



# INNOVATION SNAPSHOTS

Volume 2 Issue 2 March 2022

## WEB PLATFORM FOR RECOVERING STOLEN OBJECTS IN BUENOS AIRES

In January 2022, the department of the Policía de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (Police of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires) in Argentina has launched a web platform for the recovery of stolen objects. The initiative is part of the 'Justicia Restaurativa y Reparación del Daño' (Restorative Justice and Damage Reparation) plan of the Argentine Ministry of Justice and Security. Through the platform and the use of three simple steps, citizens will be able to report and retrieve their stolen items.

In the first step, citizens will be able to access the platform ([recuperos.policiaelaciudad.gob.ar](https://recuperos.policiaelaciudad.gob.ar)), choose from three possible categories (bicycles, mobile phones, or electronic items), and indicate the item's details and characteristics through the use of filters. The second step will allow them to access the database for objects retrieved during operations of the Policía de la Ciudad, which are suitable for being returned to their owners. Once the stolen object has been identified by the applicant, through the third step, it will be possible to fill in a form with personal data, contact information, invoices and previous complaints to certify the ownership of the item. Once the given information has been validated by the Ministry of Security and Justice, the object retrieval date and further information will be coordinated by email.

As an ultimate goal, the platform hopes to be a method of encouraging collaboration between citizens and local police, while working to increase the efficiency in returning stolen items to their legitimate owners.

For details on this initiative visit: <https://www.policiaelaciudad.gob.ar/?q=content/se-lanz%C3%B3-una-plataforma-web-para-recuperar-objetos-robados>

## DID YOU KNOW?

The United States Department of Homeland Security is testing the use of robot dogs for border security along the US-Mexico border, paving the way for a new approach to border protection and patrolling.

## RESPONDING TO VEHICLE CRIME IN BRAZIL

The Secretariat of Public Security and Social Defence in Ceará, Brazil, uses Agilis, a disruptive technology and automated system capable of integrating numerous databases. Living up to its name, Agilis serves as a strong and agile ally in the identification of motor vehicles that have been used in criminal practices or are linked to any person in conflict with the law.

This tool is based on intelligence, investigation, and policing, and improves modern techniques such as artificial intelligence, big data, and geoprocessing. Police officers can access the monitoring of vehicles that are identified in real time by the system. This detection occurs thanks to sensors scattered throughout the territories of public security interest. Agilis currently reads five million acknowledgements every day. At peak hours, the technology can simultaneously read up to 300 license plates per second.

Agilis also has a map display capable of showing the circulation of a vehicle in an occurrence and for a specific period as desired by the operator, by means of the so-called 'heat map'. Moreover, Agilis allows a quick response to crimes due to the sending of information to the operators of the Integrated Coordination of Security Operations (Ciops), who pass on the data of vehicle thefts and robberies, besides other crimes, to the police officers on the streets.

Read the full article by visiting the Innovation Pavilion on the [INTERPOL Global Knowledge Hub](#)



## FIGHTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN FRANCE USING VIRTUAL REALITY

The French Justice Ministry, in collaboration with the start-up Revert, recently launched an experiment using virtual reality to make domestic abuse perpetrators experience the point of view of victims.

The overall virtual immersion lasts 12 minutes, where participants are presented with different scenarios developed by domestic violence experts regarding daily life in a family environment. During this span of time, the users are called to cover different roles: the victim, the perpetrator, and a child who is witnessing the abuse.

Since the project is still at a trial stage, participants were called to participate on a voluntary basis. Around 30 volunteers chose to take part in the experiment, which has been running in three different prison services since October 2021. All participants were men, and according to the Justice Ministry, priority was given to perpetrators whose profiles are most likely to re-offend.

The theoretical concept of the proposal lies in studies regarding the correlation between low cognitive empathy and violence. The final aim of this 'empathy machine' is to help perpetrators understand what victims feel and think, and consequentially prevent them from offending again.

<https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210925-france-trials-virtual-reality-empathy-machine-on-domestic-violence-offenders-revert>



### INNOVATION CENTRE EVENTS

YOUNG GLOBAL  
POLICE LEADERS

13-17 MAR (Dubai, UAE)

INTERPOL-UNICRI  
AI TOLLKIT  
WORKING GROUP

23 MAR ICVR

APPLE/MAC  
FORENSICS

21/04 ICVR

For more information,  
please contact the  
INTERPOL Innovation Centre

[innovation@interpol.int](mailto:innovation@interpol.int)

### HOW TO ACCESS THE INTERPOL GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE HUB

If you are a law enforcement officer, please contact your INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) and refer to the INTERPOL Global Knowledge Hub Guidelines to request access to the platform.

## GERMANY AND NEUROTECHNOLOGICAL SECURITY: HOW TO MAKE THE BRAIN UNHACKABLE

Cyberagentur, a German federal agency which promotes research and pioneering innovation in the field of domestic and international cybersecurity and associated key technologies, developed a framework for security and privacy in neurotechnological applications.

Working under the hypothesis that Brain Computer Interfaces (BCI) are on the verge of becoming widely used consumer technology, it poses the question of how to ensure the privacy and integrity of BCI applications – or in other words, how to make sure that the brain will be (and remain) unhackable.

In previous decades, BCI has mainly been used and examined for clinical and research purposes but have seen an increasing technological maturity and accelerating speed of development within the recent months, striving for a broader variety of use-cases within the consumer market.

Cyberagentur's project, launched in February 2022, is scheduled to deliver a holistic theoretical framework that will subsequently be published and made available to the scientific community. It will combine and extend existing practices and standards, for example, responsible AI, processing of personal medical data or encryption protocols. It will also be used as a prerequisite for future research and innovation projects by Cyberagentur in the domain of human-machine interaction, contributing to the quest for secure digital societies.

For details on this project, please visit: Agentur für Innovation in der Cybersicherheit GmbH ([www.cyberagentur.de](http://www.cyberagentur.de))

## WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE: SMARTWATER FOR TACKLING VIOLENCE

The West Yorkshire Police in the United Kingdom have successfully deployed a new tool to prevent and identify perpetrators of domestic violence. SmartTag is a spray canister filled with SmartWater, a uniquely coded, forensic liquid only visible under UV light.

Used in the past to deter thieves by spraying the substance on items of high value, SmartWater has for the first time been used as evidence to convict a perpetrator of harassment and breach of a non-molestation order.

The perpetrator went to the victim's home and was sprayed with the SmartWater by the victim through a window. The substance, once sprayed, can remain on the skin for approximately six weeks and can last much longer on clothes. As each canister contains a uniquely formulated liquid, the perpetrator was forensically marked, and linked to the scene of the crime. He was jailed for 24 weeks and a two-year restraining order was put in place.

Over 200 women across the UK have been equipped with forensic deterrent kits containing the SmartWater which can be either sprayed manually, automatically with a trap that detects movement, or applied like a gel onto door handles and gates.

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/news-appeals/innovative-forensic-marking-initiative-used-harassment-investigation-wakefield>

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE METAVERSE

Horizon Venues, an invite-only virtual reality space designed for large events and concerts, was recently launched by Meta (formerly Facebook) on a trial basis as a first attempt to move real-life events to the virtual world.

Shortly after the launch, however, female users had already experienced and reported acts of sexual violence. One user described her experience as being traumatizing and surreal. Less than two minutes after joining the platform, a group of male avatars approached her avatar and proceeded to “virtually gang-rape” her. A spokesperson for Meta commented on the issue, stating that the user had not turned a safety feature on that would otherwise prohibit virtual physical interaction. This comment has led to discussions on the issue of digital victim-blaming.

This is only the beginning of a whole new era of virtual-augmented realities, where law enforcement will have to interfere and work alongside industry experts to create safe spaces for everyone. The INTERPOL Innovation Centre (IC) aims to aid law enforcement agencies in understanding this new space, new types of crimes that come with it, and what it will mean to police such environments effectively.

Source: <https://www.vice.com/en/article/3abpg3/woman-says-she-was-virtually-gang-raped-in-facebooks-metaverse>



The INTERPOL Innovation Centre would like to invite law enforcement agencies to share their initiatives or questions regarding the metaverse. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please contact: [innovation@interpol.int](mailto:innovation@interpol.int)

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INTERPOL  
Innovation Centre  
INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation  
18 Napier Road  
Singapore 258510  
T: +65 65503569  
Email: [IC-Snapshots@interpol.int](mailto:IC-Snapshots@interpol.int)