

WELCOME TO THE 6TH
CEASEFIRE PROJECT
NEWSLETTER!



CEASEFIRE

Introduction

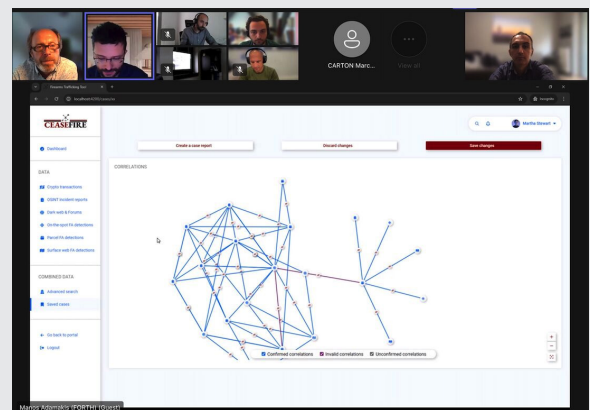
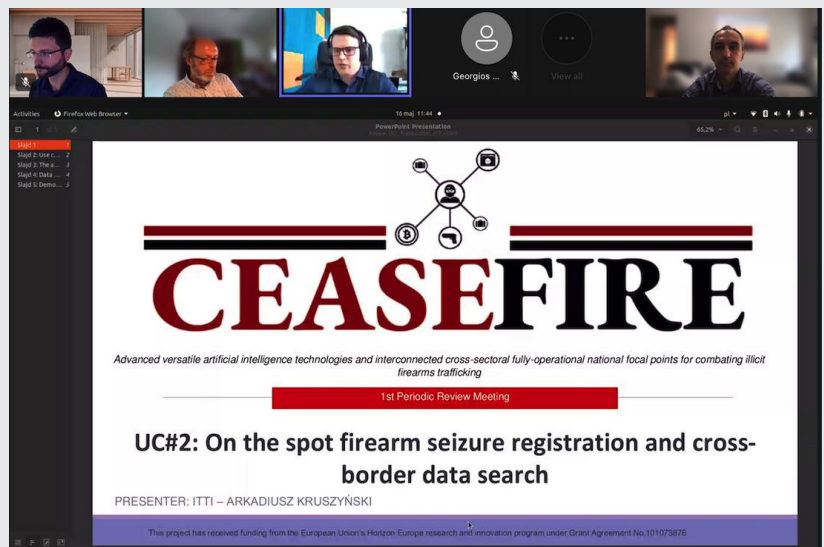
The EC-funded R&D project **Ceasefire**, a 3-year Horizon Europe Innovation Action launched in October 2022, has been designed to improve the crime-fighting ability of European nations using modern technology. It brings together 21 expert partners from across Europe, including industrial partners, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and research universities or institutions, while focusing on combatting *firearms trafficking*. Ceasefire is coordinated by the *Centre for Research and Technology – Hellas* (CERTH, Greece).

Among other activities, the project is building a system that hosts and interconnects various **digital tools**, based on state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Information & Communication Technologies (ICT). Developed to address the 5 Ceasefire use-cases, these tools aim to automate and streamline the work of LEA officers in the firearms trafficking domain.

Interim review

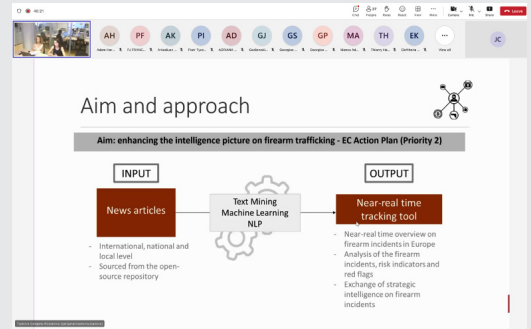
We're thrilled to announce that our project has reached a significant milestone! On **May 17, 2024**, we successfully completed our **interim review**, showcasing our research results across all 5 supported use-cases. The consortium members delivered live demos of the developed modules and integrated platform, earning excellent feedback from external reviewers and the EC-appointed project officer.

With this milestone achieved, we are now progressing towards the next phase of our project, which involves finalizing the technological developments and deploying them in real-world operational settings through pilot studies. This will enable us to further validate the effectiveness and feasibility of our solutions, and we look forward to sharing the outcomes with you in due course.



Meeting with EMPACT

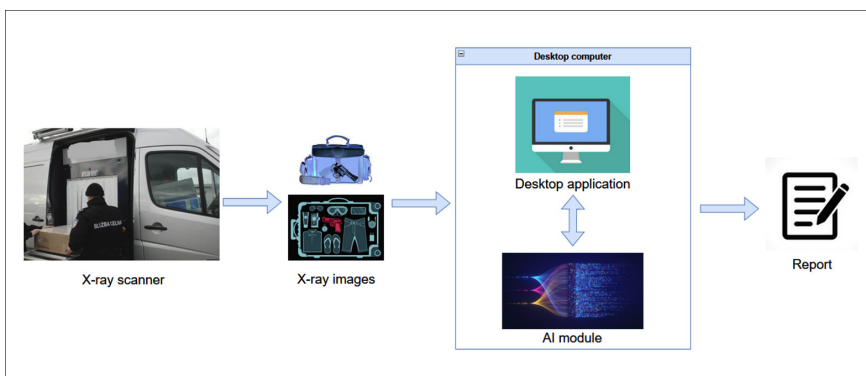
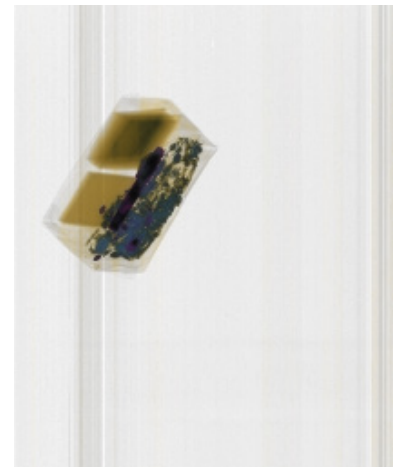
On **July 16, 2024**, we hosted a demo session with key stakeholders from **EMPACT-firearms policy cycle**. This was an excellent opportunity for our consortium members to showcase the project's progress and share their expertise. The live demos of all use-cases and the integrated platform were well-received, and we had productive discussions about ways to enhance the system's modules, as well as future steps and potential synergies that could benefit both parties.



Consolidating our X-ray dataset

As part of our mission to combat firearms trafficking, CEASEFIRE is working towards developing an AI-powered detector that can automatically identify firearms, components, and ammunition in mail orders and courier services. To achieve this, we've been collecting specific types of images from consortium partners as part of our project tasks.

During the recent months, significant progress has been made towards building a **robust dataset** for our AI-powered detector. Two batches of X-ray scans have been added to our **CFray** dataset, bringing the total number of images to 5855, with over 12,875 annotations. This extensive dataset was collected using a specific protocol designed to simulate real-world scenarios, ensuring that our detector is trained on accurate and relevant data.



Managing the CEASEFIRE effort

On **September 16-17, 2024**, the CEASEFIRE consortium held its **5th physical plenary meeting in Heraklion, Greece**, organized by the project partner FORTH (Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas).

The participants discussed the current progress, shared ideas, and planned for the future of the innovative CEASEFIRE system. A special highlight was our 3rd training workshop, where we dove deeper into our criminal event analysis suite. This hands-on session helped participants develop essential skills to tackle complex cases and improve their expertise.



Official YouTube channel launched

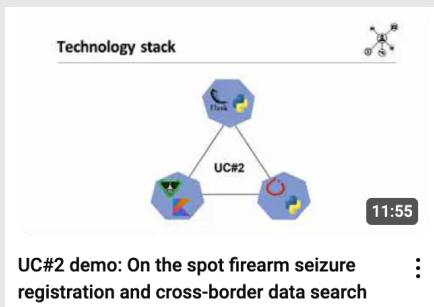
We're excited to announce that our **official YouTube channel is now live**, featuring video demos of all 5 use-cases developed as part of this project. These videos provide a unique behind-the-scenes look at the tools and technologies we've been working on, giving you a deeper understanding of our progress.

To get started, be sure to check out these **essential** videos:

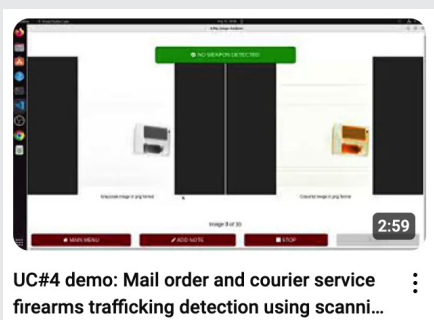
- Our [project presentation](#)



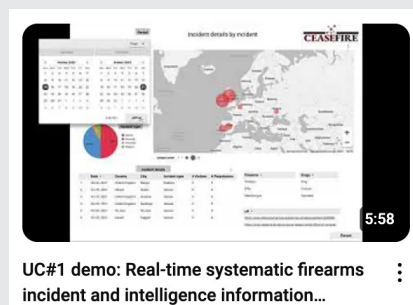
- [Demo of Use-case #2](#)



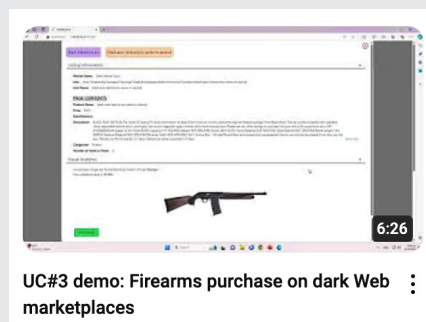
- [Demo of Use-case #4](#)



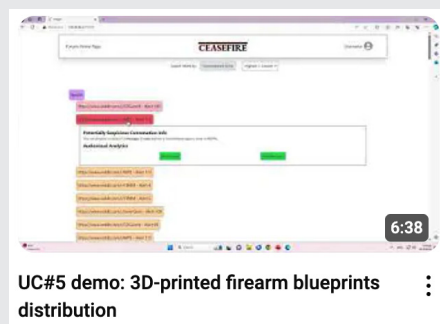
- [Demo of Use-case #1](#)



- [Demo of Use-case #3](#)



- [Demo of Use-case #5](#)



The future

An initial version of the Ceasefire system, including the majority of its digital tools, has already been implemented and successfully demonstrated to the LEA users that participate in the consortium. During the remainder of the project's lifetime, deepening the integration of the system components and incorporating technical improvements will proceed hand-in-hand with complementary project activities, such as end-user training, policy recommendations drafting, legal/ethical monitoring, societal impact analysis, innovation management, results exploitation planning, coordination with external stakeholders, and pilot studies.

Ceasefire links

The CEASEFIRE dissemination channels will host regular updates regarding the project:

CEASEFIRE Web site:

<https://ceasefire-project.eu/>

CEASEFIRE LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ceasefireproject/>

CEASEFIRE Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Ceasefire-Project/100089862614779/>

CEASEFIRE X/Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/CeasefireHE>

CEASEFIRE YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@CeasefireProject>

Any relevant stakeholder (LEAs, security-related EU/national/international bodies and initiatives, related EC-funded research projects, SMEs active in security products/services, etc.) are welcome to join the CEASEFIRE community, in order to receive regular updates, news and invitations from the wider security ecosystem!

You can subscribe easily at <https://ceasefire-project.eu/community/>. All personal information are kept internally within Ceasefire, adhering to the highest privacy standards.



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