Global Threats, Local Actors : SOURCE organises a conference on societal challenges and global security threats

Press release
Paris, 15 March 2017

The SOURCE Societal Security Network will hold its annual conference Global Threats, Local Actors, 21-22 March 2017 at the Haus der Europäischen Union. The conference, organised by the SOURCE Network of Excellence funded by the European Commission's Framework Programme 7, will focus on the growing need to understand global security threats as societal challenges.

'Societal security' expresses the increasingly common perception that today's security threats—be they cybercrime, climate change, pandemic disease, migration, terrorism, or others—threaten us not by targeting the nation-state or individuals, but the values that make up the substance of society itself.

Where the global media provides daily reminders of these threats, the SOURCE network propose tools for understanding how perceptions become policy. It zooms in the migration crisis, concerns for surveillance and the complex role played by private and public security services in providing societal security, the problem of radicalisation and extremism, and parses the fact from the fiction of terrorist threat.

SOURCE is a 5-year networking project that builds research-based, tools, concepts and resources in order to better understand and act upon the threats that confront our societies today. It aims to create a Virtual Centre of Excellence supported by a shared virtual platform to bring together the diverse stakeholders concerned with the work of societal security: academia, policy makers, industry and technology developers, civil society and end-users, in order to enhance communication and understanding between them.

The Vienna conference *Global Threats, Local Actors* will showcase the accomplishments of the SOURCE network and engage individual actors and experts in a dialogue with SOURCE partners on the state-of-play of societal security research and policy.

The conference in a nutshell

Day 1 keynote speakers include Marie Benedicte Bjørnland, Director of the Norwegian Police Security Service, speaking on the Norwegian experience of governing societal security, Chaim Rafalowski, of Magen David Adom, the Israeli national emergency medical, disaster, and ambulance service, on practicing societal security, Corrina Milborn, Head of the News Division at ProSieben.Sat1.PULS 4 and the host of the politicaltalk show 'Pro und Contra' on how societal security plays out in the media, Douwe Korff, of London Metropolitan University, on data protection and privacy, and Mario Oetheimer, from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on surveillance by intelligences services and fundamental rights

Day 2 breakout groups will look in detail into relation between financial security and societal security, a workshop on discussing security issues in the media, the networks of European security professionals, and the tension between security and human rights. In addition, a lunchtime policy discussion will explore central questions on the defining topic for EU external borders: biometrics and borders.

A press conference will be held at the Haus der Europäischen Union on 21 March at 11.00 before the start of the conference. The press conference will be held by representatives of SOURCE. A press-kit including SOURCE reports and videos as well as more detailed information on the conference will be distributed to the press.

For more information and registration, please visit: http://www.societalsecurity.net/event/upcoming-source-conference-vienna-global-threats-local-actors-21-22-march-2017

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