



ISFP-2020-AG-PROTECT- Project Number: 101034232

**CENTER OF ECUMENICAL MISSIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
METROPOLITAN PANTELEIMON PAPAGEORGIU**

Thessaloniki, 21/8/2021

Dear all,

As stated in the CEMES General Assembly of 2021 (May 2021) the English-speaking project, titled "PROSECUW" funded by the EU, has officially started. It is a difficult, but worthy, project that requires a collective effort by the members of CEMES that are willing to participate and who are requested to express by the end of August their interest to co-operate. It requires deliverable (c.15 pages) reports every month, according to the project's timeline.

Its summary is as follows:

""Places of worship around Europe and the world are, according to a recent report, in increased danger in the last years due to terrorist attacks and augmentation of hate crimes. These places serve not only individuals but also families and people in need. Thus, it is essential they be able to feel safe in such places and this should be a top priority among local and national stakeholders. One of the various ways to improve protection and security in places of worship is the engagement of the community in the protection efforts.

The main objective of the project is to establish cooperation between public authorities and faith-based leaders and congregations aiming at a better understanding of, security threats, promotion of awareness-raising activities, and the creation of manuals for sharing best practices and relevant tools among EU stakeholders.

The activities and deliverables of the project will include, first of all, a documentary that will include digital storytelling from people who have experienced hate crimes and terror in places of worship. This way, hopefully, others will feel safer sharing their stories and report such crimes. The documentary will be included in other training activities based on training modules that would enhance understating



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of the safety concerns and cooperation for their resolution. Furthermore, a best practices guide and policy recommendations based on these training activities will be set to be shared EU-wide. Last but not least, various awareness-raising activities will be shared internationally in order to inform the religious communities about the protection plans.

The PROSECUW project in the short and medium-term will benefit religious leaders and law enforcement agents through the training sessions and exchange of a best practices guide internationally and in the long term, it aims to increase the protection of thousands of congregants in Europe. The implementation of the proposed project will lead to strengthened protection measures"

If you did any work in a similar field and you are willing to participate, you are requested to express your interest and send a short cv to cemesprojects@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Dr. Nikolaos Dimitriadis

General Secretary of CEMES

Project Manager of PROSECUW for CEMES



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