for threatening death and insulting several priests.  
 10 February: Cemetery vandalised.  
 12-13 February: Church vandalised.  
 16 February: Church theft.



### **Romania**

14 February: Church theft.  
 18-19 February: Church break-in.  
 18-19 February: Church break-in.



### **Greece**

08 February: Church vandalism.



### **Portugal**

24 February: Church vandalised.



### **Poland**

February: Monastery theft.  
 02 February: Church theft.  
 03 February: Church fire.  
 03-04 February: Cemetery vandalism.  
 08 February: Church theft.



16 February: Church theft.

24 February: Church theft.

## Italy

February: Church theft.

01 February: Church theft.

02 February: Church theft.

03 February: Church theft.

03 February: Church theft.

07 February: Church theft.

08-10 February: Church theft.

09 February: Church theft.

16 February: Cemetery vandalised.

18-19 February: Church theft.

19 February: Church theft.

19-20 February: Church theft.

20 February: Church theft.

21 February: Church thefts.

## Serbia

February: Jewish cemetery in Belgrade vandalized in antisemitic attack.



## UK

February: Threat letter sent to mosque.

03 February: Church garden vandalised.

04 February: Church theft.

04-05 February: Church vandalised.

09 February: Church vandalised.

09 February: Church vandalised.

12-23 February: Church theft.

20 February: Church theft.



## Ukraine

06 February: Church fire.

07 February: Church break-in.

08 February: Church burned down.

13 February: Church vandalised.

15 February: Church vandalised.

15 February: Church fire.



# REQUEST A SOAR TRAINING EVENT OR RISK ASSESSMENT



**WHERE: GERMANY, FRANCE,  
THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM,  
DENMARK, HUNGARY, AUSTRIA**

The SOAR Project is committed to help keep communities safe. As part of our project we deliver protective security training and risk assessments for places of worship.

If you would like to request a SOAR training event or a risk assessment for your place of worship please do so [Here](#).

Registration for upcoming events: [Here](#).



## SOAR RESOURCES



SOAR is delighted to present to you the most important publications in the field of security of places of worship.

Our Resources page contains SOAR and other publications that are designed to aid you in keeping your place of worship safe.

The Resources page is available [Here](#).



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