New software is able to objectively tell how many people attended a demonstration

LOCATION: Granada
DURATION: 1'39"

SUMMARY: A new system allows scientists to monitor traffic and determine the number of people who have attended a demonstration using the signal emitted by their cell phones. It has been developed by researchers form the Architecture and Computer Technology Department of the University of Granada, in collaboration with the Andalusian Studies Foundation from the Andalusian Government and the Mobility Area of the Granada City Council.

VTR:

Scientists from the University of Granada have designed software able to monitor people and traffic. This way they can determine how many vehicles there are and its movements within a specific area of the city, or how many people have attended a demonstration.

MARÍA ISABEL GARCÍA
University of Granada professor

"Monitoring the signals emitted by cells phones, both Bluetooth and Wi-Fi."

This system was created to study the behaviour of traffic in an urban environment, but soon they realised that working with this type of signals offered more possibilities.

ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ
University of Granada researcher

"We realised that we were able to monitor people too, and not only tell where they had been, but also how many people there were in a given moment. So it has multiple applications."

MARÍA ISABEL GARCÍA
University of Granada professor

"To obtain an estimation of how many people can be within a specific area."

Spain is the country with the highest rate of cell phone ownership in Europe. To detect the signals emitted by these devices, they don't need to be in use in that moment. These researchers also want this data to be useful for the citizenship, that's why they spread this information through Twitter.

ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ
University of Granada researcher

"One of our goals was sharing all the information we obtained with citizens. The state of the traffic in the different areas that we monitor in Granada. And we also communicate the anomalies that we detect, for example, the impact of a demonstration."

They also aim to bring this system out of the city and apply it in other type of roads.

PABLO GARCÍA
University of Granada researcher

"To predict in which highways there will be a traffic jam."

A very useful tool in the management of the traffic that also allows us to obtain more accurate and objective data about the number of people who have attended a demonstration.

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