

Belgrade's 'Safe City' — Serbia's Huawei-Built AI Surveillance Network Ruled Unlawful for Facial Recognition

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Serbia

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Belgrade deployed 1,000+ Huawei-built AI cameras from 2017. Serbia's data-protection commissioner twice ruled the impact assessment unlawful; 2024 orders were still sized for 3,500 more cameras, and a 2025 breach at contractor Informatika AD exposed 1.7M files.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	0/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-01

[Ministry of Interior of Serbia, with Huawei and state IT contractor Informatika AD](#) — accessed 2026-08-01

[RFE/RL — Leaked Files Reveal Serbia's Secret Expansion of Chinese-Made Surveillance](#) — accessed 2026-08-01

[EDRi — Serbia: Unlawful facial recognition video surveillance in Belgrade](#) — accessed 2026-08-01

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