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SOTERIA completes first round of demonstrations to advance road safety for vulnerable road users

Seven months ago, the SOTERIA project reached an important milestone; it was our two-year birthday. Why is it important? It is a milestone associated with the launch of the **first round of demonstrations across four Living Labs in Germany, Greece, Spain and the United Kingdom**. These demonstrations mark a significant milestone in the project's mission to develop and validate innovative road safety solutions in real-world urban environments.

These demonstrations of the work carried out since the kickoff of the project back in November 2022 target key challenges in Vulnerable Road User (VRU) road safety; Pedestrians, cyclists, children and elderly face heightened risks due to limited physical protection, inconsistent infrastructure, and a lack of real-time safety information. Addressing these challenges, the SOTERIA partners develop innovative, data-driven solutions that can adapt to the dynamic nature of urban environments.

framework of road safety solutions



Seven pioneering solutions were tested, targeting key challenges in urban mobility and also evaluated in collaboration with local authorities and end-users, including schoolchildren, courier drivers and cyclists. The demonstrations provided critical insights into the usability, technical performance, and societal impact of the solutions.

“The first round of demonstrations has validated the potential of SOTERIA’s innovations to make a tangible difference in urban road safety,” noted Maria Pohle, Lead Researcher from Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V., responsible for the Living Lab covering the city of Munich and the Free State of Saxony in Germany.

“By engaging directly with end-users – ranging from schoolchildren to professional courier drivers and cyclists, as well as public authorities – we have been able to test SOTERIA solutions in real-world conditions and ensure that technologies being developed are practical, inclusive and ready to be scaled across European cities,” added Jeronimo Bueno from Nommon Solutions and Technologies S.L. leading the demonstrations.

What we learned from validating innovation

The first round of demonstrations across the SOTERIA Living Labs yielded encouraging results; One of the standout successes was the **Virtual Reality (VR)-based accident prevention** programme rolled out in schools in Saxony. The immersive format not only captured the attention of young participants, and educators alike, but improved their understanding of road safety principles.

In the realm of micromobility, the **sensor-based hazard detection** solutions proved both accurate and responsive. These tools effectively identify infrastructure risks, such as uneven surfaces and sudden braking events, offering valuable data for micromobility users and city planners. Similarly, the **REBO smart camera**, designed to capture near-miss incidents, generated interest among participants, who appreciated its potential to prevent unreported safety threats.

Public authorities also expressed enthusiasm for the **accident data visualisation and monitoring** tools. These platforms enable a clearer understanding of traffic patterns and VRU behaviour, supporting informed decision-making and targeted interventions. The integration of **novel data sources**, including crowdsourced feedback and mobile phone data, further enriched the project’s analytical capabilities, offering a more comprehensive view of urban mobility challenges.

The insights gained from the first phase of demonstrations directly inform the refinement of tools and development of more robust, user-friendly and impactful solutions for the second round of demonstrations scheduled for later this year.

SOTERIA’s journey toward safer and smarter urban mobility is moving forward – **stay connected for what's next!**

For additional information contact us!

Marina Georgiou

Project Manager

marina.georgiou@netcompany.com

Dariya Rublova

Communication & Dissemination Manager

dariya.rublova@netcompany.com



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UK Research
and Innovation



info@soteriaproject.eu



www.soteriaproject.eu

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