How to organize Vulnerability Assessment?

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to get the access to reading materials.

Preamble

Religious sites are considered to be especially vulnerable to attacks due to their accessibility and the fact that there are usually limited security measures applied.

The ProSPeReS project is aimed at increasing the level of protection in places of worship by keeping the balance between security measures and preservation of the open nature of Places of Worship.

*"Better education is better prevention, protection and response
to various types of terrorist threats and incidents that may occur in religious places,
including attacks with chemical biological and radiological materials."*

"We are all actors in our own safety and that of others."

WARNING
This leaflet is not intended to replace the regulations in force. Its purpose is to provide practical advice. It creates no new legal obligations in the field of safety, nor the means implemented to deal with acts aimed at harming people.

Disclaimer

Please note that the ProSPeReS Vulnerability Assessment Tool Lite Version (VAT Lite) should not be used for major religious events. In this case, risk assessment professionals should carry out an official risk assessment.

Depending on the results, the users can also refer to the guidebooks with recommendations for security measures and actions produced by ProSPeReS, available at:

Explosives attack	Knife or sharp object attack	Firearms attack	Vehicle attack	CBRN attack

VAT Lite – guidelines

① **Print an online MAP** (e.g., google maps) or a site plan (A0 format works best with the provided stickers but other formats work as well) depicting the structures at your Place of Worship (PW) and it surroundings up to main access roads (see example on record template A). Next, print the stickers on page 6 of this document (not recommended if map is printed on A3 or smaller).

② **Divide the PW into three (3) zones**, using a permanent marker, to indicate 1) the building and its interior, 2) the immediate exterior and 3) the surrounding area (See record template A).

③ **Place the most relevant threat type stickers** (see legend for stickers) for each zone, or write types of threats on sticky notes and place them on the locations within the map where these threats might or have occurred. Try to place the threats on areas within the zone that usually have high concentration of people.

④ **Fill out record template B, the main site information and the checklist** based on the EU Quick Guide for the protection of Places of Worship.

⑤ **Proceed with Risk Analysis by filling out record template C**, using the risk matrix.

⑥ **Finish the VAT Lite** by filling out the risk level table per phase in record template C.

Example:

In order to assess the level of a religious site's protection, the site's operator decides to conduct a quick vulnerability assessment. This will allow the operator to identify whether or not, the site is protected (at least at a basic level) against threats such as vehicle ramming attacks. Following the previous step of the VAT Lite template, the site's operator will discuss with other competent staff members who are familiar with the operations, activities and facilities of the site, the consequences and likelihood of hypothetical attacks against the site.

At first, they will discuss the consequences of a speeding truck been driven into the site's courtyard where worshippers are gathered. If such an attack would occur and more than 100 people are present during the incident, casualties could be quite high. Therefore, in table 5, next to "vehicle attack" they will write down "HIGH" consequences. They will then consider the likelihood of the attack happening by considering important relevant risk factors (e.g., expression of hate against your religious community or similar incidents against other religious sites). In this example, there have been no signs of suspicious behavior, but they are aware of some tensions. They consider the likelihood of an attack to be "MEDIUM". The final step is to then multiply the Consequence and Likelihood using the provided Risk Matrix, in order to get a final Risk Score for the discussed attack. Looking at the Risk Matrix HIGH consequences x MEDIUM likelihood = HIGH risk level.

		Likelihood (Probability)				
		Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Consequences	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Low	Medium
	Low	Very Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	**High**	High
	High	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
	Very High	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High

VAT Lite – Record Template A

Divide the PW into three (3) zones.

To indicate 1) the building and its interior, 2) the immediate exterior and 3) the surrounding area.

Examples:

**Actual example
of VAT Lite Workshop**

Zone 1
INTERIOR (PW inside)

Zone 2
EXTERIOR (PW immediate
outside)

Zone 3
SURROUNDINGS (parking
lot, terrain surrounding PW)

VAT Lite – Record Template B

(4)

MAIN SITE INFORMATION	
Main site name / address	
Description, date & time of activity	
Whom to call in case of emergency	
Date of assessment	

	Checklist	Yes	No	N/A
ZONE 1	Are there access control measures for the visitors in place (e.g. x-ray machines, metal detector gates etc.)? **Difficulty: 2**			
	Are the main door and windows or main access point locked during closing hours? If the place of worship is open 24/7 please answer "NO" **Difficulty: 1**			
	Are there locking mechanisms, bars, or other materials (e.g. impact resistant window films or reinforced glass) installed on the windows to prevent break-ins or dangerous items thrown into the building? **Difficulty: 1**			
	Do you have a CCTV system installed for monitoring the areas within the building where people gather, or valuable items are kept? **Difficulty: 2**			
	Is there a security system with a silent alarm that is connected to the police or a private security provider? **Difficulty: 2**			
	Do you have a fire alarm in place? **Difficulty: 2**			
	Do you have signage in front of the place of worship indicating the existence of security measures inside the facility (e.g. CCTV or security officers warning)? **Difficulty: 1**			
	Does the main building have emergency exits? **Difficulty: 3**			
	Does your place of worship have a procedure for the staff to monitor parcels or items received at the place of worship? If you don't receive parcels at the place of worship please don't answer this question. **Difficulty: 3**			
	Do you have measures or a policy for unattended suspicious items at you place of worship? **Difficulty: 2**			
ZONE 2	Is the main gate locked during closing hours? If there is not a gate in place answer "NO". **Difficulty: 1**			
	Are there measures in place (e.g. Bollards, street furniture) preventing (speeding) cars from entering the area outside the main building where people gather? **Difficulty: 3**			
	If there is a parking lot at your place of worship, does it have access control measures for the cars entering it? If there is not a parking lot in this zone, don't answer this question **Difficulty: 2**			
	If there is a parking lot at your place of worship, does it have sufficient lighting? If there is not a parking lot in this zone, don't answer this question **Difficulty: 2**			
	If you have a CCTV (Closed Circuit Television; camera surveillance) capable of monitoring areas the areas outside the building where people gather? If you don't have a CCTV system in place don't answer this question **Difficulty: 2**			
	Do you have sufficient lighting in the area around the main building to eliminate dark areas and hiding spots? **Difficulty: 2**			
ZONE 3	If there is a parking lot adjacent your place of worship, does it have access control measures for the cars entering it? If there is not a parking lot in this zone, don't answer this question **Difficulty: 3**			
	If there is a parking lot adjacent your place of worship, does it have sufficient lighting? If there is not a parking lot in this zone, don't answer this question **Difficulty: 3**			
	Do you have sufficient lighting in the area to enhance monitoring and eliminate dark secluded areas? **Difficulty: 1**			
	Are there usually police officers patrolling the area around the site? **Difficulty: 3**			
	Are there any streets around the site that allow speeding vehicles to have direct access to the premises of your place of worship / areas of people gathering? **Difficulty: 2**			
	Is there usually a high number of parked vehicles around the place of worship (e.g. for bomb placement) **Difficulty: 1**			
GENERAL QUESTIONS	Are the staff members supporting the activities of the place of worship trained to carry out the emergency procedures? **Difficulty: 3**			
	Have you in the past conducted any type of emergency response trials to see how your facility staff will perform in a crisis situation? **Difficulty: 3**			
	Are there any designated evacuation routes? **Difficulty: 2**			
	Are the evacuation routes clear and unobstructed to facilitate an emergency evacuation / invacuation? **Difficulty: 1**			

POINTS: | | |

* The scores of the questions reflect the implementation complexity/difficulty of possible security measures.

VAT Lite – Record Template C

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Fill out 1 table per zone!

	Scenario per threat type	Consequence (very low, low, medium or high, very high)	Why?	Likelihood (very low, low, medium or high, very high)	Why?	C x L (risk level)
ZONE 1	Knife or sharp object attack					
	Firearms attack					
	Vehicle attack					
	Explosives attack (e.g. thrown inside building or installed in a car)					
	CBR attack					
ZONE 2	Knife or sharp object attack					
	Firearms attack					
	Vehicle attack					
	Explosives attack (e.g. thrown inside building or installed in a car)					
	CBR attack					
ZONE 3	Knife or sharp object attack					
	Firearms attack					
	Vehicle attack					
	Explosives attack (e.g., thrown inside building or installed in a car)					
	CBR attack					

Risk Matrix (Risk Analysis)

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Consequences	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Low	Medium
	Low	Very Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	High	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
	Very High	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High

VAT Lite – Record Template C

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Overall risk level

(Risk evaluation)

		THREAT TYPE				
		Knife or sharp object attack	Firearms attack	Vehicle attack	CBRN attack	Explosives attack
ZONE 1	Risk level					
	Action required?					
	Difficulty level for action					

ZONE 2	Risk level					
	Action required?					
	Difficulty level for action					

ZONE 3	Risk level					
	Action required?					
	Difficulty level for action					

VAT Lite – Legend for stickers

Firearms Attack (FAA)

e.g. small calibre pistol or semi/ fully
automatic riffle AK-47

Vehicle Ramming Attack

e.g., vehicle driven into large crowds

Explosives

e.g., carried / dumped / concealed
in objects or goods

Bladed Weapon Attack (BWA)

e.g., knives, machetes, other sharp
or blunt objects

CBR released or dispersed with explosives

e.g. threat object concealed in goods
or carried items-ex. teargas canister
(chemical), concealed in goods or carried
items (biological), threat object concealed
in goods or carried items (radiological)

Feelings of insecurity

ProSPeReS

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