EACTDA and the Tools4LEAs series of projects

In a nutshell

September 2023

EACTDA in a nutshell

- A **non-profit** association, with public and private entities that is truly **"end-user driven" by design** (*e.g., Statutes, internal rules of the association, prioritisation of end-user needs and the technological roadmap*).
  - Europol (the Innovation Lab and EC3) chairs the project's **End-User Advisory Board** that identifies and prioritises the needs and has veto right over the tool development project approval decisions.

- Aiming to build a **long-lasting, sustainable instrument** to deliver value to the community in **close coordination and cooperation with other key stakeholders**.

- Contributes to the **uptake of technological solutions** from research to operational use by **European Union public security practitioners fighting cybercrime**.
  - Main focus on **"last-mile" development projects (from TRLs 6-7 to TRLs 8-9)** which results are offered to EU public entities fighting cybercrime with **no cost and with access to the source code**.
  - Offers an **exploitation path for security research projects** results.

- The main **implementation mechanisms** EACTDA has are the **Tools4LEAs series of projects:**
  - The Tools4LEAs project(s) receive important co-funding from non-competitive **ISF-Police programme's Direct Awards**.

Satellite view of **EACTDA** and **Tools4LEAs**
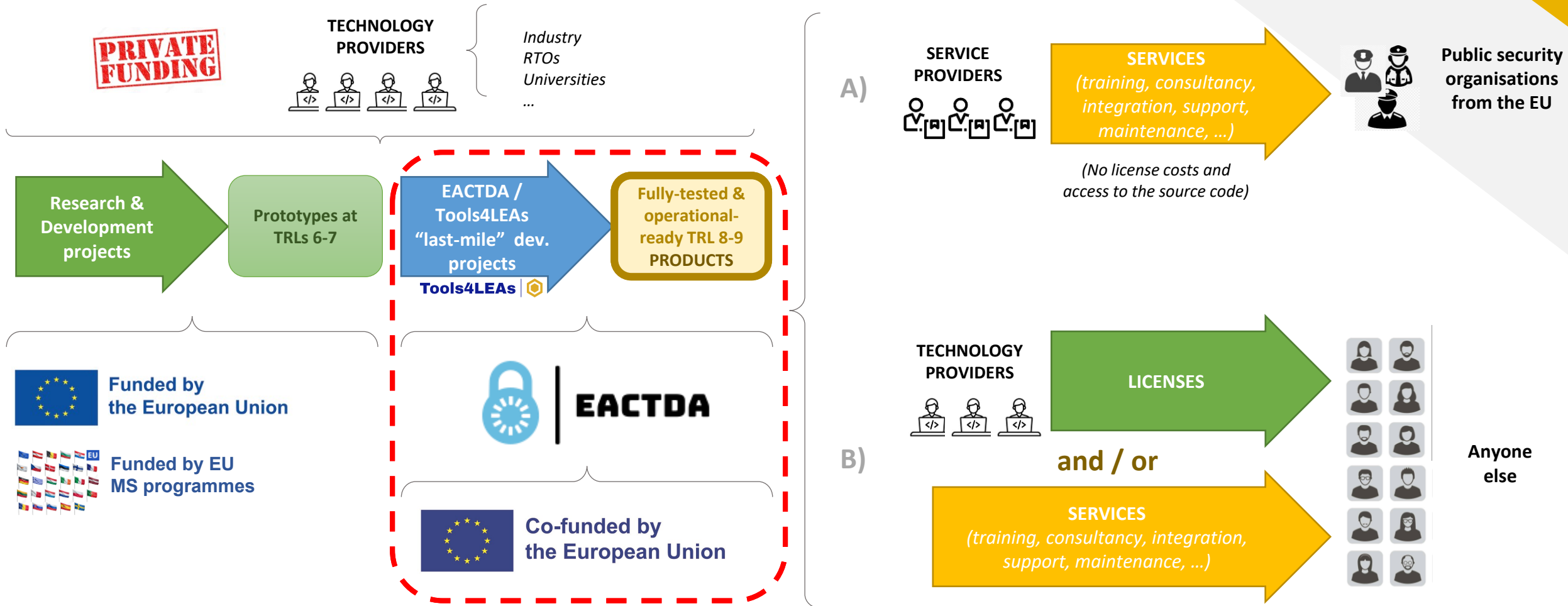
# How does **EACTDA** fit in the overall picture
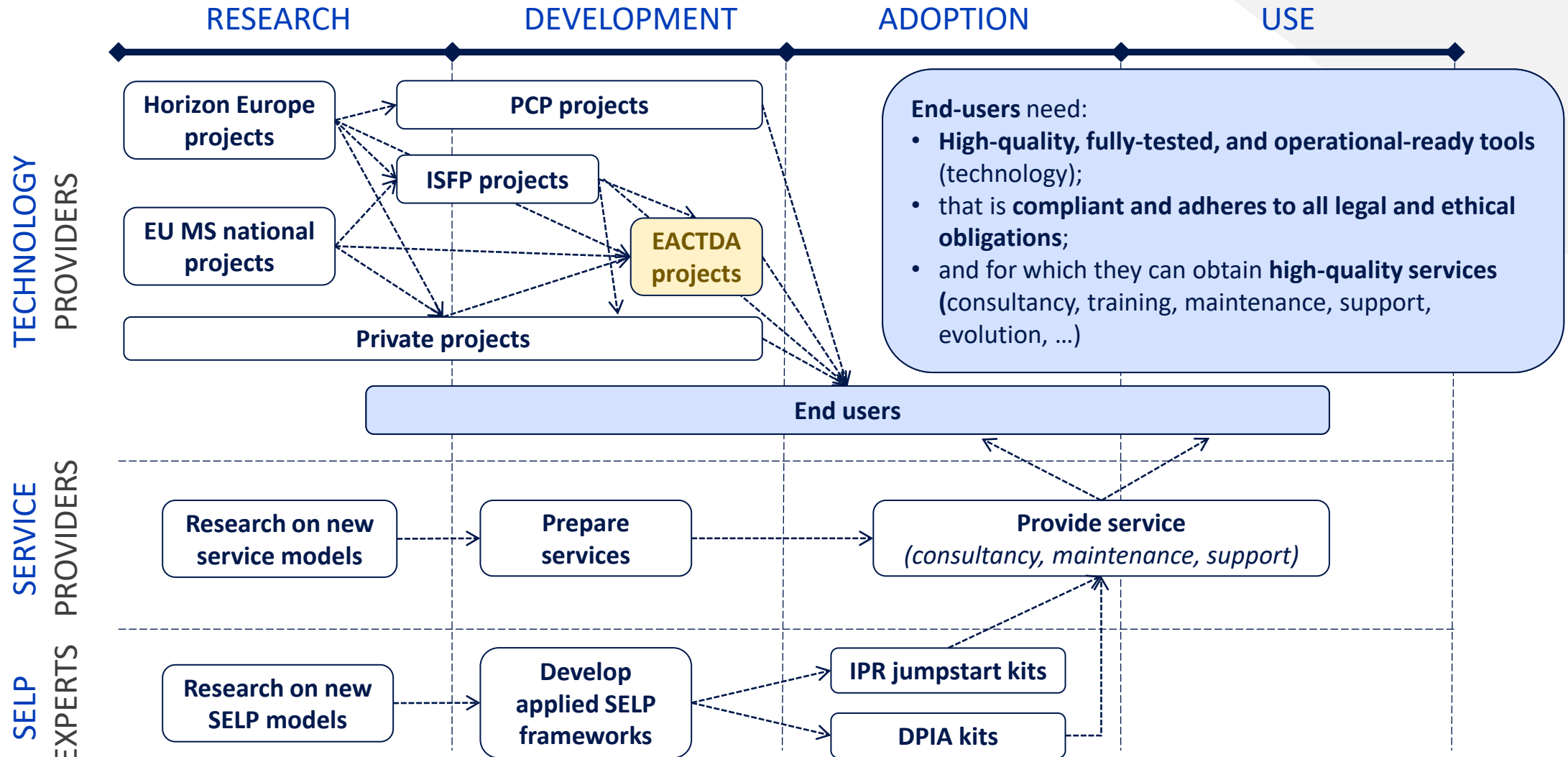
Tools4LEAs "last-mile" development projects

- **Instrument**: the **Tools4LEAs** project

- Within the Tools4LEAs project, **small-scale "last-mile" development projects** will take the prototypes (TRLs 6-7) and bring them to TRL 8.
  - ~60k Euro to ~100k Euro   //   ~9 to ~15 months duration
  - Focus on specialised "tools", not big solutions

- **Only EACTDA and its members can participate in the Tools4LEAs project** and receive funding from it.

- **Technology providers** that own a software tool that is at TRLs 6-7, that are willing to collaborate/participate with EACTDA but that are not members of it **can**:
  1. **Be/become permanent full-members**, participate in the project, and then continue being active members of EACTDA beyond the duration of the project.
  2. **Become "temporary" full-members**, participate in the project, and then terminate their membership.
  3. **License their technology to EACTDA** so that EACTDA and/or its members can further develop it.

Means of distribution

- EACTDA will distribute its "products" in three ways:
  - **EACTDA's repository of tools**
    - Used for non-LEA EU public entities fighting cybercrime and other non EU LEA targeted end-users
    - Uses *EACTDA's licensing model* (*"licensing-out"*)
  - **Europol's ETR**
    - Used for EU LEAs
    - Uses Europol's *ETR model agreement*
  - **"Back" to the technology providers** that own the pre-existing asset
    - Uses *EACTDA's licensing model* (*"licensing-back"*)
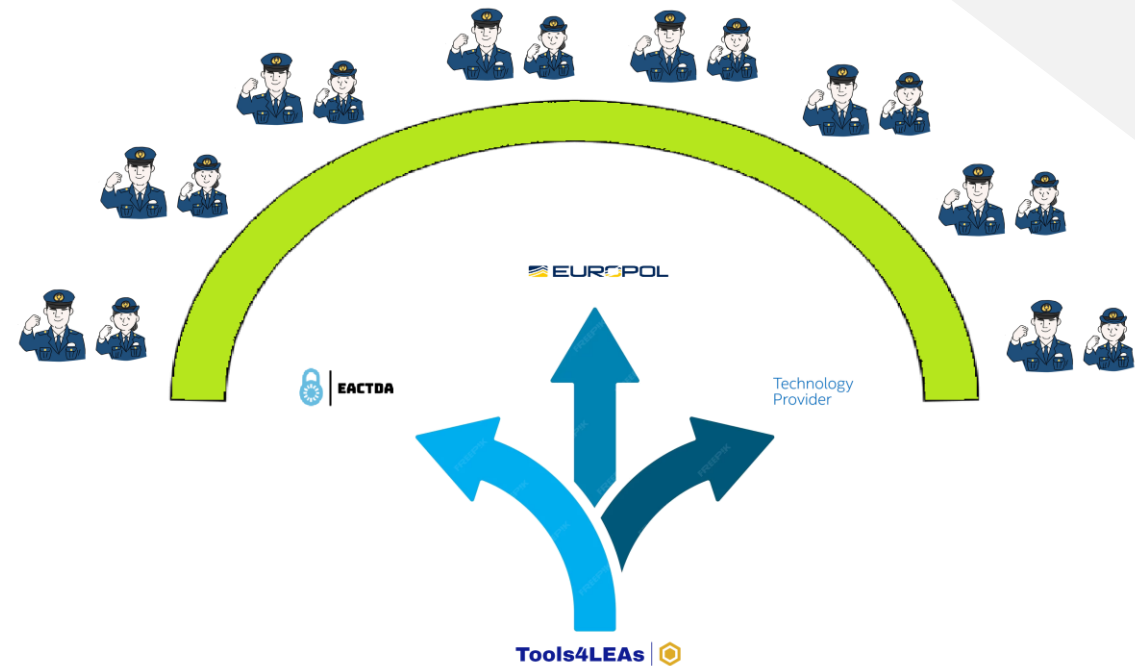
EACTDA's Licensing model *(1 of 2)*

1. The Technology Provider (TP) that agree with the licensing scheme sign a Pre-agreement with EACTDA.

2. Then, the TP offers to EACTDA its result(s) under the EACTDA/Tools4LEAs licensing scheme. This result(s) are included in the catalogue of pre-existing tools/assets.
   - Typically the prototype/result of a security research project, though it could have any other origin.

3. Twice a year, EACTDA presents to the End-User Advisory Board (EUAB) of the Tools4LEAs project the catalogue of pre-existing tools/assets, and the EUAB conducts a review and prioritisation exercise.

4. EACTDA takes the top-prioritised items in the list, and contacts back the affected TPs to negotiate and swiftly launch a new project to further enhance/develop the pre-existing tools/assets in small/mid size projects (~12 months; ~80-100K €) known as "last-mile" development projects.

5. After completing the proposal preparation and approval processes, when a new project is launched, the TP "licensing-in" the pre-existing tool/asset to EACTDA using the corresponding template.

- Background software (**Companies**)
- License In Agreement
- License Out
- Foreground software (**EACTDA**)
- Improvements to Background and Foreground (**LEAs**)
- License Back
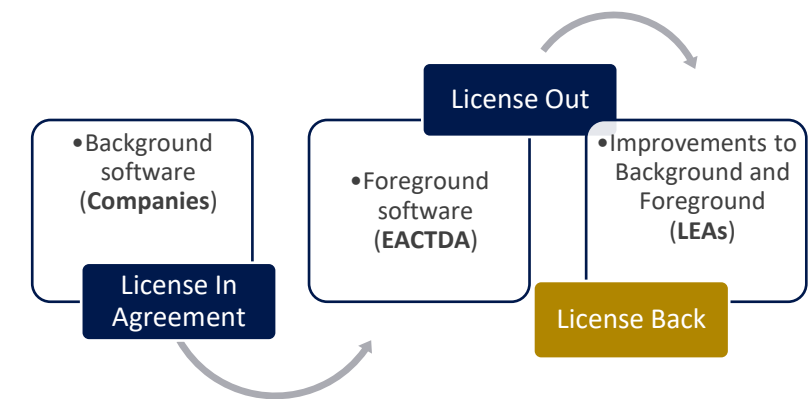
EACTDA's Licensing model *(2 of 2)*

4. EACTDA conducts the "last-mile" development project, preferably with the participation of the TP under the terms of a "collaboration agreement" between the TP and EACTDA. This agreement establishes, among other things, that personnel of the TP will be "seconded" to EACTDA and that the IPR ownership of the newly developed work will be owned by EACTDA.

7. Once the "last-mile" development project is successfully complete, the final product (which is considered to be "fully-tested" and "operational-ready") will be licensed to EU public entities fighting cybercrime under the "licensing-out" license, with no license cost and with access to the source code.
    *   Also, if the licensee conducts any derivative work, this will have to be "licensed-back" to EACTDA so that it can then be shared with the rest of the community as well as with the TP who originally provided the pre-existing tool/asset.

8. Finally, EACTDA will "license-back" to the TP the new developments / enhancements done during the "last-mile" development project.
    *   In short, the licensing-back allows the TP to follow any exploitation path they want with the licensed work except to charge a license cost to EU public entities fighting cybercrime (e.g., commercialization to LEAs in non-EU countries, or commercialization to private entities).

Scope of the two first Tools4LEAs projects

Tools4LEAs-v1 *(Jul'21 – Jun'23)*

Tools4LEAs-v2 *(Jul'23 – Jun'25)*

Scope of the project:

- **Project Portfolio management**: management of multiple last-mile development projects
  - Software quality as a core element throughout the whole process (ISO standards)

- **IPR - Licensing Scheme:** Licensing-In, Licensing-Back, Licensing-Out

- **Tool development**: Delivering fully tested and operational ready tools

- **Demonstration and Evaluation events**: every six months with the newly released tools

- **Repository of tools**: where authorised users can search for, download, and evaluate tools

Scope of the project:

- **Double** the **number of tools** delivered

- Online demonstration and **evaluation platform**

- EACTDA **national nodes pilot**

- **Support and maintenance:**
  - initial and limited period for a selection of tools
  - Hackathons

- **Community building**, including:
  - Creating active communities around the tools
  - Knowledge building (e.g., DevSecOps Body of Knowledge for the public security sector)

- **Repository** for **security research project results**

EACTDA and Tools4LEAs in a nutshell

Timeline: ... 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 ...

- **Collaboration with third parties is essential** (e.g., end-users, Technology Providers)
- **Pre-existing assets/tools** (e.g., security research results)
- **~TRLs 6-7 at minimum**

Tools4LEAs v1 → v2 → ...

- **H2020 project**
- **33 partners**, including 13 end-users
- Demonstrated valid the **methodology** that was later adopted by EACTDA and Tools4LEAs

- **Non-profit association**
- **Public-private collaboration** (EU public security practitioners, Academia & RTOs, Industry & others)
- **End-user driven by-design** (Statutes, decision making bodies, etc.)

- EU funded via **ISFP Direct Award**(s) and EACTDA member contributions
- Facilitate the **uptake of security research project results**
- **Fully-tested and operational-ready software tools**
- **No license costs and access to the source code** for EU public security organisations fighting cybercrime
- **Small- & mid-size "last-mile" development projects; specialised tools**
- **Well-proven and mature methodology**: end-user driven, "short"(er) development cycles, "frequent" releases and end-user feedback, **Demonstration & Evaluation events every 6 months…**

EU Public Security practitioners

Fully-tested, operational ready tools; no licence costs; access to source code

Presented to end-users who can select and add to the list of end-user needs

End-user needs

Repository of finalised tools

Catalogue of pre-existing tools

Last-mile development projects

Conducts projects based on prioritised end-user needs

Share / offer their pre-existing results

EACTDA Tools4LEAs

can participate if/as EACTDA members

Technology providers

Receive a license-back of the foreground

18/10/2023

Thank you for your attention!

More info at: https://eactda.eu/, https://tools4leas.eactda.eu/

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