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ORION consortium meets in Crete to review progress and showcase border management technologies

(Paris, 18 June 2026) The EU-funded ORION project (Optimized Risk-based Intelligence-driven Operations for Next-generation Secure, Reliable and Privacy-preserving Border Management) held its Plenary Meeting on 4–5 June 2026, in Chania, Crete, hosted by the Hellenic Mediterranean University.

The plenary was preceded by a dedicated Special Session organised within the EEITE 7th Conference, offering ORION partners the opportunity to present the technologies developed within the project to the wider research community. During this session, Michalis Vourtzoumis, Anargyros Baklezos, and Marco Paleari presented key technological components of ORION, fostering scientific exchange and increasing the project's visibility at conference level.

The Plenary Meeting brought together over 20 partners from across Europe to review progress and coordinate upcoming activities. Discussions focused on operational needs and gap analysis, as well as ongoing technical developments related to identity verification, vehicle screening, privacy-preserving data processing, efficient resource allocation, and the overall ORION system architecture.

Specific sessions were dedicated to field trials and validation activities, outlining the next steps for the project's pilot demonstrations. Partners discussed preparations for pilots addressing intelligent management of Ro-Ro ferry embarkation processes, enhanced risk assessment and resource allocation at land borders, and seamless identity verification at train stations, with strong emphasis on end-user requirements and operational feasibility. The railway pilot will be hosted by Eurostar and UIC will support its implementation.

The agenda also included exchanges on dissemination, communication, and impact maximisation activities, highlighting the importance of coordinated outreach and stakeholder engagement to support the uptake of project results.

The ORION project brings together a multidisciplinary consortium of research organisations, industry partners, and public authorities. Together, they aim to develop innovative tools that

enhance the efficiency and security of border management while ensuring full respect for data protection and ethical standards.

ORION can be followed on [LinkedIn](#) and through its official communication channels: [YouTube](#) and its [website](#).

This project is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the European Research Executive Agency (REA) can be held responsible for them.

UIC's role in the project

In ORION, UIC acts as the main railway end-user representative, providing sector needs and co-organizing the pilot on “*Enhanced seamless identity verification at train stations*” with Eurostar. As Dissemination Manager, UIC leads communication, knowledge transfer, and outreach through its Security Department, ensuring strong stakeholder engagement and long-term impact.

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