

# POLICY BRIEF N° 7

January 2016

## CSOs in Security Research Magen David Adom (IL)<sup>1</sup>

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### PROFILE OF THE ORGANISATION

Magen David Adom in Israel is the National Emergency Medical Service (EMS) for the state of Israel, National Blood Service and the National Red Cross Society.



MDA serves 7.8 million inhabitants (the Israeli population) through 11 state of the art operations centres with a highly advanced C4I system, a fleet of around 900 vehicles (basic and advanced life support ambulances, a medical evacuation helicopter, and special operations appliances – all terrain, motorcycles) all tracked through localisation systems. MDA dispatch uses a highly advanced digital radio network that allows it to communicate with the police, fire department, environment protection and civil protection forces. All MDA vehicles are equipped with on board computer with integrated GPS. The teams are using multi-channel radio. MDA prepares for and responds to variety of emergency scenarios – war related, industrial accidents, terror attacks and large scale natural disasters. Tight cooperation is made with fire department, police and civil protection during drills and real time events. The control and command in large scale events is achieved by using command and control vehicles that are equipped with live broadcast video cameras, cellular and mobile internet solutions. MDA has vast experience

<sup>1</sup> This study was developed based on desk research and having as basis public information available online.

in working with providers IT companies, identifying the needs and developing products, as well as working with different agencies in Israel and internationally.

MDA was the coordinator of the FP7 funded project – Identifying Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters (NMFRDisaster), where a dedicated work package dealt with the needs with regards to Personal Protective Equipment needs of Medical First Responders. MDA is a partner in the FP7 funded project – ESS, CATO, OPSIC, EDEN, ETTIS, CRISMA, S-HELP and DRIVER. MDA is member of the Israeli team working on ISO 223 – Societal Security standards.

## Security research in the DNA of MDA

The participation at security research is based in a long term strategy and it follows the implementation of an internal research agenda, they avoid isolated "one shots" to specific security research topics and they have a multi-topic interest in security research, their interest is not specific to one of the sub-themes but rather the work programme as a whole, nevertheless, the main areas of interest are: infrastructure protection, physical protection and disasters and risks management.

Following this strategy, MDA has participated in a total of 9 European research projects, being one of those as coordinator:

NMFRDISASTER – <a href="#">Identifying the needs of medical first responder in disasters</a> Start date: 2008-05-01, End date: 2009-06-30 – Coordinator
EDEN – <a href="#">End-user driven DEmo for cbrNe</a> Start date: 2013-09-01, End date: 2016-12-31
CRISMA – <a href="#">Modelling crisis management for improved action and preparedness</a> Start date: 2012-03-01, End date: 2015-08-31
ETTIS – <a href="#">ETTIS – European security trends and threats in society</a> Start date: 2012-01-01, End date: 2014-12-31
OPSIC – <a href="#">Operationalising Psychosocial Support in Crisis</a> Start date: 2013-02-01, End date: 2016-01-31
CATO – <a href="#">"CATO – CBRN crisis management: Architecture, Technologies and Operational Procedures"</a> Start date: 2012-01-01, End date: 2014-12-31
ESS – <a href="#">Emergency Support System</a> Start date: 2009-06-01, End date: 2013-05-31
S-HELP – <a href="#">Securing Health.Emergency.Learning.Planning</a> Start date: 2014-02-01, End date: 2017-01-31
DRIVER – <a href="#">DRiving InnoVation in crisis management for European Resilience</a> Start date: 2014-05-01, End date: 2018-10-31

MDA has participated in various security research projects following a long-term strategy that focus in all the 5 steps of the policy cycle of the EU security research, from the problem diagnosis to the impact evaluation assessment they have specialised staff that follow all the process, from the lobby when the security research is being defined (participation in advisory boards), to the monitoring of the work programmes. Furthermore, security research project involvement has not to be considered mainly as a source of immediate funding for a CSO, but primarily as a way to be connected with other stakeholders, be informed about last technological developments, participate in interest groups, make part of advisory boards, etc.

MDA even served as coordinator of one FP7 security research project (NMFRDISASTER) and its lead manager is a member of the Advisory Group for the EU Safer Societies projects. It demonstrates a good practice case on the example of the humanitarian aid network of the Red Cross and related organizations for other potential CSO security research participants. It needs further analysis in the following work packages and will subject of the next Stakeholders Board meeting.

## **Networking, networking, networking**

Networking with other stakeholders, with other CSOs and end-users is something that MDA take care for the long term. Relationship are built up with time, not created 'ad hoc' for a specific project but for a relation with future.

As said before, one of the objectives about the participation in European Research projects is the opportunity to network and to generate knowledge and partnerships through that networking. Participating at European Research projects it's a way of maintaining continuous dialogue with different representatives: SMEs, industry, CSOs, researchers, end-users, policy makers, etc.

MDA it's very active in terms of participation at European Events like the Security Research Conference, Security/Secure Societies info days and events organized by European-funded projects.

## Lessons learned

### Equal and effective engagement in the research process

The participation in the Advisory Group and General Networking Activities contributes to the involvement of MDA in the entire policy cycle of the Security Research. Being able to be heard at the “Problem Diagnosis” stage it is very important not only for MDA but also for the success of the research policies.

In other hand, the several projects in which they have been involved clearly reveal the benefit of including in the consortium a CSO with such a unique knowledge about European Research Programmes and specifically in Security/Secure Societies research. It is a conviction of MDA that is needed an educational process for CSO to participate in these security research projects, and also it is need to create and promote the dialogue between the different agents: industrial, academics, end-users and CSOs. This is one thig that was and is made by MDA and that should be something that the other CSOs should follow.

### Valorization and uptake of research results

In general, MDA is pleased with the results obtained from EU-funded research. MDA has helped to identify needs for further research in the different areas like Training methodology, understanding the human impact of disaster on first responders, ethical and legal issues influencing the medical response to disasters, personal protective equipment used in Chemical and Biological incidents, use of blood and blood products in disasters. Moreover, MDA participated in research projects related with CBRNE, crisis management, emergency support systems and health security. The CSO has also acquired a lot of experience thought participation that help them to overcome the red tape issues in the process of participation – from the proposal to the project. In spite this level of participation and the success obtained, a little criticism can be noted referring the whole process that sometimes is too long because it takes approximately 5 years since the origin of the project idea to the final result and when the obtained result is not a product is only a technology it will be needed ate least another year to get a final product.



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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.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 608039.

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