Appendix 1: Participant Information Sheet

Research project title:
A critical evaluation of the risk indicators of criminal conduct involving CBRN and explosive materials
(Behavioural and observational analysis in crime detection and investigation)

Invitation
You are being invited to take part in this research project. Your security/police agency has been chosen because you and your colleagues have a unique insight into the Counter-terrorism and CBRN threats topics. Before you take part, it is important to ensure that you fully understand why the research is being undertaken and what is involved. Please take the time to read through the following information and ask any questions that you may have. Take time to decide if you would like to take part in this study.

Aim and methodology of the research:
To explore and analyse potential risk indicators of the crime involving CBRN and explosive material from previous cases or potential realistic scenarios that could serve as a functional practical tool in the detection of criminal activity.
After the study of publicly available documents and articles, there is a gap in the above field, as there is no available analysis of risk indicators detection methods in practical use by law enforcement agencies. Another shortcoming is the non-existent creation and regular updating of a list of verified risk indicators that could help prevent terrorist attacks or other crimes involving CBRN and explosive materials.
The research will investigate the risk indicators related to planning a terrorist act or other crime using CBRN and explosive material and risk indicators associated with suspicious behavior, appearance and use of suspicious items closely before the terrorist attack and during the criminal act.
The benefit of this research will consist in creating a list of possible risk indicators, which will then be verified by practitioners from law enforcement agencies. It will therefore be important to analyse the existing results of the survey on a selected sample of LEAs officers and fill the current gaps.

Place and time frame of the research:
The research will be conducted online. The questionnaire will be developed within the SIENA X IT Tool of ISEM Institute and the internet link with the password will be shared with relevant LEAs through the ISEMI network and Europol online platform.
The online questionnaire is time-saving and represents the anonymous way of getting a valid review of the developed list of risk indicators and categories.
There will not be personal data of participants collected. They will provide information only about their role within the police agency (investigator, operative, analyst, other) and the country of origin.
The participants will be involved in the research during the phase of collection of data via questionnaire. The expected time to fill in the questionnaire will be between 15 - 20 minutes.

What is expected from participants?
After the development of a specific questionnaire containing the categories of risk indicators and risk indicators with various details, the participants from Law Enforcement Agencies will be asked to fill in the questionnaire to get their opinion on proposed

categories and individual risk indicators, on relevancy and prioritisation of indicators in terms of importance according to their experience and knowledge.

The research methodology will consist of several steps:
1. Literature review (publicly and not publicly available),
2. Case studies review (Court decisions, CCTVs records, pictures from crime scenes, etc.),
3. Development of a specific questionnaire containing the categories of risk indicators and risk indicators with various details
4. Implementation of the specific survey in the community of practitioners from LEAs in various European countries where their opinion on proposed categories will be gathered according to their experience and knowledge, relevancy and prioritisation of indicators in terms of importance.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?
Participating Law enforcement agencies will receive the full report from the research including the list of indicators included in several categories, which may be used for further training and operational activities. At the same time, the research results can build the link between academic research and practitioners from Law Enforcement Agencies as was highlighted in certain letters of support.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?
There are no particular risks to the participants as they will take part in the research anonymously. However, if there will be any inconvenience related to sharing sensitive opinions on certain aspects of CBRN and explosive risk indicators, the participants will not be obliged to answer all questions in the questionnaire. For any question related to the sensitivity of data, the researcher will be at the disposal of his email or phone number stated at the end of this Participant information sheet.

Is participation obligatory?
This research is voluntary and that the participant can withdraw from the research at any time. Withdrawal from participation will be simple. After entering the questionnaire online and after reading the instructions and questions, the participant will be able simply to log out from the SIENA X without any special statement or explanation. There will be also the possibility to fill in the questionnaire only partially if certain questions will seem too sensitive to the respective participant.

How will my personal data be kept confidential?
All statistical data including the SIENA X log-in analytical data will be kept confidential and will be destroyed automatically after filling out the questionnaire. As the questionnaire will be anonymous, no personal data will be collected.

Payment for taking part in the research
Payment for taking part in the research is not foreseen. Participation is supposed to be voluntary with the aim to bring to this research the added value based on the personal experience and knowledge of participants.

Who has ethically reviewed the project?
Ethical permission has been sought and approved for this project and provided by the University of Essex, UK.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

The results of this research will be included in the Diploma Thesis of Dr Marian Kolencik, PhD. in the frame of his MSc Study at the University of Essex (Criminology and Criminal Psychology). They will be also shared with participating Law enforcement agencies for their use. Some of the results will be potentially published in security journals without any sensitive information related to detailed risk indicators.

Further information and contact details

Access to SIENA X will be granted via https://www.isemi.sk/en_GB/survey/
For any questions, please contact Mr Kolencik: kolencik@isemi.sk, phone: +421905483098

For any complaints, please contact: zapotocny@isemi.sk

Research supervisor: Dr. Hilary Miller: Hilary.Miller@online.essex.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.