

# PROTONE PROJECT



PROTECT THE PLACES OF WORSHIP  
**HARMONISING**  
DIVERSITY



Co-funded by  
the European Union



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# ABOUT PROTONE

Protone aims to increase the **security** posture of the **places of worship** in Europe through cooperation between different faith-based organisations.

PROTONE has been proposed in the context of the growing need for greater guarantees of **protection** of public spaces, in particular **places of worship**, due to the increasing wave of terrorist attacks and intolerant acts on European soil. The consortium is composed of **8 organisations** from Southern Europe (Italy and Spain), Western Europe (Belgium and the Netherlands) and Central Europe (Germany).

The project is based on **cooperation between different faith-based organisations from three Abrahamic religions**, with the aim of overcoming the differences between their respective security cultures and improving their ability to address security threats through a coordinated response.



# GOALS

## The general objectives of PROTONE are:

- To strengthen the protection of places of worship.
- To foster multi-faith cooperation in security programs for places of worship.



## Specific objectives include:

- Creation of cooperation networks.
- Acquisition of knowledge and identification of vulnerabilities.
- Capacity building.
- Awareness raising.
- Improving visibility and dissemination of good practices and findings.



# OUR PARTNERS

## Intercultural Dialogue Platform



Intercultural Dialogue Platform (IDP) is a Brussels based non-profit civil society organisation, aiming at mutual understanding and harmonious interaction among people of different cultural backgrounds. Dialogue Platform, moreover, fosters debate and analysis on various issues concerning a peaceful and respectful coexistence in European societies. Thus, it aims to make practical contributions to the decision-making processes on relevant developments and issues impacting community relations in Europe.

## University of Leiden



Universiteit Leiden

Leiden University was founded in 1575 and is one of the leading international research universities in Europe. The University has seven faculties and a campus in both Leiden and The Hague.

## Arco Forum



ARCO FORUM is a Spanish non-profit organisation whose aim is to promote cooperation, tolerance, respect and intercultural and interreligious development through the establishment of genuine channels of communication and understanding with different cultures. Following this main objective, the association seeks to promote peace in the world and to contribute to a peaceful coexistence between different cultures, ethnicities, religions and races.

## Religions for Peace



Religions for Peace is an international coalition of representatives from the world's religions dedicated to promoting peace founded in 1970. The International Secretariat headquarters is in New York City, with regional conferences in Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa and the Americas.

## Fedactio



Fedactio (Federation of Active Associations in Belgium) is an umbrella organisation, with active member associations across the whole of Belgium. Together we want to encourage all citizens to actively participate in society and we strive, amongst others, for a more democratic and inclusive society

## House of One



The House of One is the product of a grassroots group of three religious communities. The initial idea came from the protestant church community St. Petri-St. Marien which then joined forces with the Jewish community of Berlin, together with the rabbinical seminary Abraham-Geiger-Kolleg, and the Muslim initiative for dialogue Forum Dialog e.V...

## Istituto Tevere



Istituto Tevere is a dialogue centre, founded in Rome in 2007 to promote dialogue, intercultural and interreligious studies, and to create opportunities for people with different cultural and religious backgrounds of all philosophical persuasions to meet. Istituto Tevere also conducts research in various areas of relevant interest, such as human rights, democracy, religious pluralism and multiculturalism.

## Stiftung Dialog Und Bildung



The Dialogue and Education Foundation is a foundation which provides impulses for strengthening intercultural dialogue and for new educational concepts in Germany that are geared towards social participation. The aim is to enter into dialogue with representatives from society, politics and business.



# APPROACH, METHODOLOGY & TARGET GROUP

1

The project adopts a **holistic and comprehensive approach** that requires taking into account all the different aspects related to the buildings and communities to be protected, including a **pluralistic definition** of threats that should be extended to non violent and non-terrorist acts as well, including verbal assaults, vandalism, burglary and arson.

2

At the **methodological level**, the project is mainly based on **qualitative and ethnographic research**, which was considered the most appropriate to map the sources of threats in the vicinity of places of worship and to prepare an adequate response from religious communities. Furthermore, the methodology is **enriched by the integration of the Vulnerability Assessment Model**, which allows faith-based organisations to detect vulnerabilities of places of worship that expose them to external attacks.

3

The **target group** is **multi-layered** and consists of **Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities, religious leaders, operators, volunteers and heads of places of worship, visitors and finally the general public** in the communication and dissemination phase. The consortium is composed of 8 organisations from Southern Europe (Italy and Spain), Western Europe (Belgium and the Netherlands) and Central Europe (Germany).



# ADVISORY BOARD



The **Advisory Board provides** the consortium with **practical knowledge of the project's strategic direction and the activities to be organised**. Experts from the partner organisations, institutional partners from multiple EU countries working on interfaith dialogue, **researchers** from different universities and **religious leaders** from the local community compose the Advisory Board.

The main roles of the Advisory Board are:

1. Facilitate our contact with the local religious communities.
2. Strengthen the project narratives and give them more visibility.
3. Formalise suggestions through bi-annual reports.
4. Collect and transfer the concerns of their communities and draw our attention to what they would like to see discussed and implemented in the field workshops.
5. Provide information on how people perceive the places of worship and their proximity.



# DISSEMINATION & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

## Dissemination and communication strategies include:

- **Panel discussions** between academicians, policymakers, faith leaders and CSOs' representatives.
- **Roundtables** between faith leaders, CSOs' representatives and young people.
- **Conferences** involving academicians, policymakers and faith leaders as main speakers.
- **Outreach events**, such as presentations in the schools and in facilities of other religious communities, will also be held in each of the participating countries, including the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Germany.



# CONTACT US

To connect with us, please [fill out this form](#).  
Our team will respond promptly.

## MAIL

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Co-funded by  
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Version 1.0  
11.10.2023

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