

EU-HYBNET Newsletter – April 2022:

- **Message from the project coordinator** (Laurea UAS, Päivi Mattila)

Since the last EU-HYBNET biannual newsletter (Oct 2021) the project has reached a lot in all its fields. First of all, the project has identified for a second time the most critical pan-European security practitioners' gaps and needs, vulnerabilities to counter hybrid threats. In addition, from the first project working cycle (May2020 – Aug 2021) the identified most promising technological and non-technological innovations and solutions to the gaps and needs have been announced and are under process of innovation standardization recommendations. The key solutions focus on information sharing in critical infrastructure protection, countering disinformation, and enhancing media literacy. The project has also delivered training material in forms of videos, scenarios, and training methods as well as guidance for pan-European stakeholders to arrange independently trainings to counter hybrid threats in any organizations. In this field, cooperation with the European Security and Defence College has well continued. Furthermore, it has been EU-HYBNET's pleasure to continue cooperation with European External Action Service (EEAS) Strat. Comm. in the frames of needed innovations and the project has been warmly welcomed the request from DG RTD to discuss the project's findings in the field of critical infrastructure protection and hybrid threats. Furthermore, the Europol Innovation Lab and EU-HYBNET are now also starting cooperation in the field of innovations to pan-European Law Enforcement Authorities needs to counter hybrid threats. Finally, possible cooperation with DG DEFIS has been under preliminary discussions and possible proceeding remains to be seen.

EU-HYBNET has been also active in arranging events. The project just arranged two important project events, "2nd Future Trends of Hybrid Threats Workshop" and "2nd Annual Workshop" in person in Rome and also on-line. Both of the events gathered circa 100 participants and it was great pleasure to have in person engagement for the first time in the project's history. The importance of meeting in person cannot be underestimated, and further to this point, EU-HYBNET will arrange two highly interesting events in Hague during 14th and 15th of June 2022, and more about the events in the forthcoming chapters.

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

During the late autumn of 2021, EU-HYBNET's 1st EC project review was conducted. All project's deliverables from the period May 2020 – August 2021 was accepted by the EC, and hence the public documents are now available and published in the EC's platform Cordis <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/883054/results>. According to the review, the importance of the EU-HYBNET network extension was highlighted and new members from the industry and SMEs (Small and Medium Size Enterprises) are seen as highly important to have next to other key pan-European actors (security practitioners, academia, NGOs) countering hybrid threats.

- **Network Extension**

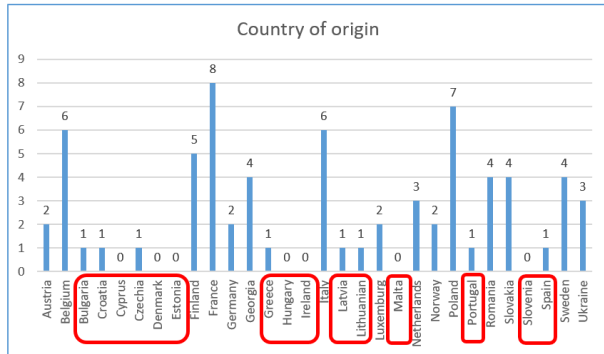
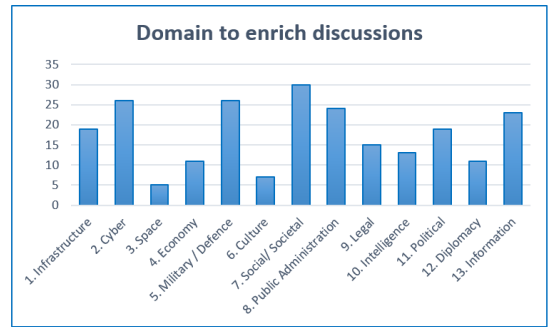
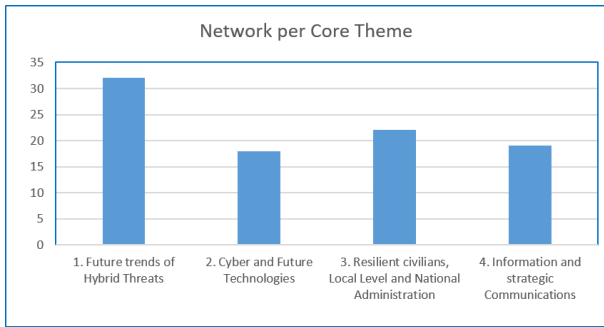
The EU-HYBNET Network has increased steadily with new expert members. Between October 2021 and March 2022, **15 new members** were accepted to the network. They are following:

Name	Country	Type of organization
<i>VOST Portugal</i>	Portugal	NGO



AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH	Austria	Research organization
State Scientific Institution "Institute of Information, Security and Law of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine"	Ukraine	Research organization
LEPL Cyber Security Bureau under the Ministry of Defence of Georgia	Georgia	Practitioner
International Cyber Academy	Ukraine	Research organization
Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)	Italy	NGO
Defence Institution Building School	Georgia	Research organization
Combitech AB	Sweden	Industry
Academic Centre for Strategic Communication	Poland	Research organization
Ministry of Interior of the Slovak republic	Slovakia	Practitioner
G4S	Belgium	Industry
European Institute for Counter Terrorism and Conflict Prevention	Austria	Research organization
Faculty of Military Sciences	The Netherlands	Research organization
EFFECTUS - Entrepreneurial Studies - University College	Croatia	Research organization
Beyond the Horizon ISSG	Belgium	NGO

At the end of March 2022, EU-HYBNET has 70 network members from 23 European Union member states or associated countries. Currently, we have nine network members from three associated country. The network is analysed based on the answers the network member has provide in the application. The results are shown in the picture below.



Category	Number	Country
Practitioner	20	13
NGO	14	10
Academic/RTO	24	14
Industry/ SME	12	5
In total	70	23

As seen from the graphics, SMEs are in minority in the EU-HYBNET network, hence project extension activities are focused on SMEs. As an example of this, the project invited in the spirit of “Roadshow” 11 Italian companies to join to the EU-HYBNET Annual Workshop and Future Trend Workshop in Rome during April. Still the work continues, and the aim is to invite local companies to all project events: next in turn will be the Netherlands where two EU-HYBNET events (the Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Event and Standardization Workshop) will take place in mid-June in The Hague. Next to SMEs, the EU-HYBNET also warmly welcomes other new members representing pan-European security practitioners, academia, industry and SMEs, NGOs to join the network - more information on the network membership benefits and activities can be found from the EU-HYBNET Web Page <https://euhybnet.eu/about/network-and-vision/>. Please also contact the EU-HYBNET Network Manager Jari Räsänen/Laurea (jari.rasanen@laurea.fi) and the EU-HYBNET responsible partner for the network extension and activities: the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE)/ Maria Soukkio (maria.soukkio@hybridcoe.fi) and Maxime Lebrun (maxime.lebrun@hybridcoe.fi) in any network related issue. We warmly welcome you to join the network!

- Gaps and needs of European actors against Hybrid Threats

The EU-HYBNET activities to identify pan-European security practitioners and other relevant actors’ gaps and needs to counter hybrid threats has continued since autumn 2021 to analyse the current threat environment in the led by EU-HYBNET partner the Hybrid CoE. Within EU-HYBNET, four core themes (Future Trends of Hybrid Threats; Cyber and Future Technologies; Resilient Civilians, Local Level and National Administration; Information and Strategic Communication), a series of threats, gaps and needs have been identified and prioritized per their criticality. This is especially important in countering hybrid threats, as those activities are designed to have cascading effects. The threat analysis produced by the consortium partners stresses, among other things, the damage potential that the instrumentalization of political cleavages risks on society. The rise of populism bears such a risk. The threat analysis also focused on the criticality of space related interference as well the vulnerability



of critical infrastructures and their dependencies. The manipulation of information, interference in media organisations and information industry, foreign interference in the business sectors also present threat surfaces that can be exploited by hybrid threat actors. The incitement of violent radicalisation online can also play a role in the landscape of hybrid threats. The EU-HYBNET will operationalise the findings of the threat analysis into a scenario and exercise in the coming months of the project.

- **Surveys to Technology, Research and Innovations**

The EU-HYBNET Work Package (WP)3 “Surveys to Technology, Research and Innovations” is continuing the search for Innovations to counter Hybrid Threats, focusing on the main gaps and needs identified by WP2 “Gaps and Needs of European Actors against Hybrid Threats” for the second cycle (September 2021 – February 2023). Space interference and the threats on Critical Infrastructures require a holistic approach in the crisis management of space ground segments that can address preparedness, detection, response, mitigation and recovery. Strategic dependencies need to be clarified, as well as the aggregated risk implications. Emphasis is also given on innovations and ideas to counter manipulation of information. Additionally, relevant work is continuing on research projects monitoring and analysing the scientific research landscape for the gaps and needs identified.

In the recent Annual Workshop event in Rome, WP3 partners had the opportunity to present innovations selected for the first cycle (May 2020 – August 2021), as well as work in progress for the second cycle, for each primary context. Additionally, the assessment methodology for the innovations has been presented, including the criteria and the final assessment results for the first cycle.

- **Recommendations for Innovations Uptake and Standardization**

EU-HYBNET has proceeded in the delivery of recommendations for the most promising innovation standardization to the identified pan-European security practitioners and other relevant actors’ gaps and needs to counter Hybrid Threats. The project identified six areas for recommendations: Strategic Communication; Critical Goods and Commodities; Resilient Civilians; Fake News and Disinformation, Cybersecurity; and Big data. These areas are also where the EU-HYBNET's four most promising innovations for uptake are identified. The work to finalize the recommendations for standardization will continue in the context of the forthcoming EU-HYBNET event "Innovation Standardization Workshop" on the 15th of June in The Hague, the Netherlands. More about the event and participation can be found on the EU-HYBNET webpage and social media.

EU-HYBNET has also delivered three Policy Briefs on the key innovations standardizations findings and needs. More about the findings please see EU-HYBNET Webpage <https://euhybnet.eu/policy-briefs/>

- **Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Activities**

In the last six months, the EU HYBNET Dissemination& Communication& Exploitation (DCE) put in place a couple of relevant activities.



Two brochures dedicated to the engagement of the SMEs and practitioners to join EU-HYBNET were developed by the DCE team, published on our website, and disseminated through EU-HYBNET partners and their network in January 2022.

EU-HYBNET joined and is now part of the ECSI cluster (European Cluster for Securing Critical Infrastructures) <https://www.finsec-project.eu/ecsci> whose main objectives is to create synergies and foster emerging disruptive solutions to security issues via cross-projects collaboration and innovation. EU-HYBNET coordinator Laurea will give a presentation to the 2nd ECSI Cluster Workshop which will be held on the 28th and 29th of April 2022. You are all welcome to join the event!

EU-HYBNET is also currently creating interesting synergies with other projects such as [ILEAnet](#), [ECHO](#), [PRECINCT](#), [MEDEA](#), [INCLUDING](#), and [ALIGNER](#). Important to highlight is that next to ALIGNER, PRECINCT and MEDEA, [ZSHIELD](#) also presented

EU-HYBNET Project @EUHybnet · Apr 6
With her closing remarks, Dr. Päivi Mattila closes up our 2nd Annual Workshop! Thank you to all of our organizers, presentors and participants for another successful workshop! We look forward to seeing you again at our next event!



their key innovations relevant to measures countering Hybrid Threats during EU-HYBNET's Annual Workshop in Rome & on-line on the 6th of April. In the Annual Workshop the keynote speech was provided by DG HOME Policy Officer

Mr. Giannis Skiadaresis highlighting the importance on critical infrastructure protection to Hybrid Threats. Also, Mr Rasmus Hindren from Hybrid CoE highlighted the many ways on how to safeguard European Critical infrastructure against hybrid attacks. The third Annual Workshop keynote speaker was Head of Team, Mr. Gregory Mounier from EUROPOL Innovation Lab who provided a keynote speech that underlined the importance of having tangible innovations to the use of pan-European law enforcement authorities so that counter measures to hybrid threats can be taken. The Annual Workshop was successfully organised by EU-HYBNET partner Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC) with the support of EU-HYBNET coordinator Laurea.



Another important EU-HYBNET event, the 2nd Future Trends Workshop (FTW), took place on the 5th of April also in hybrid mode (Rome in person & on-line). The FTW included interesting keynote speeches from DG DEFIS, the European Digital Media Observatory, and the German Council of Foreign Relations highlighting the challenges but also measures to discover and to counter future Hybrid Threats. This was followed working group session dedicated to discovering the future hybrid threats landscape. The FTW was organised by EU-HYBNET partner UCSC with the support of Hybrid CoE. The press releases of both events can be found on our [website](#).



The next EU-HYBNET events will be the 2nd Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Workshop which will take place in the Hague on the 14th of June and is organised by EU-HYBNET partner TNO. The event will be followed by the EU-HYBNET Innovations Standardisation Workshop which will happen on the 15th of June 2022, also in the Hague, arranged by EU-HYBNET partner PPHS.

More information and registration to the events, please follow EU-HYBNET [Webpages](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Welcome to join EU-HYBNET activities and engaging with the project!