Courtesy translation of Q&A from the interview:

1. **Zaštita: DroneWISE is a two-year project that started this June. How did the Croatian representatives find themselves in the mentioned diverse multi-national consortium?**

**Dr. Holger Nitsch:** The idea of the project appeared after successful counter UAV training that RiniGARD organised in Zagreb in June 2019. Based on this training, RiniGARD saw the need for such a product and decided to develop it in partnership with European partners. Both Croatian partners, RiniGARD and University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica add great value to the project with their expertise and their active engagement.  As DroneWISE is an international European project the consortium consists of members from Germany, Estonia, Greece, Bulgaria and Croatia.  All members of the consortium are working very well together and are proactive. Partners are working perfectly well together and share the same aim to bring the project forward.

1. **Zaštita: What is the role of RiniGARD and what is the role of University of the Applied Sciences Velika Gorica in the implementation of the project, ie what are the roles of other members of the Consortium?**

**Dr. Holger Nitsch:** Both have various roles in the project. RiniGARD is responsible on the research on the state of the art for drone technology and countering drone technology and also for the development of the Training platform. Furthermore, RiniGARD will take the lead on all dissemination and exploitation activities for the DroneWISE project. The University Applied Sciences Velika Gorica is mainly responsible for the analysis of terrorist threats with unmanned flying vehicles (UAVs) to public spaces and for the evaluation of the training developed in the project. I have to say that these activities are supported by all partners as well as both Croatian entities are also supporting all other activities of the project very actively.

All the work among all partners is really carried out very proactively and shared among partners.

Our role as the research Centre of the Bavarian Police university is to coordinate all activities and support all work packages to reach the aims of the project.  The design of the training will also be created mainly by us.

SAHER is supporting the coordinator and was also strongly involved in the collection of use cases as the basis of our research. Furthermore, they are creating the framework for the training to be developed.

Our Greek partners KEMEA are mainly responsible for the development of the findings for the train the trainer programme.

The European institute from Bulgaria will develop the counter UAV command, control and coordination strategy.

But again, all partners are supporting all different steps of the project very proactively and are involved in all different steps of the project.

1. **Zaštita: Purpose and goals were stated after the project started. But what concrete effects on public space security will DroneWISE have after May 2022 when the project ends?**

**Dr. Holger Nitsch:** The effects of DroneWISE will be evolving mainly after the end of the project. The training developed will be rolled out and used by first responders mainly after the project and can be adopted to national needs of the first responders and the needs of the different members states. Also the engagement of the European Union on countering drones plays a role for the development of the project. It aims goals and results are able to influence the policy making process and different strategies in countering drones on metropolitan, regional, national and international level. Also, due to the fact that the dissemination process of DroneWISE is already ongoing, there is also a lot of input to the research of the project from entities outside of the project and from other research projects that have the same or similar scope as DroneWISE. Due to the risk assessment procedures the safety and security for public spaces can be better adjusted to the current threats and is taken technological development into consideration. This rise in the security of public spaces will also take privacy rights of the citizens into account.

1. **Zaštita: Can DronWISE influence changes in European drone usage regulations and regulations connected to protection of public spaces?**

**Dr. Holger Nitsch:** To predict the future influence of the results of a project to European regulations is usually hard to foresee, especially if we consider the speed of technological development and the timeframe of a project. In our case this would be after 2021. But in the case of DroneWISE there is a high likeliness to influence the policy making process and European regulations due to the nature of the project and the ties among projects dealing with countering UAVs. Also, the European Commission and especially DG Home is looking for a strong exchange between projects and the units of the Commission / DG Home to gain the results that will influence the regulations of the Commission at a later stage. They are also proactively asking for the information from projects like DroneWISE.

1. **Zaštita: DroneWISE is divided into several key phases. What are the phases and how the set tasks are carried out?**

**Dr. Holger Nitsch:** Besides the purely management duties over the whole lifetime of the project, the first phase is a research phase, where we describe the current threat and state of the art e.g. from a technological perspective. Besides the threat analysis there is also a vulnerability assessment involved in this phase.

The next stage is the development of the counter-UAV strategy and the development of the Training. This is followed by the testing of the training and the evaluation of the training. Strategy will be included in the training modules.

Also over the full lifetime of the project there is a constant dissemination process and to pass information to partners, first responders and relevant stakeholder outside of the consortium.

As mentioned before all tasks are developed jointly among partners with a tight exchange and regular conferences. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the training could be also carried out virtual, but will mainly be on the pilot places like at the University of the Bavarian Police face to face meetings as some partners have the possibilities to get the local trainers and relevant stakeholders for the training to their premises and follow the high standards that he pandemic is demanding for such meetings.

1. **Zaštita: With the development of drone technology danger of using drones for terrorist purposes increases. What are the statistics regarding that in recent years, how many times have drones been used by terrorist groups in attacking people and public areas? Do you have such statistics at your disposal?**

**Dr. Holger Nitsch:** The answer to these questions depends on a couple of circumstances. Firstly, the definition of a terrorist act. Is spying with a drone already part of a terrorist act? Is the use of drones in public spaces flying deep or at high speed also considered to be a terrorist act? Our approach would be that there is a threat that these incidents might be terrorist acts and the reaction should be accordingly. So, statistics might not help to raise the security on public spaces as it is more a matter of threat level. In our use case analysis we did not include all incidents that are available and we did not reduce it to terrorist activities, but we were taking a focus on the use of UAVs for criminal activities that could be in connection with terrorist activities.  We were collecting various incidents to get a big variety in the modus operandi in the use of drones to gain information on the different possibilities for the terrorist use of drones feeding the risk assessment in a later stage. Drones were used on public spaces in Syria, Yemen and Saudi Arabia as well as in other places. Our aim was not to develop a statistic, but to look at the different use of UAVs in public spaces. As a project we would like to be prepared in the future and find an answer for a future threat as the UAV technology is fast developing to make public spaces safer in the future as a response to a growing threat. The retrospective look at the figures of the past do not necessarily reflect the threat of the future.

1. **Zaštita: Along with the development of drones is the development of counter drone technology. What technology can have the quickest response to such a threat?**

**Dr. Holger Nitsch:** As the question indicates, the technology of countering drones is as fast developing as the technology of drones. Therefore, it is not easy to predict in which direction the technology is developing, and which technology might be the most successful. That is, why DroneWISE is not solely concentrating on a single technology, but we are looking at all existing Counter-UAV technology. Actually a mix of different technologies will be the most effective to protect public spaces as the single Counter-UAV technologies have their gaps depending on the type of drones and it is also depending on the area e.g. houses, electricity cables, sensitive infrastructure, hills, small roads, big streets, density of the crowd (stadiums, open air rock concerts) and so on. Integrated systems that include different technologies and that create low false negatives and low false positives would be the most effective systems. As the decision process must be quick, the detection process has to be automated. It always must be taken into account that there might be legal limitations in the use of countermeasures or could be dangerous for the public and currently all neutralisation systems have disadvantages.