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SAFE POST

SAFEPOST Project

SAFEPOST, Reuse and development
of Security Knowledge assets for
International Postal supply chains

POST EUROP

European Commission

SAFEPOST
Project

BACKGROUND

In a narrow sense, the term postal service is reserved for national services as recognised by the Universal Postal Union, an agency of the United Nations. In a broader sense, the global mail and parcel delivery system effectively consists of two parts: national postal services and private letter and parcel delivery services. Postal security was brought to the attention of the world by the 2001 Anthrax attacks in the USA, where letters containing anthrax spores were mailed to several news media offices and two Democratic U.S. Senators, killing five people and infecting 17 others. In response the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has developed guidelines for identifying suspicious packages and letters and procedures for opening mail.

Narcotics and counterfeit drugs smuggling through postal channels is nowadays a constant reminder of the urgent need to strengthen postal security. Recent reports indicate the increase in drug trafficking with use of postal channels as a low risk means of transporting narcotics internationally.

A common European approach for standards and procedures is relevant for the specific problem of exchange and use of information for customs and police missions. The more general problem of increasing security in postal supply chains is a global challenge that should be considered in the broader context of secure EU and international supply chains operated by responsible and collaborating business networks.

SAFEPOST is in a unique position to integrate a common European approach for standards and procedures in the overall Supply Chain Security Framework under development by e-Freight, SUPPORT and CONTAIN.

The major advantage of this approach is in enabling the postal services sector to take advantage of ongoing developments regarding:

· Supply chain/network visibility;

· New ways of interfacing to Customs and other authorities through a Single Window and related movements towards EU and international customs standards and controls;
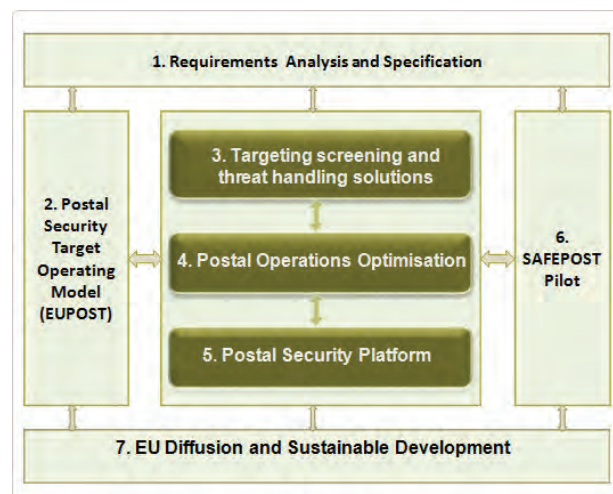
· New ways of exchanging information between all relevant stakeholders, particularly authorities, to enable them to employ responsible co-operative strategies for dealing with threats.

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THE PROJECT

SAFEPOST, 'Reuse and development of Security Knowledge assets for International Postal supply chains', is a four year and four months Integration project (April 2012 – July 2016) addressing the FP7-SEC-2011.2.4- 1 International Postal Supply Chains. The project started on the 1st April 2012.

SAFEPOST has provided a highly innovative solution for postal security to:

· Assist stakeholders involved in postal services to achieve enhanced security without cost penalties;

· Facilitate the sustainable development of increasing level of postal security across Europe.

After making an inventory of security gaps starting from the perspective of the partner postal operations, the project has developed generic postal security models which have been integrated into a Postal Security Target Operating Model.

This enabled postal operators, customs and other relevant actors to understand how to securely exchange information related not only to security but also to the optimisation of postal flows.

To support the implementation of the Postal Security Target Operating Model, a Postal Security Platform has been developed which supported specifically work package 3 & 4 and provided a 'Common Postal Security Space' with a view to create in the future a European/World Postal Security standard information sharing system.

OBJECTIVES

The specific implementation objectives have been to:

1. Undertake requirement analysis to identify common

Gaps in representative postal operations, where the security control measures do not match the threat probabilities and consequences. Augment the gap analysis with stakeholder requirements analysis to guide a detailed project specification for project developments. The specification should clarify the expected contribution of each development to postal security Key Performance Indicators (which will be derived from the stakeholder requirements).

2. Produce a Postal Security Target Operating Model representing a generic model for future secure and efficient postal operations;

3. Develop targeting, screening and threat handling solutions for postal operators;

4. Develop postal operations optimisation services to compensate for time lost in screening;

5. Develop a Postal Security Platform utilising existing technologies in order to provide the physical integration of the above and to support interoperability between the different postal security stakeholder groups;

6. Organise a Postal Security pilot involving distributed demonstrators across Europe and providing facilities for linking the members of PostEurop;

7. Provide a focused programme to facilitate the diffusion of project outputs across European member states and create a solid basis for sustainable developments.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND DISSEMINATION
The SAFEPOST Project is well on its progress with several events linked to the dissemination plan and official meetings. The SAFEPOST project consortium coordinator participated at the InPoSec Project Demonstration meeting took place in Germany at the DHL innovation Center on 6th May 2015. The event gathered more than 60 participants from industry and research. The audience followed the delivery process of several parcels along the postal supply chain. A live demonstration of detection technologies followed. The day ended with a panel discussion to wrap-up the project and provided an opportunity for debate and discussions.

SAFEPOST Project was presented during the 5th Customs Detection Technology Experts group meeting organized by the European Commission DG TAXUD on 12th and 13th May 2015 in Riga, Latvia at Latvia Customs Headquarters. The scope of the SAFEPOST Project presentation was to disseminate the Project and its results achieved until now. The presentation had very positive and constructive feedback/remarks from the Customs experts who expressed high interest in the Project progress and its achievements.

The NEN workshop on Security Standards Mapping linked to the SAFEPOST Project was held on 19th

May 2015 in Reykjavik, Iceland. The main objective of the workshop was to gather the involved consortium partners in order to have a business plan approved and the next steps in regard to the Security standards mapping exercise. The SAFEPOST Project Board meeting was also held in Reykjavik, Iceland on 21st May 2015 to organize the upcoming important events of the Project as well as to make a concrete point on the current state of play.

On 9th July and 3rd September 2015 the SAFEPOST Project Partners Forum Meetings were held in order to discuss the important matters related to the SAFEPOST Project deliverables submission to the European Commission as well as the planning linked to the Demonstration meetings.

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The Project and it's so far acquired results have been presented during several events as indicated below in order to maximize the dissemination activities and showcase its achievements:

· SAFEPOST was presented during the POSTEXPO Innovation Conference held from 29th September to 1st October 2015 which gathered thousands of stakeholders and postal experts from all over the world.

· SAFEPOST Project was presented during the 8th "European Conference on ICT for Transport Logistics" (ECITL) held from 5th to 7th October 2015 in Bordeaux, France.

· SAFEPOST Project was presented at the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Postal Security Group meeting held on 26th October 2015 in Bern, Switzerland at UPU Headquarters.

· SAFEPOST Project was presented during the 5th World Customs Organization Technology Innovation Forum took place at World Trade Center in Rotterdam, The Netherlands from 26th to 29th October 2015. The SAFEPOST Project was also exhibited and well disseminated with the presence of dedicated SAFEPOST Project booth at the Forum to a large audience and customs experts from all over the world.

· SAFEPOST Project was presented during the PostEurop Quality of Service and Operations WG meeting held on 11th November 2015 in Bucharest, Romania.

· SAFEPOST Project was presented during the 7th Synthetic Drugs Enforcement Conference (SYNDEC 7) held from 17th to 19th November 2015 in Nunspeet, The Netherlands where the SAFEPOST Project contribution to the conference had been highly appreciated by the participants.
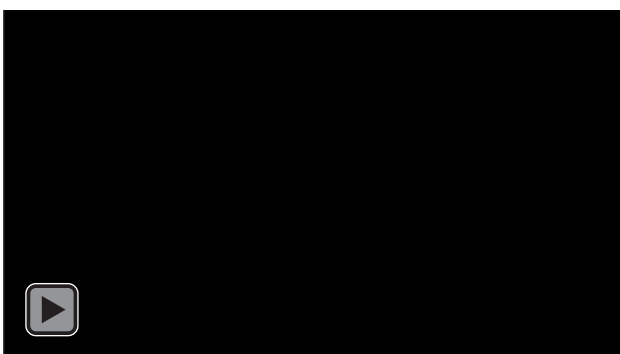
On 12th November 2015 the SAFEPOST Project Postal Security Forum Meeting was held in Bucharest Romania. The general framework of this Forum was to have the participation of all Postal Security Supply Chain Stakeholders such as UPU; International Post Corporation (IPC); CEN/TC 331 Postal services; InPoSec project representatives and so on. To have a platform in order to present and discuss about Postal Security Technical Challenges, Postal Security latest technical developments and technical security projects in their respective organizations. The Forum also provided an opportunity where PostEurop Members involved in the SAFEPOST Project Consortium as well as PostEurop Members involved in the PostEurop SAFEPOST Working Group had fruitful debate on the Postal Security existing technical Standards matters. The debate was animated on the presentations presented by UPU; CEN/TC 331 Postal services; InPoSec project on Postal Security existing technical Security Standards.

Seeing the high level significance of the SAFEPOST project, at the EU level supply chain stakeholders, the exploitation plan and dissemination phase will be conducted in cooperation with UPU, specifically with UPU Restricted Unions (for example: AICEP – International Association of Portuguese-Speaking Communications, APPC – Arab Permanent Postal Commission, APPU – Asian Pacific Postal Union, APU – African Postal Union, BPU – Baltic Postal Union, CEPT – European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations, COPTAC – Conference of Posts and Telecommunications of Central Africa, CPU – Caribbean Postal Union, CRASA – Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa, PUMed – The Postal Union for the Mediterranean, NPU – Nordic Postal Union, PAPU – Pan-African Postal Union, PUASP – Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal, RCC – Regional Commonwealth for Communications, SAPOA – Southern Africa Postal Operators Association, WAPCO – West African

Postal Conference) in order to involve the world wide level security supply chain stakeholders.

One of the main objective of the dissemination meetings will be to spread the results and outputs of the SAFEPOST Project to wider audience at world level where the SAFEPOST Project extended demonstration meetings will take place in South America such as Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and so on.

DEMONSTRATION MEETINGS
One of the most important events in relation to the SAFEPOST Project is the live Demonstration meetings. The first live Demonstration meeting took place in Iceland, Reykjavik on 20th May 2015 to analyze deeply the process of postal items flow through D-Tube and find the room for improvements.

The second live Demonstration meeting was held in Correos sorting center on 11th June 2015 in Zaragoza, Spain with the high level participation, in total 70 participants, from European Commission DG Home Affairs, DG TAXUD, PostEurop members, external supply chain stakeholder, Customs Authorities and SAFEPOST Project Consortium partners. The live demonstration of the SAFEPOST Project illustrated the improvements made since the first Demonstration took place in Iceland.

The third live Hellenic Post Demonstration meeting took place in Athens, Greece with high-level participation of PostEurop Members, Customs Authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies, UPU and several stakeholders – in total 90 participants.

EXPECTED RESULTS
SAFEPOST will provide and showcase a novel solution for postal security combining:

- Security performance enhancing solutions for postal operators;

- Postal operations efficiency improvements to compensate for time lost in screening;

- EU coverage to raise level of postal security across all member states;

- A Postal Security Platform facilitating interoperability and integration of solutions across all domains.

The results of the SAFEPOST project will have a strategic impact as it is designed to make a significant contribution in the following areas:

- Improving the EU's awareness and coordination of activities within and between EU Member States in the field of Postal Security and developments in Supply Chain Security;

- Linking EU projects from DG MOVE, DG TAXUD, DG JLS, DG ENTR or DG JRC11 and national efforts, to exploit synergies and created a coordinated approach to security throughout the entire supply chain;

- Encouraging all European post offices and related authorities to assume responsibility in securing their own processes within a European wide cooperative distributed model;

- Creating transparency on the way postal security measures are enforced, and providing benchmarks.

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· Facilitate the sustainable development of increasing level of postal security across Europe

Contact us