

2.6. EFNDT WORKING GROUP 5: PUBLIC SECURITY AND SAFETY NDT TECHNOLOGIES

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Summarising the NDT-community's foremost commitment in a single term could be "preventing technical accidents". However, damages are also being caused by atrocities, i.e. terrorist and criminal activities, or by natural catastrophes. A difference can be seen in the reason rather than in the consequences. Both cause harm in terms of losses, damages and casualties. While atrocities are even aimed for, the cause of an accident remains unintended. Facing the event itself it weakens the differentiation between "safety" and "security" when considering preventive measures, particularly when searching for threatening indications. However, both areas are allocated in different competencies. In order to identifying a threat, the question is raised if the same instruments are being used for this purpose in both fields.

This certainly does not apply generally; both do have their peculiarities in terms of the different causes. However, common aspects become evident when searching for indications of hazards, i.e. looking for features that do not belong into that place. These could consist of either cracks or of an explosive charge. Both may cause the collapse of a structure. As a consequence, certain inspection technologies such as radiological methods are well introduced both, safety and security procedures. So why not to find together and to swap experiences and ideas? This certainly could initiate new approaches and abbreviate the technological development of novel devices for both sides; definitely it can become an advantage in the times of rising threats on one hand and fixed budgets on the other hand.

The EFNDT Working Group 5 "Public Security and Safety NDT Technologies (PSSndtT)" is an initiative into that direction. It is committed to browse all available NDT technologies if they might have a capability also to serve for security purposes, if they could be transferred straight away or may need some adaptive changes. This certainly could save the security community from launching new technical developments from scratch. In return, the NDT people could learn from the application of inspection technologies in the field under tough conditions in terms of limited access and time pressure. The prerequisite remains to establish a trusty communication and collaboration. Achievements and perspectives of WG 5 are discussed.