

Press Release

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RESEARCHERS DEVELOP NEW SYSTEM TO MANAGE PANDEMICS

AIT researchers join network of European crisis management experts: EU project STAMINA aims to improve response to future pandemics and support first responders, practitioners, hospitals and pandemic crisis managers.

The AIT Austrian Institute of Technology is leading a new EU project called STAMINA, which is developing a new system to manage future pandemics. Over the next two years, 38 partners from more than a dozen countries will work together to develop an intelligent system to support decision-making in the prediction and management of pandemics. The application of the system will then be demonstrated at national and regional levels in the EU and beyond. The system will support first responders, practitioners, hospitals and pandemic crisis managers in their daily work.

State-of-the-art methods and technologies such as modelling, early warning systems (e.g. by analysing social media), on-site screening methods or management tools (e.g. for the distribution of responsibilities) will be used, and common situation pictures and training scenarios will also be developed. The EU project will also develop a guideline for risk communication and optimal procedures for cooperation between different organisations. All new instruments will be tested in twelve regional trial runs and a large simulation exercise.

The AIT Center for Digital Safety & Security has many years of experience in the field of crisis and disaster management and brings a number of proven systems from this research focus into the STAMINA project, which are now being adapted and further developed for use in pandemic management. These include the "Emergency Maps Tool (EMT), which allows spatial information to be merged into a common information system, or the Public Safety Hub (PSH), which compares data from different areas syntactically and semantically, thereby creating a common information space. Particularly significant is the use of the "Portfolio of Solutions" (PoS) and the "Trial Guidance Tool" (TGT), which are used in all trial runs and the large-scale cross-border exercise to support planning, handling and evaluation. The AIT is coordinating all these tests.

The STAMINA project will start in September 2020 and has a volume of eleven million euros; 9.5 million euros of this will come from the EU's Horizon 2020 research programme. The Greek EXUS is coordinating the project. Austrian project partners include the AIT and Johanniter Austria.

Special note on data protection and privacy at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology

The protection of data and privacy are essential for a modern society. They form the fundamental basis of trust for cultural, social and economic development. The associated creation of "security" is therefore a key core task at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology. Against the backdrop of diverse, constantly changing threats to our society, it is important to develop innovative approaches to countering these threats. A particular focus of research activities at the AIT is therefore on methods, architectures and technologies in order to fundamentally consider and



incorporate the highest possible level of data protection in any technical solution through privacy by design approaches. Data protection and privacy are sensitive and worthy of protection, which is taken into account as a top priority in all research activities conducted at the AIT.

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