# EU-HYBNET held its 1st Innovation and Standardisation Workshop, #ISW

On the 15th of June 2022, following the 2nd IKEW event, the EU-HYBNET consortium held its 1st Innovation and Standardisation Workshop #ISW in hybrid format (in person, in the Hague and on-line). During the workshop, consortium partners and external participants (practitioners, industry, academia and NGOs) discussed standardisation recommendations for innovations to counter hybrid threats in two thematic areas:

1. Standardisation measures in the context of critical infrastructure protection and innovations to enhance information sharing
2. Innovations in disinformation and media literacy

The 1st ISW, organised by PPHS, was opened by the EU-HYBNET Project Coordinator Dr. Päivi Mattila, Director of Security Research Program, Laurea University of Applied Sciences and Mr. Rashel Talukder, Managing Director of the Polish Platform for Homeland Security (PPHS). Maria Avdeeva, Research Director at the European Expert Association, gave the first keynote speech live from Kharkiv, Ukraine on *"Countering Russian disinformation during the war against Ukraine"*, and stated that disinformation channels controlled by Russia are not new, but have been very instrumental in the recent invasion. The second keynote speaker Prof. Aleksandar Jovanović, Chief Executive Officer at the Steinbeis European Risk and Resilience Institute, focused on the current *"Standardisation Landscape and Critical Infrastructure Protection"*, highlighting the short timeframe of validity of relevant standards.

Participants were then divided into two working groups held in the Hague, and broadcasted online:

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.

- Prof. Aleksandr Joanovic discussed best practices for standardization in EU projects. A lack of standardisation experts, the short timeframe of validity for relevant standards were identified as key issues, while recommendations were made for project consortia to start standardisation work early and build expertise by including for example national standardisation bodies in EU projects.
- Monica Cardarilli (JRC) presented on the actions and policy measures the European Commission and its Joint Research Centre are taking to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure against hybrid threats. Building and participating in networks such as the European Reference Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection (ERNCIP) was identified as an important step to enhance technical collaboration among all relevant stakeholders, share best practices and guidelines and overall improve the protection and resilience of critical infrastructures in Europe.
- Dr. Rolf Blom (RISE) and Isto Mattila (LAU) discussed how to establish and standardise a common information sharing and analysis environment (CISAE) for critical infrastructure protection against hybrid threats; one of EU-HYBNET identified innovations. To ensure CISAE uptake, a governance body, a framework agreement with information sharing principles, as well as interoperability principles and data exchange formats need to be defined in advance.
- A panel discussion followed with Dr. George Karagiannis, Deputy Secretary General for Civil Protection in Greece, noting that we are passing from a framework of protection of critical infrastructure to one of resilience, and Dr. Aikaterini Poustourli, Standardisation Expert, Member of

EURAS, identifying as a first step the need to examine which of the existing standards in the field could correspond to future needs.
- Yves Rougier from the French Ministry for an Ecological Transition and Territory Cohesion presented his perspective on resilience against hybrid threats and highlighted the importance of clear definitions. Participants concluded that hybrid threats are not clearly defined in a way that would allow for an EU-wide regulation on standardisation.
- Stefan Pickl (COMPTESSA) presented on the importance of coordination and preparation in critical infrastructure protection. A risk management process based on experimental design data farming and big data analytics could further assist this work in the future.
- The session closed with presentations of standardisation activities of other H2020 projects: PRAETORIAN and 7SHIELD.

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.

- LTC Tomasz Gergelewicz, Polish Academic Centre for Strategic Communication, highlighted that anti-disinformation campaigns can build societal resilience.
- Daniel Fritz (EEAS) discussed how to apply threat-informed defense principles to detect and measure disinformation. EEAS is providing a framework for identifying disinformation, including taxonomy and relevant standards.
- Prof. Aleksandra Przegalinska (Kozminski University) commented on the paradox of artificial intelligence as a tool which is used both for generating and combating deepfakes.
- Emma Goodman, European Digital Media Observatory, stressed the importance of media literacy as a tool that can help populations counter disinformation.
- Solvita Denisa-Liepniece (BCME) added that through media literacy we can increase cognitive resilience in society. Once cognitive resilience is built within a population, then this population is much less susceptible to disinformation campaigns. Cognitive resilience must also be introduced and built as early as possible.
- Liisa Talonpoika, Ambassador for Hybrid Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, gave the final presentation on Finnish best practices to increase media literacy and counter disinformation.
- Participants then had the opportunity to discuss the need for standardisation in this field and ask questions. The main conclusion of the session was the importance of strengthening media literacy among the public to ensure that people are able to identify disinformation campaigns.

The 1st EU-HYBNET Innovation and Standardisation Workshop was a successful event and provided a space for exchange of opinions and methods between the audience, the consortium and the keynote speakers. The key conclusions of this workshop, which will be outlined in D4.9 2nd Report for standardisation recommendations (M36), will shape EU-HYBNET's future work in the field of standardisation based on the gaps and needs identified during the event.

**If you are interested in joining EU-HYBNET's network, you can read the associated information and apply on the project's website. For further information on EU-HYBNET, you can follow the project through Twitter and LinkedIn.**