

WHY ASSERT?

- Security research has been *driven by technological concepts*. Not falling prey to attack is seen as *the* positive societal impact.
- Security should be conceived of in a more comprehensive way, including strengthening of *social bonds, social resilience and preventive measures* using social policy tools. As opposed to a concept of security based on technological solutions, the intended *societal impact itself* produces the security gain.
- Currently, researchers operating in a technology-centered framework often do not understand why they should *take into account "societal dimensions"* when designing their research plans, *suspecting hindrances rather than opportunities* opened up by social impact assessments – strengthening the link between developers and users.

OBJECTIVES

ASSERT will *design sustainable tools and strategies* which can be utilised to assess and mainstream the societal impact of EU security research, including:

- Analyse *good practices* of existing approaches to societal impact assessment and *validate their usability* in cooperation with experts.
- Develop a *Masterclass* for experts and evaluators to create and *strengthen awareness* for societal impacts of security research.
- To date, there is no *online tool* available to assess societal impact of security research. ASSERT will develop such a tool and demonstrate the added value of considering societal impact.

STAKEHOLDERS & RESEARCH PHASES: LOCI OF INTERVENTION

	NEGOTIATING RESEARCH	DEFINING RESEARCH QUESTIONS	EVALUATING RESEARCH PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES	IMPLEMENTING RESEARCH PROEJCTS	IMPLEMENTING RESEARCH FINDINGS	EVALUATING RESEARCH
DIRECT CONSEQUENCES OF SIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretation of what kind of research is needed and desired Agenda setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open new ways of thinking Strategic objectives of research programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flag down projects requiring a SIA process, because the societal impact is unclear or not desirable Flag down projects promising a desirable societal impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that SIA has an effect on decision making and planning in ongoing research projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that SIA has an effect on the use of research results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the societal impact of research is mainstreamed
STAKEHOLDERS IN SIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academics Funders Industry Civil society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funders Industry End-users Civil society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional reviewers Researchers Funders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry Researchers End-users Consortia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End-users Researchers Civil society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers Funders Contractors
PROCEDURES, TOOLS & METHODS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal process, e.g. move from one area to related areas (from biometrics to surveillance technologies) Define requirements for projects Using the discursive arena of "societal dimensions" Responding to current events Design open or closed programs Mapping interests and actors Guarantee societal values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with broad range of stakeholders Internal process, e.g. re-using intellectual property Priority setting & reduction of complexity Comply with requirements Advisory boards Individual involvement in negotiation process Incremental innovation Definition according to end-user needs Governmental agenda setting Institutional mechanisms mediating society and R&D Redress procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check requirement compliance Deal with closure when assessing social impact caused by research topic definition SIA tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory social science perspective: use established research standards (potential to raise societal issues in the R&D process) Ethics boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect how sustainable & resilient mechanisms for SIA can be created 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop capacities for broad stakeholder involvement Define what it is beyond the law that should be complied with

CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Further reflection on enhanced roles for SIA to *strengthen the EU's security industrial policy*.
- Think about ways to ensure that *civil society representatives*, and those affected by security technologies, bear more weight at the stage of developing research funding agendas.
- Develop metrics and criteria to assess when a particular proposed research project *should require* a fully fledged SIA.
- Keep in mind that we need a *process that is practical*, does not take too much time, and does not cost too much.