Inspiring CitizeNS Participation for Enhanced Community PoliCing AcTions

Press Release

INSPEC^{2}T completes its first test case

The first INSPEC^{2}T test took place in **Belfast**, Northern Ireland. The test case was led by Ulster University in collaboration with the PSNI and local resident groups within the Holylands area of the city. The Holylands area was chosen as it has the largest volume of the student population in Belfast, who reside alongside permanent residents.

The test case was conducted **24-26th April 2017** inclusive and involved more than 60 participants including senior and community level police officers from PSNI South Belfast District, Holyland's residents (permanent and students) as well as statutory bodies including Belfast City Council and the Department for Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DEERA).

The test case was made up of:

- **Day one**, which comprised onsite training to ensure that Citizen and LEA users were familiar with the objectives and parameters of the test case as well as being operationally competent on all aspects of the INSPEC^{2}T system.
- **Days two and three**, which comprised 'live' testing of the INSPEC^{2}T system within the Holylands area of the city.

With the help of PSNI approved actors a number of crimes were re-enacted across the Holylands area over the course of the two days. Incidents included drug dealing, burglary, theft, illegal dumping. Residents were also asked to provide information leading to the whereabouts of a missing person. Students and residents living in the area who had been trained on the INSPEC^{2}T system were briefed during the onsite training that actors would be deployed in the Holylands area over the course of the next two days but crucially they were unaware of the nature of the crimes being role played or the time/location of the incidents. Residents were encouraged to go about their normal daily routines on days two and three of the test but in the event that they witnessed a crime or incident within their locale they were to use the INSPEC^{2}T App to report it.

The five scenarios played out within the Belfast served to test all functions and features of the INSPEC^{2}T system and culminated in a series of 'staged' arrests. Importantly, the facilitation of these arrests were wholly dependent upon officers being provided the necessary information via the INSPEC^{2}T system – as

the community police officers were wholly depend upon the INSPEC^{2}T system to inform their deployment over the course of the two days.

Whilst some initial technical issues were apparent over the course of the on-site training, these issues were quickly resolved. The INSPEC^{2}T system proved to be technically robust over the course of the live exercises with feedback from citizens and PSNI officers being highly positive on the potential of the INSPEC^{2}T concept.

As expected, the first test case yielded a number of important lessons and the consortium look forward to implementing lessons learnt in further versions of the technology. Specifically, a number of suggestions were offered by PSNI officers to improve the system from an operational context including improving the level of information provided on the mapping display, enhancing the automated correlation capacity between reported incidents which presently places to high a weighting on spatial proximity. A number of suggestions were also put forward in terms of the user interface and how this might be made more operator friendly. These suggestions will serve to enhance the deployment capacity of the system going forward.

The Business Intelligence features of INSPEC^{2}T were also highlighted as a strength in that they could serve to improve collaboration between statutory bodies, enhance transparency around the volume and true nature of crime within a designated spatial context which in turn could provide an evidence base for informing resource allocations.

Figure 1: An LEA using INSPEC^{2}T

Further information on the INSPEC^{2}T project and the test cases can be found on our webpage and subscribe to our mailing list.