EU-HYBNET

Newsletter - October 2021

Welcome to the third EU-HYBNET Newsletter focusing on the project activities in the past six months!

The project works on 17-month cycles and during the past 6 months EU-HYBNET has finalized its 1st project cycle that also means delivery of results from all project activities. You will learn more about the project key findings in the letter below alike the start of the 2nd project cycle that was also launched.

An important milestone for EU-HYBNET was the 1st EC project review that highlighted the project's successful proceedings in-line with the planned actions. Still more interaction is always welcome with other projects, network members and SMEs. Therefore, EU-HYBNET warmly welcomes interaction with us.

An important part in the cooperation with pan-European security actors in EU-HYBNET is to have new members to join the EU-HYBNET network and to start the collaboration with the project. The EU-HYBNET network is grooving steadily, while if you know a new excellent network members, the project warmly welcomes new actors to join the network.

The EU-HYBNET lies strongly on cooperation and information sharing and on behalf of the consortium, pleasure to present the project activities in this newsletter to welcome to have cooperation with the EU-HYBNET!

With best regards,

EU-HYBNET Coordinator Päivi Mattila/ Laurea
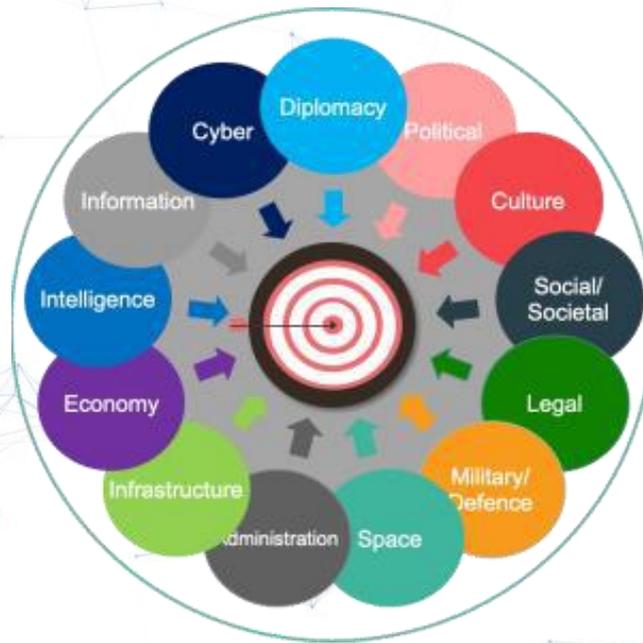
Hybrid threats domains and focus areas in EU-HYBNET

EU-HYBNET General Project Coordination, Management and Network Extension Activities

The goal of the EU-HYBNET is to increase its impact and to deliver results for pan-European stakeholders in the most fruitful way. With this objective in mind, EU-HYBNET has arranged or contributed to many important events in the past six months:

- EU-HYBNET provided a presentation on forthcoming, expected project results in CERIS DRS "Synthesis - Info Day" on 14/06/2021.
- EU-HYBNET participated to the DG HOME INFRA CERIS "Enhancing Infrastructure Resilience against Hybrid Threats" Workshop arrangements and delivered scenarios for the workshop focusing on water security, financial services and communication systems. The CERIS INFRA workshop took place on 29/06/2021 and was arranged jointly with DG HOME and EC funded project STOP-IT, RESISTO, FINSEC and EU-HYBNET.
- The LION DC project invited EU-HYBNET to present its network and the project during their closing seminar (8/6) to support cyber security practitioners to join EU-HYBNET network.
- EU-HYBNET was invited to participate to the DG HOME Workshop on "Synergies between the use of EU funding for security Research and Innovation, and the complementary HOME Affairs Fund". Invitation was welcomed so as to highlight future research needs form hybrid threats perspective; the message was that both technological and non-technological innovations are needed in order to enhance pan-European practitioners capability to counter hybrid threats.

- EU-HYBNET's "Innovations to Hybrid Threats" Workshop was arranged on 4/10. The workshop highlighted project's methodology to map and analyse innovations and to define the most promising innovations to counter hybrid threats. The discussion during the workshop and the feedback afterwards from workshop participants highlighted that similar events are warmly welcomed.

Network extension

Between May and October, **17 new members** were accepted to the network:

Name	Website	Country	Category
Avion yhteiskunta ry	https://faktabaari.fi/avoinyhtk/	Finland	Non-governmental Organisation
Baltic Centre for Media Excellence	https://bcme.eu/en/home-page	Latvia	Non-governmental Organisation
Demagog Association	https://demagog.org.pl	Poland	Non-governmental Organisation
Euclid Institute	https://www.euclid.int	France	Non-governmental Organisation
Friends of Europe	https://www.friendsofeurope.org	Belgium	Non-governmental Organisation
Government Centre for Security	https://www.rcb.gov.pl	Poland	Practitioner
Information Technologies Institute / Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH/ITI)	https://www.certh.gr/root.en.aspx	Greece	Research Institute
Luxinnovation	https://www.luxinnovation.lu/	Luxemburg	Ministry level practitioner
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Directorate of Defence	https://defense.gouvernement.lu/fr.html	Luxemburg	Practitioner
National Police Headquarters	https://policja.pl	Poland	Practitioner
Office of the National Security Council of Georgia	https://nsc.gov.ge	Georgia	Governmental organisation
Romanian Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism	http://economie.gov.ro/	Romania	Ministry level practitioner
SAFE – Security and Freedom for Europe	https://www.safe-europe.eu	Italy	Non-governmental Organisation
Sectyne AB	https://sectyne.com	Sweden	SME (under 250 employees)
Swedish Police Authority / National Forensic Centre	https://nfc.polisen.se/en/	Sweden	Practitioner

The Kosciuszko Institute Association	https://www.ik.org.pl/en	Poland	Non-governmental Organisation
The School of Social Sciences (of the University of Georgia - UG)	https://www.ug.edu.ge/en/soc-skolis-shesakheb	Georgia	Academia

As highlighted in the review meeting, the project continues to pay attention to balanced geographical scope of its network, as well as representation of all stakeholder categories. Inclusion of SMEs is a special objective in the coming months. **All project partners and network members are welcome to promote the EU-HYBNET network membership for their networks,** and can send recommendations of new network members to Network Manager Jari Räsänen /Laurea (jari.rasanen@hybridcoe.fi) and T1.3 leader (Emma Lappalainen /Hybrid CoE emma.lappalainen@hybridcoe.fi , Maxime Lebrun / Hybrid CoE maxime.lebrun@hybridcoe.fi).

Gaps and needs of European actors against Hybrid Threats

The second Gaps and Needs Event kicked off the second cycle of the EU-HYBNET project. In the virtual workshop, organized during September by Hybrid CoE, representatives of 36 EU-HYBNET network member organisations contributed in scanning the horizon of current threat environment, and prioritizing the identified threats, gaps and needs. The work from the collected data and insights towards research questions and priorities for innovation mapping continues in WP2, in close cooperation with the core theme leaders.

The discussion on threat environment had a strong emphasis on information domain, which is still seen as highly prioritized area by all kinds of stakeholders. Technology-driven threats, increasingly in space domain, as well as disruptions to supply-chains of raw materials, and foreign financial influence were also seen prioritized topics for the future research. It was concluded that it is important to consider megatrends such as climate crisis and increasing migration to Europe, and radicalization and potential historical revisionism when planning solutions in all domains of hybrid threats. Education and training, especially of officials, and involvement of NGOs and SMEs in the governments' planning work, as well as constant monitoring of / awareness over popular sentiments were considered frameworks for the most highly prioritized needs.

Surveys to Technologies, Research and Innovations

In the last newsletter published in April, WP3 announced the identification of 27 potential innovations to help counter hybrid threats. Since then, T3.1, which focuses on the Definition of Target Areas for Improvement and Innovations, has analysed the expert assessments carried out for the identified innovations. In more details, the analysis allowed for a categorisation of the 27 innovations into 3 sections according to their scores on Excellence, Impact, and Implementation criteria, as established in our assessment framework. 6 innovations have been selected as having the best potential to help counter hybrid threats and give specific recommendations for further steps along the lines of 4 identified target areas for improvement. The full research, methodology, and recommendations can be found in D3.1 upon publication. Additionally, WP3 has: i) organized an internal evaluation session to improve the work of T3.1 and related Tasks for the second cycle; ii) presented a briefing to consortium members and partners on October 4th on the innovations' assessments and T3.1 findings; and iii) developed a project plan and schedule for T3.1's second cycle. T3.1 is currently also working on a policy brief to further facilitate the easy dissemination and understanding of D3.1's results amongst policymakers and practitioners.

The research work for technology and innovations watch is ongoing for T3.2. During the event of October 4th, T3.2 presented the methodology and research results with respect to defining innovations to counter specific dimensions for hybrid threats. The task is now focusing on the gaps and needs' research results for the second cycle, that will be studied in detail in order to start the second cycle of mapping innovations. Additionally, T3.2 will be working on a policy brief together with other consortium members.

Recommendations for Innovations Uptake and Standardization

Building on the results of the previous project activities (mainly WP2 & WP3), WP4 initially focused on analyzing the current procurement practices of 15 countries, in total, in order to conclude with the

whole spectrum of the processes, financial tools and applicable laws. The analysis also highlighted the aspects of innovation procurement and joint procurement procedures. The outcome of the aforementioned activities was the formulation of procurement-related recommendations on the most promising areas, as well as the identification of pitfalls and success cases that were utilized to develop viable innovations' uptake strategies.

In this context, the analysis of the most promising innovations was based on a methodology framework developed by the same WP, and the results were documented in an Innovation Uptake Canvas (similar to a Business Model Canvas) together with a roadmap sketch and identified barriers. The analysis was used as a basis for recommendations on how to remove barriers by promoting research activities, standardization efforts and new/changed policies required for simpler and more efficient uptake and industrialization of innovations in the area of hybrid threats.

Furthermore, EU-HYBNET partners analyzed six areas of interest and more specifically Big data, Critical goods and commodities, Cybersecurity, Fake news and disinformation, Resilient Civilians and Strategic Communication (STRATCOM) and produced recommendations reports for standardization, legal, and best practices.

Finally, throughout the first project cycle, WP4 recognized disinformation as one of the primary concerns emphasized as a priority. In close collaboration with the EEAS East StratCom team, the misinformation subject has been focused on. In June 2021, EU-HYBNET created and released the first policy brief on information and strategic communications on the project website (http://euhybnet.eu) as a result of this collaboration. Cooperation with the EEAS continues to focus on the most pressing issues in the realm of disinformation.

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European Policy Brief

Framing the information domain vulnerabilities

EU-HYBNET Policy Brief No1.– Information and strategic communications -June 2021

- Exposing disinformation requires a thorough work on definition of what constitutes harmful content and a solid categorization of manipulative practices in information circulation. The use of algorithms to help identify disinformation in real time requires a thorough ethical approach and standards.
- Debunking and fact checking must rely on scale and networks constituted from pools of experts. Fact checking should be decentralized to take advantage of and connect expertise, while retaining a margin of manoeuvre for proactive approaches.
- The horizon of debunking fake news is necessarily reactive, resource consuming and can give unintended audience to fake content and their producers. An anticipatory approach should be privileged instead, whereby target groups could be warned of their being potentially subject to information manipulations.

EU-HYBNET First Policy Brief

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Activities

In the last six months, the EU HYBNET DCE Team reorganized the project's website. The platform now displays the project's publications, policy briefs and press releases drafted following major events. Following several exchanges with other EU-funded projects, it has also been decided to create an additional section on the EU-HYBNET website in order to display links and synergies with these projects. For instance, the INCLUDING project offers interesting collaboration prospects. INCLUDING connects 15 Partners from 10 EU Member States (MS), bringing together infrastructure, equipment and experts operating in the field of radiological and nuclear emergencies. A presentation of EU-HYBNET was provided at INCLUDING 2nd Annual Workshop in June 2021 in Athens.

Notably, further synergies were also established with the FINSEC project which invited EU-HYBNET to join its ECSCI Cluster (European Cluster for Securing Critical Infrastructure). The main objective of the ECSCI cluster is to create synergies and foster emerging disruptive solutions to security issues via cross-projects collaboration and innovation. Research activities will focus on how to protect critical infrastructures and services, highlighting the different approaches between the clustered projects and establishing tight and productive connections with closely related and complementary H2020 projects. To promote the activities of the cluster, ECSCI will organize international conferences, and national or international workshops, involving both policy makers, industry and academic, practitioners, and representatives from the European Commission.

ECSCI Projects (FINSEC website)

Another important milestone of DCE activities was the drafting of the First Midterm Project Dissemination Impact Assessment. The report highlighted major progresses for DCE activities since the beginning of the project. It concludes that the project achieved excellent results, especially through its social media channels. Taking into account these results, EOS provided an Updated Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan in October 2021.

Activities to be organised within EU-HYBNET dissemination and network extension:

- An open online event in Poland to promote EU-HYBNET. PPHS plan is to invite stakeholders who may be interested in the topic of hybrid threats. Participants will listen to the main activities happening within the project, and they will have the opportunity to join the project as a network member. The stakeholder list is expected to include academia, business and NGO representatives. (planned for November/December 2021)

Activities to be organised which are inspired by EU-HYBNET:

- The workshop focused on media literacy and critical thinking for high school pupils. The event is organised in cooperation with Youth City Council of Poznan – an official representative of high school pupils from various high schools from the city of Poznan. The workshop will be conducted by a PPHS expert. The workshop's main aim is to increase participants' awareness regarding fake news and disinformation campaigns and increase their media literacy skills. (planned for October 2021)

- The workshop focused on standards of good journalism for representatives of the local press. The event is organised in cooperation with the Association of Local Press in Poland and conducted by the PPHS expert. The workshop's main aim is to discuss standards of good journalism with a special focus on fake news and disinformation campaigns. (planned for November 2021)

Stay tuned!

In the coming months, EU-HYBNET partners will organise several events. Save the Dates!

- **November 2021**: EU-HYBNET is to support forthcoming CERIS INFRA workshop. More information from DG HOME.
- **April 2022:** EU-HYBNET will organise its second Annual Workshop (#AW) and Future Trends Workshop (#FTW) in Rome.
- **June 2022**: EU-HYBNET second Innovation Exchange Event Workshop (#IKEW) will take place in The Hague.