

VeRSiert

Networking of local passenger transport companies, relief personnel, organizers and passengers for greater security in public transport at mass events

Motivation

The increased mobility of many people and the cities' efforts to increase their attractiveness for citizens and visitors have led to a growing number of mass events. In addition to the daily use of public transport for work, leisure, shopping, etc., mass events mean increased demands on public transport. However, due to numerous private players, fragmented responsibilities, competition in rail traffic and outsourced departments, concerted action by all decision-makers is often becoming increasingly difficult even during the planning stages of a mass event.



Lights of Cologne 2007, 800,000 visitors (source: VeRSiert)

Scenario

Whether sports event, concert or so-called public viewing: In addition to all the logistic challenges, ensuring security is becoming increasingly problematic for the organization and management of mass events. A hazard dynamism can develop simply because of the mass of people. An overwrought atmosphere or alcohol can raise the propensity to violence, cause panic through pushing or voluntary aggression. Furthermore, mass events are a potential target for terrorist attacks.

To ensure the broadest possible transferability of research results, the focus of the studies is on potentially hazardous situations during typical,

recurrent mass events. The reference city is Cologne which is comparable to other big German cities in terms of the number of inhabitants and public transport structure. The project looks at Bundesliga football matches with about 44,000 spectators in the RheinEnergieStadion Cologne as well as mass events or major festivals (Lights of Cologne with over 500,000 visitors).

Project description and goals

The research project aims at optimal organization and improved networking of all participants as well as the creation of optimal work conditions with faster response times. The interaction of different technologies for the simulation of events and for the recognition and evaluation of hazardous situations is studied. In addition, video analyses and newly designed mobile phone communication strategies will be tested and data and analysis results of previous mass events will be taken into account.

The results of the analyses will be included in a new planning and work manual for both normal operation and crises which will be drafted and provided digitally. The planning and evaluation of staff training and communication strategies for crises can be based on this manual. Scientific monitoring, also in the form of surveys, is expected to result in a greater acceptance of the selected measures, for example among the departments and authorities concerned as well as among customers.

Innovations and applications

An administration-specific knowledge database will be developed while testing the digital manual. It is to provide all institutions involved with the results of a coordination process during the run-up to the event and thus improve decision-making processes during the event as well as in the case of unplanned incidents. The results will be processed in such a way that they can also be used by other cities, organizers and public transport companies as a basis for decisions or guidelines for action.

Further information

www.versiert.info



Cooperative control centre (source: VeRSiert)

Project title

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Duration

1 May 2008 – 30 April 2011

Project partners

- City administration Cologne
- KVB Kölner Verkehrs-Betriebe AG, Köln
- ARCAirport Research Center GmbH, Aachen
- Vitracom AG, Karlsruhe
- Wuppertal University, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Wuppertal
- Stuttgart University, Institute for Ergonomics and Technology Management, Stuttgart
- Nahverkehr Rheinland GmbH (NVR) / Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Sieg GmbH (VRS), Cologne

Collaboration coordinator

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