



EU-HYBNET



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Newsletter - October 2022

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

In October 2022, EU-HYBNET reached the middle of its project lifecycle, and many tangible results have already been achieved. The 2nd project review will be carried out in November 2022, and we invite the feedback and learning from the European Commission, which will allow us to continue to move forward and finish the next project phase strongly.

The goal is to continue to deliver sound EU-HYBNET results that will support pan-European security practitioners, industry, SMEs, academia and NGOs to counter hybrid threats. More information about the project activities and results can be found below.

We also extend a warm welcome to new EU-HYBNET network members that have joined the project. We are open to receiving new members, so if you are interested, please also join the network!

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 EU-HYBNET is to maximise impact and deliver results for pan-European stakeholders in the most fruitful way. During the past six months EU-HYBNET has had a privilege to present its results in the following high-level events, which align perfectly with our objectives:

- French Presidency, EU-U.S.-Canada conference on the 1st -2nd of June in Paris, focus hybrid threats and critical infrastructure protection
- Czech Presidency, Horizontal Working Party on Enhancing Resilience and Countering Hybrid Threats on the 6th of September in Brussels

The project was also invited to community where we were pleased to disseminate our results and expand the network:

- European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) Invited EU-HYBNET to provide presentation on disinformation in their EU Cyber Direct event on 6th of July in Tbilisi;
- EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security: “Shaping responsible solutions for internal security” event, organised in cooperation with EUROPOL Innovation Lab and CERIS community on 13th of September in Brussels;
- CRITIS2022 conference on the 14th -16th of September in München organized by COMTESSA. EU-HYBNET provided two keynote speeches and a Plenary on “Innovations to CI domain to counter hybrid threats”. In addition, CRITIS2022 included an EU-HYBNET workshop on “Reacting to hybrid threats: Ethical compliance of the riposte/counter-attack innovations. Case-study Critical Infrastructure protection”;

- CERIS Annual Event on the 29th -30th of September in Brussels, focus: Fighting Crime and Terrorism (FCT) & Resilient Infrastructure (INFRA)
- The 9th Symposium on European Civil Security Research on the 31st of August in Brussels, organized by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research's (BMBF).

Finally, EU-HYBNET also warmly welcomed the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)'s request to write for the series "What If". The article was inspired by EU-HYBNET findings on innovations to counter hybrid threats in the critical infrastructure domain and is available on the DGAP website [here](#).

Network Extension

The network extension is a continuous process during the entire project. The number of external network members has steadily increased, and we plan to continue growing smoothly in future months.

A special thanks to our existing members and partners for their strong contribution and efforts, which have helped to increase visibility of the project.

We are happy to inform you that between April 2022 and October 2022, the EU-HYBNET network grew by 11 new members! A total of **81 organisations from 23 countries** are now represented in the network, which includes 21 practitioners, 26 research and/or education institutions, 16 NGOs, and 18 SMEs.

A warm welcome to our new members!

Name	Country	Type of organisation
HENSOLDT Analytics	Austria	SME
Hybrid Core BV	Belgium	SME
New Strategy Center	Romania	NGO
Center for the study of democracy	Romania	Academia
Hybrid Warfare Research Institute	Croatia	NGO
The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies	Netherlands	SME
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Netherlands	Practitioner
SIGNALERT SARL	France	SME
Maltego Technologies GmbH	Germany	SME
Universidad Isabel I de Castilla	Spain	Academia
Safetech INNOVATIONS SA	Romania	SME

Who can join the network and what are the benefits?

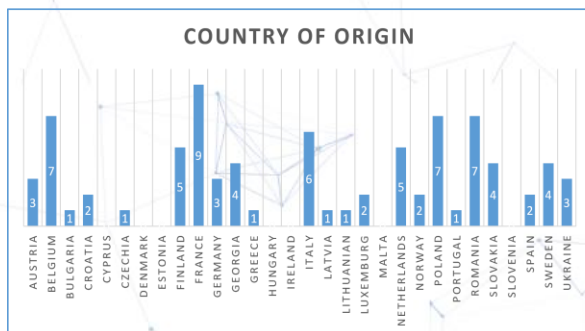
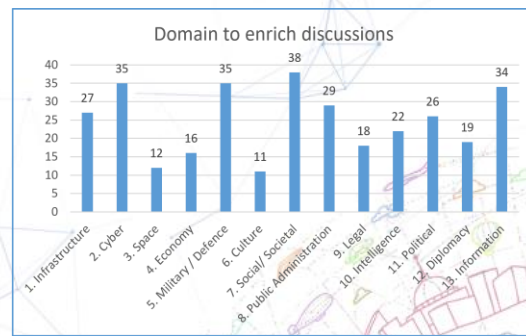
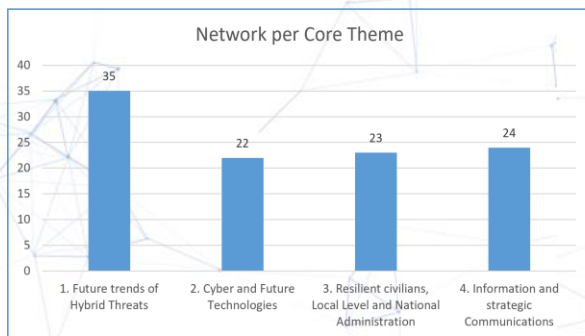
The consortium welcomes valuable European actors (practitioners, industry, SMEs and academic actors, NGOs) to join the growing European Network helping to counter against hybrid threats. As a network member, you'll have access to a member platform, and the possibility to influence the

development of the domain, review high-level requirements, and present your own innovations and solutions to the community.

You are also invited to our events (such as the Future Trends Workshop, the Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Workshop, Training Events etc). More information about the EU-HYBNET Network can be found [here](#).

We are actively seeking SMEs & Practitioners across Europe to join – please help by circulating the application available [here](#)!

The network manager regularly analyses the network, reflecting on the information provided in the applications. The analysis supports our aim to raise awareness of the project to the right target groups by inviting them to our events and presenting EU-HYBNET in other EU projects and EU organisation initiatives. The figures below presents our network today.



Category	Number	Country
Practitioner	21	13
NGO	16	12
Academic/RTO	26	15
Industry/ SME	18	8
In total	81	23

Gaps and needs of European actors against Hybrid Threats

The consortium is currently preparing for EU-HYBNET's **3rd Gaps and Needs Event**, which is to take place in **March 2023 in Rome, Italy** (more information to be provided through the EU-HYBNET website soon). The Gaps and Needs Event is at the core of EU-HYBNET since it determines the priority gaps and needs on which the project will focus in the forthcoming 17 months. This is achieved by identifying the most promising innovations to fill the gaps and needs and recommending innovation uptake and standardisation approaches that harmonise with our Pan-European efforts.

Surveys to Technologies, Research and Innovations

During the past six months of the EU-HYBNET project, the consortium focused on completing the work for the second cycle, monitoring technology advancements and assessing the relative innovations developed by the private sector in the areas where gaps and needs were identified. These results were presented in 'D3.4 First MidTerm Report on Improvement and Innovations'. More specifically, the deliverable identifies and maps innovations in each of the project's four core themes, and in each of the three primary contexts of each core theme. In total, 23 innovations and ideas have been identified. The selection of the innovations presented in D3.4 was based on continuous monitoring of technology advances and a thorough research in various fields. The different scientific backgrounds and complementarity of the partners involved allowed for a deeper understanding of the possible applications of various technologies, as well as brainstorming for new ideas.

The second iteration of the results of scanning and monitoring of the EU funded research projects landscape, based on the EU-HYBNET gaps and needs identified by practitioners in the hybrid threats field were also presented in 'D3.8 First Mid-Term Report on Innovation and Research Project Monitoring'.

EU-HYBNET is currently in the process of collating the abovementioned results and matching the research projects with the identified potential solutions and their relevant gaps and needs. Building on this matching, the project will assess the innovations according to the Excellence, Impact and Implementation (EII) criteria, and analyses the results. Based on this analysis, recommendations will be made on which innovations hold the greatest potential for further development, procurement, and implementation. The results will be gathered in D3.2.

Recommendations for Innovations Uptake and Standardisation

EU-HYBNET is currently preparing the **2nd Report on the Procurement Environment**. Progress has continued to focus on analysing the current procurement practices of additional EU-Member States. Specifically, in addition to the 15 countries covered in the 1st Cycle of the project, the current procurement practices of the other 13 Member States are covered to conclude with a spectrum of the procurement process, the financial tools and applicable laws covering the entire spectrum. The analysis will once again highlight the aspects of innovation procurement and joint procurement procedures. The outcome of the aforementioned activities will be the formulation of procurement-related recommendations regarding the most promising areas. In addition, we will identify potential pitfalls and success cases that were utilised to develop viable innovation uptake strategies.

On the topic of standardisation, EU-HYBNET held its first **Innovation and Standardisation Workshop** in June 2022 - gathering input and recommendations from consortium partners, network members and external participants (practitioners, industry, academia and NGOs) on standardisation for innovations to counter hybrid threats. The findings of the workshop are currently being analysed and will be included in the EU-HYBNET's **2nd Report for standardisation recommendations** (D4.9, due in M36). The report is also available on the EU-HYBNET [website](#).

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Activities

In the last six months, the EU HYBNET DCE Team focused its activities across three areas:

Promoting the project, the network and key results:

In the past six months, many stakeholders have expressed interest in learning more about EU-HYBNET, the conceptual model for countering hybrid threats and the promising innovations identified in the past two years.

As a result, EU-HYBNET's consortium members presented the project in front of EU and Member State policymakers and practitioners, as well as before industry representatives and SMEs. During these events, the two brochures dedicated to the engagement of the SMEs and practitioners to EU-HYBNET (developed in January 2022) were disseminated to interested participants, as well as the network-related flyers.

These events included:

Date	Title
01-02/06/2022	EU-U.S.-Canada conference focusing on hybrid threats and critical infrastructure protection
05/05/2022	PRECINCT EU project workshop "Round Table discussion"
06/07/2022	EUISS EU Cyber Direct event
31/08/2022	BMBF 9th Symposium on European Civil Security Research
06/09/2022	Council of the EU Horizontal Working Party on Enhancing Resilience and Countering Hybrid Threats
13/09/2022	EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security: "Shaping responsible solutions for internal security" event
14/09/2022	CRITIS2022 conference
27/09/2022	CERIS Annual Event 2022 – Fighting Crime and Terrorism/ Resilient Infrastructure

EU-HYBNET events:

In mid-June 2022, EU-HYBNET partners successfully organised and held two back-to-back hybrid workshops from The Hague.



The [2nd Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Workshop](#) organised by TNO provided practitioners, industry, SMEs, and academia with an opportunity to exchange information on challenges countering

hybrid threats, and the possible innovations to answer them. During the workshop, consortium partners, network members and external participants (practitioners, industry, academia and NGOs) discussed the project's latest Innovation Assessment results and exchanged new ideas regarding how the innovations could be further improved to counter hybrid threats.

The [1st Innovation and Standardisation Workshop](#) organised by PHS gathered input and recommendations from consortium partners, network members and external participants (practitioners, industry, academia and NGOs) on standardisation requirements for innovations to counter hybrid threats.

- During **Working Group 1 – Standardisation measures in the context of critical infrastructure protection and innovations to enhance information sharing**, standardisation experts and pan-European security practitioners presented their views on current standards, needs and future possibilities for standardisation in the field of critical infrastructure protection in of light the challenges deriving form hybrid threats
- During **Working Group 2 – Innovations in disinformation and media literacy**, participants discussed standardisation best practices and innovative solutions answering security practitioners' needs to counter information manipulation and interference, disinformation and media literacy.

Both workshops were promoted among partners' networks and social media, gathering more than 150 combined participants. The success of these events can be measured in the conclusions gathered for the work conducted in WP3 and WP4, as well as by the fact that they introduced the project to new audiences which subsequently expressed their interest in joining the EU-HYBNET network.

On 15th of September 2022 and under the framework of the CRITIS2022 conference, the EU-HYBNET Ethics Advisory Board organised a workshop on "[Reacting to hybrid threats: Ethical compliance of the riposte/counter-attack innovations](#)" with a case study on Critical Infrastructure protection. Participants had lively discussions around the role of ethics in countering hybrid threats. Two main conclusions/actions were drawn from the workshop:

- The need of taking ethics into consideration when choosing countermeasures against hybrid threats.
- The need to take an ethical approach in new innovations and practices.

An important outcome was also the realisation among participants of the importance of discussions around ethics. There is a need for continuity of such discussions and workshops, even for a network of ethical experts on hybrid threats. An open invitation was issued for all interested in these themes. Those interested should contact Tuomas Tammilehto via email (tuomas.tammilehto@laurea.fi) to arrange future activities.

Finally, on the 29th - 30th of September 2022, EU-HYBNET organised its [2nd Training & Exercise Event](#) in hybrid format, in Vilnius, Lithuania and online. During the training, participants (EU-HYBNET partners and network members) had the opportunity to test possible innovations to enhance European actors' measures against hybrid threats. More information including the event summary will be shared

through EU-HYBNETS's Social Media channels – [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). Make sure you are already following.

Strengthening project synergies:

A new page has been created on the EU-HYBNET website to display links and synergies with other EU projects. In the two and a half years of the project, EU-HYBNET has initiated collaboration opportunities with projects such as [INCLUDING](#), [MEDEA](#), [FINSEC](#), [RESISTO](#), [PRECINCT](#), [ECHO](#), [7SHIELD](#), [ALIGNER](#), [PRAETORIAN](#) and [NOTIONES](#).

PROJECT SYNERGIES

EU-HYBNET currently has synergies with the following projects



RESISTO

Participating to the 2nd ECSCI Workshop

SPOC: bruno.saccomanno@leonardocompany.com

RESISTO platform is an innovative solution for Communication Crisis
Historic situation awareness and enhanced resilience (aligned with
ERC's objectives) based on an International Quality Standard



FINSEC

Participating to the 2nd ECSCI Workshop

SPOC: fabrizio.dipeppo@tft.com

FINSEC (Integrated Framework for Predictive and Collaborative



PRECINCT

PRECINCT

Participating to the stakeholder workshop
taking place on May 5th, as well as
participating in the 2nd ECSCI Workshop

Project Synergies (EU-HYBNET website)

Collaboration with the [PRECINCT](#) project was also established within the last six months.

PRECINCT aims to provide a model-driven collaborative and unifying cyber-physical security and resilience management platform for smart resilient PRECINCTs. A presentation of EU-HYBNET was provided at PRECINCT's 1st Stakeholder Engagement Workshop in May 2022 in Brussels.



EU-HYBNET continued the collaboration with the [INCLUDING](#) project, being featured in their latest [newsletter](#) with an interview from EU-HYBNET Project Coordinator, summarising the key links between the projects.

In addition, as a member of the [ECSCI Cluster](#) (European Cluster for Securing Critical Infrastructure), EU-HYBNET participated to the 2nd ECSCI Workshop on Critical Infrastructure Protection (27-29/04/2022) by providing three presentations:

1. A general project presentation on achieved results,
2. A thematic presentation hybrid threats and Critical Infrastructure protection – identified solutions
3. Presentation on hybrid threats and safety and security concerns in the critical infrastructure protection.



Innovations to counter hybrid threats

Dr Souzanna Sofou, SATWAYS Ltd
Okke Lucassen, Rick Meessen, TNO
Rimantas Zylius, Evaldas Bružė, L3CE

28/04/2022

2° ECSCI Workshop

Empowering a Pan-European
Network to Counter Hybrid-Threats

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 883054

During EU-HYBNET's [1st Innovation and Standardisation Workshop](#) (The Hague, 14/06/2022), both the [PRAETORIAN](#) and [7SHIELD](#) projects presented experiences and insights on standardisation frameworks and best practices related to innovations that would enhance the protection of critical infrastructure.

Finally, during the [CRITIS2022/EU-HYBNET Ethics workshop](#), [NOTIONES](#) Ethics Manager Mr. Tuomas Tammilehto (Laurea) provided a presentation of the project, successfully starting the cooperation between the two networks.

Stay tuned!

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

- **2-4 November 2022:** EU-HYBNET is to be presented in the “Innovation in Law Enforcement” event organised by the Police of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Europol Innovation Lab and the European Clearing Board.
- **7 November 2022:** EU-HYBNET Project Coordinator will join the CERIS DISASTER RESILIENT SOCIETIES (DRS) – STATE-OF-PLAY event and present Hybrid threats as a possible trigger and amplifier of extreme threats.
- **March 2023:** EU-HYBNET will organise its 3rd Gaps and Needs event in Rome, Italy.
- **April 2023:** EU-HYBNET will organise its 3rd Annual Workshop (#AW) and Future Trends Workshop (#FTW) in Bucharest, Romania.

Make sure to stay up to date with everything EU-HYBNET by following us on our social media channels!

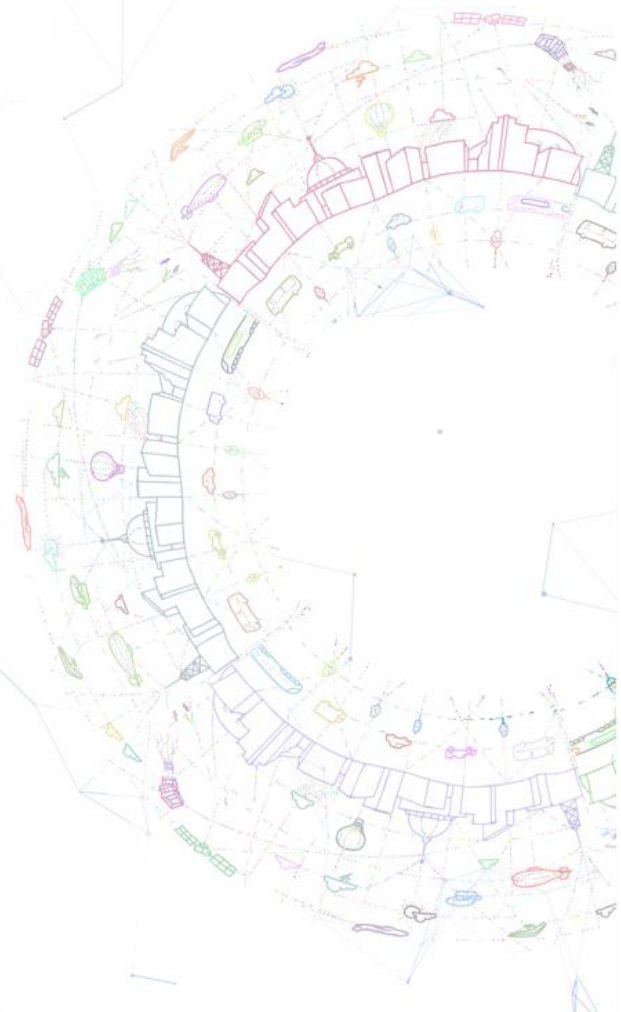


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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No883054

