Project name and abbreviation: Innovation - Law Enforcement Agencies Dialogue (I-LEAD).
Programme: Horizon 2020.
Project duration: 1 September 2017 - 28 February 2023.
Budget: € 3 483 717,50.

- -

I-LEAD in a nutshell:

I-LEAD was a 5-year, EU Commission H2020 project that concluded in February 2023. The focus of the project was to work closely and collaboratively with Law Enforcement Officers from across Europe, in order to identify where innovation and research were able to address key operational challenges. In order to achieve this objective, I-LEAD established 5 Practitioner Groups (PGs) these being, Front Line Policing, Cross Border Crime, Cybercrime, Crime and Forensics.

During the course of the project, 25 Workshops took place (5 thematic workshops for each PG) in which operational Police Officers from across Europe, were invited to work as a community and put forward their priorities and requirements for the future. These included: technology in vehicles, public order, financial investigation, environmental crime, and people trafficking.

One of the main success stories of I-LEAD is that the work undertaken within the project, now continues through the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Service (ENLETS) network, ensuring a post-project legacy for years to come. One of the activities founded within I-LEAD, and to be continued via ENLETS, is the robust methodology that assists Law Enforcement in defining their needs and priorities. Furthermore, the subsequent process of scanning of the research and technology landscape, for 'fit for purpose' solutions also continues.

Another success to originate from I-LEAD is the messenger service provision for Law Enforcement, which has also been integrated into ENLETS. This service is frequently tested across borders between Member States and provides a connection between all Technology Interest Groups (TIG's), ENLETS members, and other personnel across the EU on a daily basis. This connectivity ensures a more joined-up approach to fighting crime through the sharing of 'good practice'. Additionally, the messenger service ensures that collaborations, connections, and networks across Law Enforcement, made during the I-LEAD project remains, and continue to thrive.

Another achievement of the I-LEAD project is the Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) opportunity; a continuation of the project activities and an exploitation objective that successfully defined a solution for Law Enforcement for the remote stopping of vehicles. Through the I-LEAD's work which aimed to support those officers working in the Public Order domain across the EU, the ENLETS Public Order Technology Interest Group (PO TIG) has now been established. This group exchanges information and ideas and monitors innovative solutions that can improve police abilities to sustain security during mass events and crisis situations. The aim of the PO TIG is to help consolidate understanding of multiple approaches and technologies used across the European Union to keep public spaces secure and citizens safe. To read more about the PO TIG click here.

Other areas that the I-LEAD project initiated and where work continues through ENLETS, is the Crime as a Service (CaaS), this has now been integrated into the Financial Investigations TIG, which is combating fraudulent schemes. The Environmental Practitioner Group set up during I-LEAD remains and continues to meet post-project, and presently is working as a community across the EU to tackle malicious trading in oil.

ENLETS has now integrated a great deal of the work initiated by the I-LEAD project and continues to build networks such as front-line policing and crime and public protection. It is an agile and accessible network that connects all EU countries as well as EU projects and continues to foster the results of those projects. To find out more and support this work please go to the ENLETS website.

- -

More information about the project: https://www.eos-eu.com/ilead.
More information on CORDIS: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/740685/it.