

EU-HYBNET, CRITIS2022 workshop “Reacting to hybrid threats: Ethical compliance of the riposte/counter-attack innovations” and presentations



1 (from left to right): Major General a.D Dr. Dr. Dieter Budde, Prof. Bernhard Hämmerli, Dr. Päivi Mattila, Christian Després, Prof. Stefan Pickl (© Universität der Bundeswehr München)

On 14-16 September 2022, EU-HYBNET participated in the 17th International Conference on Critical Information Infrastructures Security 2022 (CRITIS2022) organised in Munich by EU-HYBNET partner COMTESSA (UNIBW). During the conference, the EU-HYBNET Ethics Advisory Board and Ethics Manager Mr. Tuomas Tammilehto successfully organised a workshop on “**Reacting to hybrid threats: Ethical compliance of the riposte/counter-attack innovations**” with the participation of around 20 people online and in-person.

EU-HYBNET was also represented in CRITIS with **two opening keynote speeches**: the first from the Project Coordinator Dr. Päivi Mattila and the second delivered by consortium partner Mr. Christian Després from the French Ministry of Ecological Transition. EU-HYBNET Innovation Manager Mr. Isto Mattila, also delivered a **plenary speech**. EU-HYBNET received much attention from participants and featured in the official conference press release (available [here](#) in German).

Conclusions from the EU-HYBNET Workshop

The workshop focused on ideas around ethics that the Ethical Advisory Board of the EU-HYBNET project has been pondering during the first two years of the project. Participants discussed how to ethically react and respond to hybrid threats in respect also of European values, with a special focus in the Critical Infrastructure (CI) domain.

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 Ethics 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.

Conclusions from the EU-HYBNET presentations

The EU-HYBNET presentations during the opening of the conference and in the CRITIS plenary also attracted the attention of participants.

In her **keynote speech**, the **EU-HYBNET Coordinator** highlighted the importance of focusing on Hybrid Threats in the Critical Infrastructure domain and flagged the existing pan-European gaps and needs, and vulnerabilities for countering hybrid threats in the field. New disruptive technologies (e.g., AI, 5G), exploitation of critical infrastructure weaknesses and economic dependencies were mentioned. Furthermore, it was underlined that research in the field is seen even more important due to the war in Ukraine.

In the second keynote speech, **EU-HYBNET partner** Mr. Christian Després underlined the importance of scenario building and testing between a variety of experts in order to have enhanced preparedness to multi-dimensional threats and attacks, such as hybrid attacks and threats. Mr. Després mentioned that EU-HYBNET is a network where this kind of preparedness can also be built, much like in the project SANCTUM which he also presented.

Latest research discoveries to counter the noticed vulnerabilities, especially relating to the critical infrastructure entities' information sharing were presented by the **EU-HYBNET Innovation Manager in Plenary**. It was explained how the signature of a hybrid threat attack can be noticed in the context of hybrid threats and attacks, and how sharing the information between critical infrastructure operators would increase their resilience against the attacks.

EU-HYBNET is the 1st EU initiative which brings together pan-European practitioners and stakeholders to identify and analyse common challenges, and requirements to counter hybrid threats. It conducts research, highlights innovation initiatives, arranges training events to test innovations and makes recommendations for the uptake, industrialisation and standardisation of these innovations. These results are shared with EU practitioners and EC policymakers which positively influences the public procurement process.

Further events and discussions around critical infrastructure protection are organised and attended by the EU-HYBNET consortium. If you would like to stay informed, subscribe to our newsletter and join the EU-HYBNET network on the project's [website](#). For further information on EU-HYBNET, you can also follow the project through [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

