



Factsheet

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Societal Innovation Agenda on Security

The attacks in New York, Madrid and London have increased our awareness of the importance of security. In the coming years, the Netherlands will commit to a programme of innovations and security measures designed to ensure the country can continue to defend itself against the threats of terrorism, crime and disasters. In its policy programme, the government has set out its ambition to formulate a Societal Innovation Agenda on safety and security. A total of EUR 54 million will be made available to implement this agenda between 2008 and 2012.

WHAT IS PUBLIC SECURITY?

Security is generally defined as the prevention of, protection against and action taken to combat radicalisation, crime and nuisance and the efforts towards crisis management, counterterrorism and disaster control, fire safety and the personal safety of security personnel. It also encompasses the management of crises and disasters arising from environmental and natural disasters, floods and aircraft disasters.

AIM OF THE SOCIETAL INNOVATION AGENDA ON SECURITY

The aim of the agenda is to make a contribution to reducing real and perceived dangers and insecurity in the Netherlands through the introduction of technological innovations.

The agenda includes three focal areas:

- operating in networks (the right people having the right information available at the right time)
- simulation, training and education (enhancing the quality of personnel)
- physical protection (improving the health and safety of personnel)

OPERATING IN NETWORKS

It is important that information can be rapidly disseminated via linked systems so that tasks can be carried out more effectively and quickly in the event of an incident, disaster or crisis.

One example is providing support to security personnel on the street. Sensors can be used to relay information to all members of an arrest team so that they have a better picture of the environment (situational awareness). In addition, new technology must ensure all members of the team are aware of each other's position, so that everyone knows where everyone else is at any given moment. Another example is the use of camera images of suspects. These can be displayed immediately on the PDAs or videophones used by officers.

A further key focus is information security. It is essential that any information used is protected against outside intrusion. This applies to the integrity of the ICT infrastructure as well as the security of the information itself. Focal areas include identification fraud and data encryption techniques.

SIMULATION, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Safe and effective intervention is essential. The quality of operational and support personnel determines the success of every operation. The safety of personnel during operations also depends greatly on stringent selection, having a good command of skills and intensive, realistic training. Simulation, "gaming" and artificial environments are becoming increasingly important in the training of personnel.

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PHYSICAL PROTECTION

Protecting personnel and equipment during incidents, attacks and other violent or threatening situations is becoming increasingly important. The government is committed to providing suitable protection for emergency assistance providers in a public function. From desk clerks at the Social Security Office to police officers and armed forces personnel serving abroad. Bullet-proof, stab-proof and fire-resistant vests are examples of physical protection measures that can be provided.

TECHNOLOGY AREAS

The main technology areas that must be developed within the three focal areas are: biometrics, ICT, data mining, data fusion, integrated system design and integrated system development, simulators, sensors, nanotechnology and materials science. It is expected that a combination of technologies, rather than any single technology, will play a major role in the future.

RELEVANT PARTIES

Key parties in relation to the programme are the government, businesses, knowledge institutes and universities. It is estimated that more than 500 companies are currently active in the field of security in the Netherlands. They include large companies as well as many smaller enterprises, among them start-ups and spin-offs from universities and knowledge institutes.

THE NETHERLANDS:

LAND OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

The Societal Innovation Agenda on safety and security is part of the government project entitled "The Netherlands: land of entrepreneurship and innovation" (*Nederland Ondernemend Innovatieland*), NOI in short. NOI links solving public issues with enhancing the country's competitive strength. NOI invests in projects which stimulate knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship and works toward solving a number of problem areas which restrict or otherwise inhibit innovation, such as the limited development of know-how into real applications and the shortage of qualified technical staff.

This calls for a joint approach involving all sections of government. This has led to the establishment of the Knowledge and Innovation programme directorate which brings together representatives of several ministries. At the moment these are the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the NOI project can be found at www.kennis-innovatie.nl. You can also phone +31 (0)70 379 74 43.