EXERTER
Security of Explosives pan-European Specialists Network
Newsletter
Edition 2, August 2019

First Annual Workshop of EXERTER

The first year's EXERTER Annual Stakeholder workshop was held in Oslo, Norway, May 14-15 2019. Sixty particpants discussed issues related to all phases of the Oslo explosive attack in 2011, with the aim to lift and discuss the possibilities, developments and which capability gaps are still left to fill.

The workshop started with an introduction on the EXERTER practitioner's network, followed by a presentation of the scenario by Kripos and FFI.

The perpetrator Anders Behring BREIVIK, detonated a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device in the governmental quarter of Oslo, killing eight people, before moving onto Utoya Island for his second phase of attack. EXERTER focused on the initial IED attack which contained a large quantity of home-made explosives, made on his farm, using precursor chemicals he had obtained from various sources.

EXERTER partners described the aspects which have been specifically highlighted for discussion in EXERTER during the last year, connected to the counter attack domains prevent, detect, mitigate and react. For each domain, there were presentations on new technologies, research projects, and developments in legislation. These included the projects XClan Lab, ENTRAP, Vapour detection at TNO, Detection projects at ENEA, or other developments, such as the new regulation on explosives precursors by DSB and Blast protection of buildings by Norwegian Defence Estates Agency.

The workshop also included a visit to the 22 July Information Centre in Oslo, which is in the government building at the site of the explosion.

For the 2020 Annual Stakeholder Workshop, the plan is to hold it in Madrid late April/early May. After considering feedback from the first workshop, it is planned that the next workshop, will have more focus on interactivity and discussions, for example through guided discussions, panel discussions and the use of technical tools, such as online voting/question posing apps.

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

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Overview of Exerter Project

To help you understand the EXERTER Project, how it is being developed and managed this article provides a breakdown of the various Work Packages that will conduct the research, manage various aspects of the project and develop the EXERTER Network. Future newsletters will highlight the work of the project including the Work Packages and how EXERTER is contributing to the enhancement in the field of Security of Explosives.

The EXERTER Project is broken down into nine Work Packages, which consider potential needs in the Security of Explosives using past experiences and scenarios, analysing the scenarios to identify needs and potential solutions. The research will cover the main themes of Prevent, Detect, Mitigate, React. In order to help understand how EXERTER will achieve this the following provides the main objectives and aims of each of the Work Packages within the project.

WP1 - Project management
The objective of this work package is to implement a well-structured and effective coordination and project management ensuring high quality execution of the project within the given time frame and budget. In addition, this work package administrates the security and ethics boards of the project.

WP2 - Scenario definition and requirements identification
WP2 will each year identify one primary threat scenario and thereafter together with end users address their most pressing and demanding capability needs and extrapolate them into requirements and gaps covering all phases of the terrorist plot, i.e. Preparation, Transportation, Attack, and Post-attack.

WP3 - Review of research initiatives
WP3 will collect and identify the most relevant knowledge from already finished and ongoing national and international Security of Explosives projects, which carry out research that potentially can counter existing practitioner's needs and gaps.

WP4 - Standardisation and certification
The aim of this work package is to monitor standardisation initiatives and to interact with practitioners, private sector and standards bodies in order to extract and list the prioritisation areas for standardisation within Security of Explosives. The studies will also link to certification and regulation aspects since they are important elements for reaching enhanced trust and increased market harmonisation.

WP5 - Exploitation of innovations
WP5 works to understand how research prototypes can be developed into market-ready products i.e. what the exploitation requirements and challenges are and thereafter enable exploitation of innovation, IP and knowledge in order to achieve the pull through to commercialisation and application.

WP6 - Analysis and recommendations
WP6 will analyse the findings in WP2, 3, 4, 5 and 9 in order to draw general conclusions and recommendations how to fulfil requirements and bridge gaps, and to use this as a support for the preparation of the annual EXERTER workshops in WP7. The outcome of the annual Workshop will in turn be used to re-assess and update the conclusions and recommendations.

WP7 - Annual interaction workshops
It is the responsibility of WP7 to organise annual workshops for end users and other stakeholders in the field of Security of Explosives. The topics of each workshop will be the countermeasures associated to the yearly scenario and through all phases of the terrorist timeline. The workshop is not only a forum to spread information to the end users but also to provide the EXERTER Network with the possibility to reach SoE practitioners outside the consortium, and to enable for actors in the SoE community to interactively meet each other, possibly leading to new security collaborations.

WP8 – Dissemination
The objective of WP8 is to plan, organise and implement dissemination activities to a wide range of external stakeholders, including the End user and Expert Community which is managed in order to have representatives from different stakeholder types such as end users, academia, researchers, industry and regulators.

WP9 - Evolution of threats and attack strategies
WP9 will study past terrorist attacks as well as possible attacks occurring during the time of the project in order to draw conclusions on new trends and patterns of threat and attack strategies and to extrapolate these into possible predictions of future events.

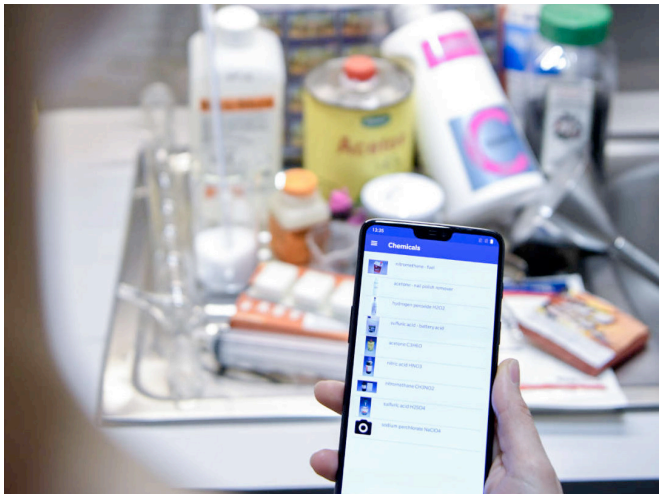
"The EXERTER Network aims to provide the practitioners in the Security of Explosives community with new and innovative knowledge on methodologies, tools and technologies to effectively enhance their operational capability in the fight against terrorism."

Welcome to XClanLab

During the EXERTER Annual Workshop in OSLO, FOI presented the X-Clan Lab Project which is being funded by the EU to assist First Responders with the identification of potential bomb factories.

Bomb factories are usually exposed through criminal intelligence gathered by police or other security agencies. The searches are then conducted by expert bomb technicians and scene investigators. Occasionally, the bomb factories are discovered accidentally by the uniformed police or rescue service (public safety authorities, ambulance personnel or fire brigades).

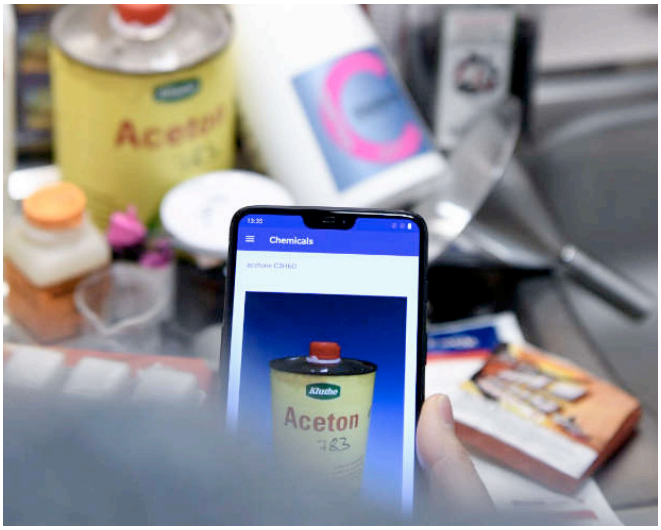
This typically happens if the policemen or rescue service are entering premises for reasons other than checking for illicit use of chemicals. Reasons for entering houses or facilities by the uniformed police are various but a common factor in these cases is coming across a clandestine laboratory is not expected. Likewise, there are various reasons for the members of the rescue services to enter premises. In case of fires or accidents the rescue service is usually the first authority to be present at the site. Here also, the coming across a clandestine laboratory (A clandestine laboratory or 'clan lab' is any site associated with the process of attempting to manufacture illicit substances like drugs and explosives) is unexpected.



Members of the emergency services seldom have experience and knowledge on homemade explosives. For their own safety, for being able to take control of the situation and to preserve possibilities for criminal investigations that will follow, it is of utmost importance that these authorities are able to recognise a bomb factory from the items they see on the site. In case of an illicit bomb factory it is also very important that they know how to act in such a situation and how to be safe as well as what information to convey to the experts that are called upon.

The XClanLab project will develop a mobile application (app) for Android and IOS operated devices to meet these requirements. The contents will include photos of typical chemicals (listed in the annexes of Regulation 98/2013) and equipment. There is also a report function included where information as well as photos from the scene can be transferred to experts. Furthermore, the app framework will be designed to enable entities from the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) sector to adapt it to their needs and incorporate their own contents. The app will be available in several languages (i.e. English, French and German). Additional languages can be provided. The actual number of languages will be determined within the project depending on demand.

An important part of the project is to establish a network of National Contact Points (NCPs) to ensure the distribution of the app reach as many end users as possible as well as to establish channels for a feedback function. This network also enables possibilities of having end user workshops dedicated to handling of the app, safety of explosives and information on current regulations on explosives and explosive precursors. The project is keen to hear from organisations who may be interested in becoming involved and supporting its development as a National Contact Point. For more information on becoming involved please contact the Project Coordinator. Contact details can be found by visiting, https://xclanlab.eu/



For more information: https://xclanlab.eu/

Networking & Events

EXERTER Events

EXERTER Project Meeting and Workshop, Freiburg, Germany
Exerter will hold a Project Meeting and Workshop 19-21 November 2019 at Fraunhofer EMI in Freiburg, Germany.

Annual Workshop 2020
The 2020 EXERTER Annual Workshop will be held on 18-19 May 2020, in Madrid, Spain. Information will be continuously updated on the EXERTER website and in future newsletters.

Other Related Events

9th Annual EU-US Explosives Experts' Seminar, Brussels, Belgium
17-19 September 2019

The 13th CBRNe Protection Symposium, Science for Safety and Security
Malmö, Sweden, www.cbw.se
24-26 September 2019

4th C-IED Technology Workshop, Madrid, Spain
www.ciedcoe.org/index.php/events/tech-ws
1-3 October 2019

Mediterranean Security Event 2019, Heraklion, Crete
29-31 October 2019
https://mse2019.kemea-research.gr

SRE2019
The Security Research Event 2019, Helsinki, Finland
6-7 November 2019
www.SRE2019.eu

Mötesplats Samhällssäkerhet, Kista, Stockholm, Sweden
19-20 November 2019
www.samhallssakerhet.se

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.

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

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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