European citizens desire and accept a very high degree of public and private surveillance in their everyday lives in order to feel safe and secure. Do they really? European politicians and decision-makers seem to assume that citizens accept surveillance orientated security measures and avoid in depth debate about the consequences for their privacy.

The SurPRISE project explored the views of European citizens and will pass them on to European policy makers to produce a more nuanced debate.
It offered the opportunity for citizens to speak and for politicians and decision-makers to listen.

» Does more security justify less privacy?

In their everyday lives, Europeans experience a greater degree of surveillance technologies and practices than ever before, and politicians and decision-makers seem to have taken citizens' wishes for more security for granted. They afford a higher priority to data collection on citizens' activities than they do to a consideration of the ethical and human rights consequences of that data collection, which of course includes the issue of privacy. The predominant ideas have been that citizens are willing to trade-off their privacy for enhanced security in different settings, that surveillance technologies always improve security and, vice versa, that more security requires the infringement of human rights. However, our research results show that this simple security/privacy trade-off which is dominating current security policy and practice does not reflect the views of the majority of citizens.

» Need for European citizens' views

Decision makers and technical security experts have tended to overlook underlying privacy concerns and public scepticism towards surveillance-orientated security technologies. The proposed or implemented surveillance measures often derive from similar sets of technologies throughout Europe, but at the same time ignore diverging national understandings and political traditions. So far decisions on matters concerning security and privacy have left essential questions unanswered: What are acceptable security technologies in Europe, what are not and why? What is considered security and what is privacy seen from the citizen's point of view? In what ways and on what issues about privacy and security do European nations diverge from each other?

» Method

The main objective of SurPRISE was to enable European citizens to discuss and evaluate different security solutions and their privacy implications. About 2000 citizens from 9 different European countries have been consulted at meetings, through group debates and individual voting on central dilemmas. The series of citizen consultations revealed a spectrum of differences in citizens' attitudes on the debate about the trade-off between privacy and security. The citizens have been informed through written material and short documentary films and have been given the chance of both discussing their thoughts with other

SurPRISE: *"Surveillance, Privacy and Security: A large scale participatory assessment of criteria and factors determining acceptability and acceptance of security technologies in Europe"*

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citizens and expressing their individual views, as well as formulating recommendations. The results gave us a detailed picture from across Europe and reflect citizens' views on the proposed surveillance-oriented security measures in question.

» Results

SurPRISE produced new insights into the relation between surveillance, privacy and security, from the European citizens' perspective. It explored options for less privacy infringing security technologies, non-technological alternatives and for non-surveillance orientated solutions. SurPRISE hopefully promotes a better informed public and political debate of security policies respecting the views of European citizens as a central element. It will therefore contribute to the development of security policies and measures in line with human rights and European values by offering recommendations to politicians and decision-makers, based on research, experts' opinions and citizens' views.

» SurPRISE Consortium

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Factsheet