

# STEPWISE NEWSLETTER



Edition 1, No. 3

## CONTENT

- Message from the Management Team
- 2nd Practitioners Workshop
- NRF 2020
- Final Beta Release Meeting
- Dronewise Stepwise Webinar
- French Police Workshop
- CERIS Workshop on Protection of Public Spaces
- 3rd Practitioners Workshop

## Message from the Management Team

As the STEPWISE project is coming to an end, it is fair to say that it has reached its main objectives.

During the latest year of STEPWISE, the team focused on the finalisation of the STEPWISE main components around the organisation of several workshops and participation to events: the online evaluations, Final Release Meeting, the NRF Event in Nicosia, the DRONEWISE-STEPWISE webinar, the French Police Workshop, the CERIS Workshop and finally the 3rd Practitioner Workshop.

This newsletter will give an overview of the main achievements of the STEPWISE project this year. Stay tuned to STEPWISE by following our website and other accounts.

## STEPWISE Consortium

STEPWISE’s consortium is composed by 8 partners:

- CS GROUP — France (CS), Coordinator of the project, based in France;
- Crisisplan (CPLAN), based in the Netherlands;
- Belgian Federal Police—Counter Terrorism Unit (DSU);
- European Organisation for Security (EOS), based in Belgium;
- Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), based in Greece;
- Link Campus University (LCU), based in Italy
- The Hague Netherlands Police (PEDH);

Launched in November 2018, STEPWISE brings innovative security design without claiming the public space and bothering or frightening populations.

STEPWISE contributed to the improvement of the protection of public spaces, events and other soft targets by delivering an innovative product based on the VASCO prototype to:

- Enable the rapid creation of Virtual Reality mock-ups of real-world spaces;
- Bring innovative security design without claiming the public space and bothering or frightening populations;
- Assess the vulnerability of public spaces and jointly develop and evaluate strategies to improve both their security and resilience without having to descend upon each of them.

## 2nd Practitioners’ Workshop—online evaluations— April 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop was cancelled and a mitigation plan was put together in short order by the Executive Board. A series of online evaluations was set up to replace the workshop, adapting material prepared for the physical workshop to an online format. The planned carousels could not be completed as orig-

inally envisioned. Instead, the platform’s features were carefully explained and demonstrated, and users were then invited to try their hand at the system at home in their own time and fill in questionnaires rating the system’s utility, user-friendliness and relevancy to their needs.



## Nicosia Risk Forum— November 2020

Nicosia Risk Forum was an innovative event for the area of South-Eastern Europe, which brings together academic, industrial, governmental, policy, and other societal stakeholders with a significant interest in societal safety.

Nicosia Risk Forum was organized under the auspices of HE the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus Dr. Nikos Christodoulides. Understandably, due to Co-Vid19

restrictions, #NRF2020 took place virtually. Patrick Garnier, former Project coordinator gave a great presentation of STEPWISE, showcasing our research endeavours.



## Final Release Meeting—November 2020

The Final Release Meeting of the project STEPWISE was successfully held online from the 25-27 November 2020. Intensive developments and improvements of the tools marked the final months of the project for the technical partners.

Practitioners involved in STEPWISE and other partners were trained on this new version, and then were able to give their feedback and explore the components of the STEPWISE platform themselves, during one-on-one hands-on sessions. The project consortium gathered a lot of relevant feedback and evaluation.



## DRONEWISE—STEPWISE Webinar—January 2021

On the 14th of January 2021, DRONEWISE and STEPWISE held a joint webinar, ensuring the lessons learnt from one project can be used and enhanced by another.

With participants from across the EU, the joint webinar discussed collaboration and sharing of results. However, the ultimate benefit was centred on how to turn all the efficient work done within both projects to the goal of protecting public spaces and enhancing the security and safety of all EU citizens.

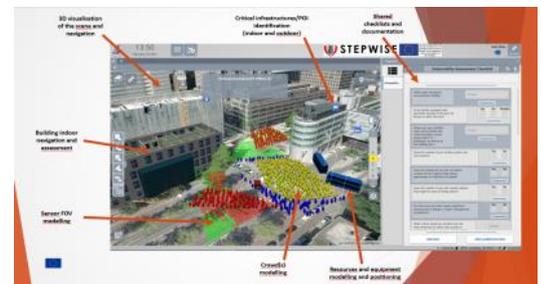
## French Police Workshop—January 2021

On the 26th of January, the Research Centre of the French Police Academy (CRENSP) organised an online workshop. The event was the occasion to showcase STEPWISE main goals, results and outputs to French and Canadian LEAs officers from different units.

## CERIS Workshop on Protection of Public Spaces – February 2021

The STEPWISE consortium, represented by CS and FMI, has attended the CERIS Workshop on Protection of Public Space. It was the opportunity to showcase the project contribution and applicability on a very practical use case, namely “Public disorder and violent riots, attempt to enter a Parliament”, along with other ISFP-funded projects. This

allowed highlighting potential synergies and raising awareness about the STEPWISE scope and results.



## 3rd Practitioner Workshop—March 2021

From the 4th to the 19th of March, the STEPWISE consortium held online its third and final Practitioner Workshop. Audience included external end-users as well as consortium members, with the possibility to test the platform themselves with adequate training.

The feedback received on the STEPWISE tools were very positive (« user friendly tools », « clear explanations ») and participants expressed a keen interest in the project follow-ups. Despite the complicated situation due to COVID, this last event can be considered a great success.

Please get in contact:

Twitter : @STEPWISE\_EU

[Website](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

**INVITATION**

We would like to invite you to the final practitioner workshop of the STEPWISE project, which will take place online.

The two-year STEPWISE project, ending in March 2021, is funded by the European Commission's Internal Security Fund Police Action Grant. It aims to deliver an innovative platform to support the cooperation, coordination and cross-sectoral preparedness of law enforcement agencies and their partners (public and private) involved in the design and protection of public spaces.

STEPWISE aids security professionals in performing the following activities:

1. Assessing the vulnerability of public spaces
  - What types of threats are we exposed to?
  - How can we minimize our exposure?
2. Creating innovative security plans
  - How would we respond to a particular event?
3. Devising effective response plans
  - Can our plan work well?
4. Assessing plans against various threat situations
  - Improving readiness of first responders in a joint operation set in a mock-up environment.
5. Training in Virtual Reality
  - Improving readiness of first responders in a joint operation set in a mock-up environment.



**STEPWISE**  
Platform of the Internal Security Fund

STEPWISE final practitioner workshop (online)  
4 March 2021, 09:00-10:30 CET  
<https://bit.ly/stepwise-workshop>

We would appreciate the opportunity to show you the system's final release and hear your feedback. Using screen sharing, we will show a presentation and perform a live demonstration of the software. We have also prepared two optional training sessions and we have arranged for temporary licenses that would allow you to install the software and use it on your own PC/laptop. Finally, we have prepared another two optional sessions (one in French, one in English) dedicated to a few representative use cases – in these sessions, you would collaborate with other experts to secure an event/location with STEPWISE.

STEPWISE is a user-driven project. Over the two years, we have sought continuous input from practitioners to ensure it is an innovative platform that engages on current assessment and planning practices. At the end of this process, we seek to show you the STEPWISE platform in its final form and take it back in protecting public spaces.

We hope you will join! To help us to know who will be in our audience, we kindly ask that you let us know if you wish to participate by getting back to the person who sent you the invitation or by contacting [Katherine.Chalange@stepwise.eu](mailto:Katherine.Chalange@stepwise.eu) in your reply, please state if:

- You would like to have the initial and a temporary license
- You will participate in the training sessions on 4<sup>th</sup> March (either 11:00-13:00 CET or 14:00-16:00 CET, please specify which time slot)
- You will participate in the user case session on 5<sup>th</sup> March (in French, time slot to be confirmed) or 8-12<sup>th</sup> March (in English, date and time to be confirmed)

