

# POLICY BRIEF N° 4

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## CSOs in Security Research Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.

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### PROFILE OF THE ORGANISATION

The Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V. is a German Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), which is engaged in areas such as first aid training, civil protection, rescue services, and disaster management. They are also active in providing kindergartens, programs for young people as well as care options for elderly people. Founded in 1952 the Johanniter have grown into one of the biggest aid agencies in Europe, with 16.000 staff along with ca. 30.000 voluntary members, as well as 1,3 Million donors<sup>1</sup>.

Their mission is in line with the principle of Christian charity and the tradition of the Johanniter order established 900 years ago. They aim at helping people all over the world who are in need. Being part of research projects complements their mission by helping to establish early-warning systems and provide better emergency management in affected areas. The Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V. has a world- and Europe-wide network especially with other Johanniter orders, and it is also associated with the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

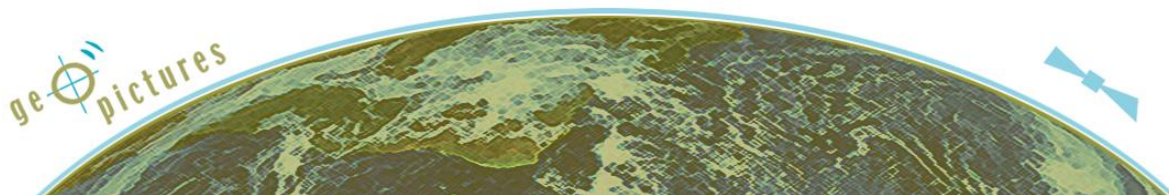
<sup>1</sup> We are indebted to Harm-Bastian Harms, Head for International Projects & Cooperation, Johanniter Unfall-Hilfe, for providing useful information for this study.

## PROCESS AND RESULTS OF ENGAGEMENT IN SECURITY RESEARCH

The Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V. is interested in projects dealing with the improvement of disaster management, a faster and more targeted response to the victims as well as the establishment of early warning systems. Disaster management covers all actions, which are needed to protect life, health and the environment and to prevent possible disaster. Besides that, they are also an active player in trainings for people dealing, e.g., with emergency situations. Especially management training, training in geriatric care, training of disinfectors, training and qualification of trainers of all branches, first aid training, training and qualification of first responders and civil protection teams on national and European level.

Through their participation in research actions they want to improve the response time in critical situations. For the Johanniter it is an important goal to have through their participation in security research actions a result which has a practical impact, or, at least, brings security research further.

### THE PROJECT GEO-PICTURES



Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe has been part of different research consortiums nationally as well as at a European level. The projects in which they were participating, are by and large related to disaster management and disaster risk reduction. A successful case in point for the Johanniter has been the project GEO-PICTURES<sup>2</sup>

According to the project website, GEO-PICTURES is a ground-breaking space technology project that will contribute to saving more lives, and mitigate negative effects for the

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.geo-pictures.eu/innovation.html>



environment and property during emergencies and disasters. In emergency situations it is of paramount importance to communicate from the field what has happened and where it has happened as quickly and accurately as possible, so that appropriate actions can be taken in due time. One cannot rely on an existing infrastructure except satellite communications for global coverage. GEO-PICTURES should provide near-real-time input of pictures, video, sensors and assessment results worldwide.

The project consortium aspired to work toward providing a series of targeted solutions, such as optimal field assessment input with high quality geo-tagged digital photos, video, sound, text and sensors, making in-situ field data, satellite data, expert advice and other relevant information rapidly available in the field, e.g. via satellite multicast, integration with specific United Nations and Union Civil Protection Mechanisms, communications protocols for rapid input of broadband multimedia field data via narrowband satellite and mobile communication systems, and last but not least, a high degree of trials, training, and dissemination.

In that project, the Johanniter conducted parts of the field research, and provided a lot of practical experience to develop the technology. As in most of the projects, they had the role of an “end-user” with an on-the-ground focus on civilian disaster protection, while often a second end-user, i.e. a partner from the United Nations disaster relief services, is present. The Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe’s motivation to participate in GEO-PICTURES was due to their conviction that the project had good chances to deliver something valuable for the practice of crisis management, since it was solution-oriented. The orientation on qualified output is one of the strong incentives for the Johanniter to participate in research actions.



## GOOD PRACTICE I

### EQUAL AND EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN THE RESEARCH PROCESS

The case of the Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe demonstrates that projects with CSO participation can be exceptionally fit to deliver successful results. In the present case, a CSO/first responder participation was absolutely necessary in order for the project to achieve its objectives. A successful project with different partners from different sectors and disciplines requires a professional project management, based on clear communication, reliability and trust among all partners, and a strict timeline management to meet project goals within budget and timeframe. The equal frame conditions in the project for all partners, also for CSOs, are the key for a successful project, and not necessarily the disciplinary background a partner has. More often than not, research

driven only by economic and market interests wildly differs from the one driven by societal needs. Through the work and the active and equal involvement of CSOs, both a higher practical orientation in research can be achieved, and the needs of the civil society can be better met.

For the Johanniter it is important that as many CSOs as possible are involved in the research process, since in disaster risk reduction and prevention they can optimize their skills at national and international level. At the same time, they are also aware of the fact that for small, local CSOs it is much harder and difficult to be a project partner, although they can be an ideal provider of expert, hands-on knowledge.

## GOOD PRACTICE 2

### VALORIZATION AND UPTAKE OF RESEARCH RESULTS

Although a practice-oriented research is welcome, the future use and potential applications, as well as the property rights of the technology to be developed needs to be clarified at the beginning, and even in the proposal at the application stage already. The Johanniter Unfall Hilfe for example is responsible for the trainings in relation to the results of Geo Pictures, but all the economic benefit from the tool goes to the industrial partner.

Nevertheless, the Johanniter Unfallhilfe's role has been a strong and defining one, in order to shape the requirements of the technological tools that should be

developed. At the same time, they had a strong stake at the application stage of the technology, since they could profit themselves by becoming more effective in crisis response and prevention. They are, consequently satisfied with the overall outcome and impact of the project's results, as they have found already successful application in crisis areas, such as in Indonesia, Philippines and in Nepal in the course of 2015 as a preventing and mitigating tool. The technology developed has a validated and tested potential to unfold a bigger impact in the years to come, by being taken up by disaster relief organisations.

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This Policy Brief is based on the research conducted under SecurePART Task 5.1 – Matching CSOs to security research topics". A full version of the results can be found in the deliverable report "D5.1 – Plan for rules of participation of CSOs" – and may be downloaded from the SecurePART website ([www.securepart.eu](http://www.securepart.eu)).

### THE SECUREPART PROJECT

**Is funded under the EU FP7 Security Theme addressing the issue of broadening societal participation in security research.** The SecurePART project aims at enhancing the influence of civil society in formulating, monitoring, and implementing current and future EU security research.