

Europe-wide project on countering hybrid threats kick offs today

Press release
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EU-HYBNET (*Empowering a Pan-European Network to Counter Hybrid Threats*) was officially opened today in a virtual conference. The aim of the project is to develop a European network to detect, prepare for and counter hybrid threats. This five-year-long project is funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme. The EU-HYBNET project consortium consists of 23 organisations representing 16 European countries.

The project is coordinated by Laurea University of Applied Sciences. Laurea is the leading provider of civilian security education in Finland. It has built a noticeable international and EU funded security project portfolio. At the moment Laurea is conducting 18 research projects, of which 14 are EU Commission funded. **Dr. Päivi Mattila**, director of University's *Coherent Security* strategic research area, is coordinating EU-HYBNET project.

The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE) located in Helsinki Finland, is the main content coordinator for the project. According to the Hybrid CoE's Director of Research and Analysis **Hanna Smith**, working with a versatile group of organisations and experts from public sector, industry, SMEs, academia and NGOs gives a unique opportunity to develop new tools to enhance societal resilience.

As the first phase of the project, partners will conduct a gaps and needs analysis. This done in order to identify and understand what the network participants' needs are, and what the obstacles to maintaining and improving their resilience in the face of hybrid threats are. "Gaps and needs will be assessed and used for scenario building and training purposes in the following phases of the project," explains Research Director Smith.

Project participants are:

Laurea University of applied Sciences
Hybrid CoE
Polish Platform for Homeland security (PPHS)
University of Tromso (UiT)
Rise research institutes of Sweden
KEMEA
L3CE
Universidad Rey Juan Carlo (URJC)
French Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition
European organisation for security (EOS)
TNO
SATWAYS
City of Espoo
Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
National Intelligence academy M. Viteazul
Netherlands Ministry of Defense

Local Policoe of the city of Valence
Polish Internal Security Agency
Norwegian Directorate for civil protection
Maldita
German Central Offica for Information Technology in the Security Sector
Competence Center COMTESSA
Joint Research Centre European Commission (JRC)

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