EU-HYBNET

Newsletter - October 2023

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

The past six months have been very active in EU-HYBNET regarding the 3rd iteration of identifying pan-European security practitioners' gaps and needs to counter hybrid threats. This has been followed by the mapping of promising innovations, both technological and non-technological, to the identified threats. Initial insights from the innovation mapping will be shared with a wider audience during the upcoming EU-HYBNET event, the 'Innovation Knowledge Exchange Workshop,' in Valencia on November 7th. Please join us for more details on this event in the newsletter below.

In Valencia on November 8th, the 'Innovation Standardization Workshop' will also take place. This workshop will focus on the uptake of the most promising innovations in the context of FIMI (Future Information Management Infrastructure) and critical infrastructure protection. The special focus will be on best practices and standards relevant to the uptake of these innovations.

In general, EU-HYBNET is actively sharing its results with a wider audience of pan-European stakeholders. Recently, the project participated in the ECSCI cluster event in late September, presenting a focus on information sharing needs among critical infrastructure operators to counter hybrid threats. Additionally, EU-HYBNET participated in the Europol Innovation Hub event in Brussels on October 3rd to support networking and share the latest results.

We are pleased to announce our participation in the forthcoming SRE2024 event, where EU-HYBNET has the honor of being among the panelists. As the project approaches its final phase, plans for projects that will continue networking and building on the gained knowledge for future research initiatives are underway. If you wish to learn more about these projects and join the discussion, we welcome you to reach out to the project at its upcoming events. We look forward to collaborating with you to counter hybrid threats

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 EU-HYBNET project is turning to its final years, running until April 2025. This also means that 3rd EC project Review is coming soon, in the beginning of 2024 and the project is interested in seeing how the European Commission and the pan-European stakeholders sees the project's execution. Of course, the project is doing its best to deliver results for stakeholders needs, and to increase its information sharing activities, EU-HYBNET has also planned to arrange an additional event, namely a webinar on 26th of OCT focusing on "Role of LEAs in Combating Hybrid Threats" – welcome to join! The Webinar is arranged in partnership with the CYBERSPACE LEA Project Cluster.

EU-HYBNET also wishes to proceed with its key results further and possibly in the form of new project(s). Therefore, in EU-HYBNET Valencia event, IKEW, last part of the day is dedicated to a Round Table discussion on future project topics and funding instruments where EU-HYBNET could continue to deliver results on ever changing features of hybrid threats. The future project(s) are seen important also to continue the cooperation gained in the EU-HYBNET network between various pan-European stakeholders and to serve the pan-European security community's needs.

EU-HYBNET also continues the cooperation with the DG HOME, EUROPOL Innovation Lab, European External Action Service/Strat.Comm. and various EU Member State ministries, agencies/offices and authorities to counter hybrid threats – the cooperation takes place esp. in the form events and learning from needs and results and way forward. Welcome to join EU-HYBNET events where the discussion will continue next to highlighting promising solutions for challenges.

Network Extension

The EU-HYBNET welcomed three new members to the network since last April! The network has now total of **102 organisations from 23 countries**. This includes 26 practitioners, 36 research and/or education institutions, 18 NGOs, and 22 SMEs.

We thank our network members and partners for their contribution and efforts for the project outcomes and increasing visibility of the project across the Europe!

EU-HYBNET welcomes the following new members to the network:

Name	Country	Type of organisation
Institute of Legal Personnel Training for the Security Service of Ukraine Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University	Ukraine	Academia
Polytechnic Institute of Setubal - School of Technology	Portugal	Academia
DG SAFE/European Parliament	Luxemburg	NGO

Join the network!

The project welcomes valuable European actors (practitioners, industry, SMEs and academic actors, NGOs) to join the growing European Network helping to counter against hybrid threats.
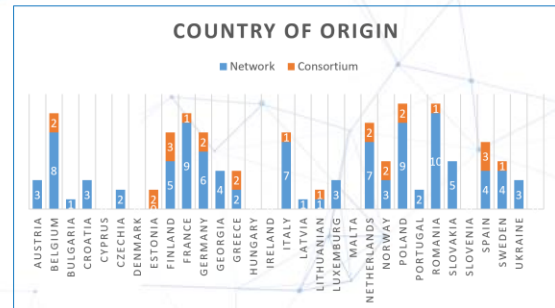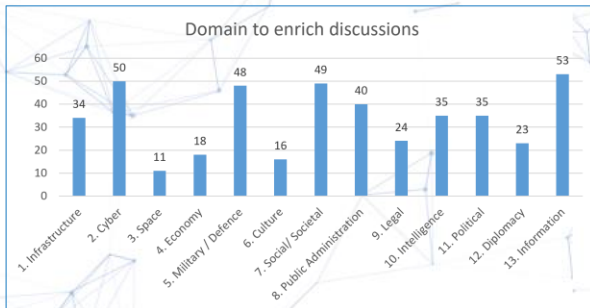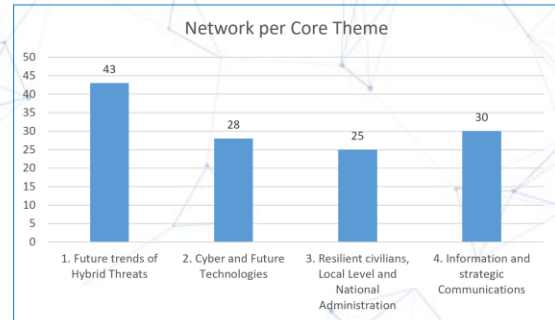
What are the benefits and how to join? Active network of various European actors is an integral part of the project activities collaborating with consortium partners to counter hybrid threats. As a network member you are invited to contribute to our events (Gaps and Needs events, Future Trends Workshop, the Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Workshop and many more. 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.

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!

Our 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 present the state of our network at the end of September 2023:

Category	Nr	MS	Consortium	All
Practitioner	26	14	10	36
NGO	18	14	2	20
Academic/RTO	36	17	11	47
Industry/ SME	22	9	2	24
In total	102	23	25	127

Network per Core Theme

Domain to enrich discussions

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Gaps and needs of European actors against Hybrid Threats

The third Gaps and Needs event, held in Rome, kicked off the third cycle of the EU-HYBNET project in March. The event, organised on-site, was held in collaboration between Hybrid CoE and the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC). A total of 25 participants contributed to the discussions of the current threat environment. The event produced a comprehensive list of threats, gaps, and needs, contributing to the publications of "Long List of Gaps and Needs" and "Short List of Gaps and Needs". The results indicates that the current threat landscape continues to be a realm of possibilities for hostile actors to interfere within liberal democratic societies, undermining their decision-making capabilities, integrity, and societal peaceful coexistence.

EU-HYBNET will organise the fourth and final Gaps and Needs event in Madrid, Spain, in 2024. As the final event will present an overall evaluation and conclusions from the past cycles, the work for analysing results from the past three years has already started. The planning of the event will start soon, **so stay tuned for more information!**

Surveys to Technologies, Research and Innovations

During the last period, Work Package (WP) 3 "Surveys to Technology, Research and Innovations" focused on the work related to the Deliverables that are due for this period, and more specifically D3.5, Second mid-term report Improvement and innovations from Task 3.2 "Technology and Innovations Watch", and D3.9 Second mid-term report Innovation and monitoring from Task 3.3 "Ongoing Research Projects Initiatives Watch". The work has been documented in the corresponding

Deliverables and will soon be submitted. Additionally, the template for presenting innovations has been updated in the frame of Task 3.1 "Definition of Target Areas for Improvements and Innovations" and has been used in this period. Results of the previous cycles and new contributions have been disseminated at the 3° Scientific International Conference on CBRNE in Rome by the WP Leader. (Details are provided in the dissemination section of this document)

Recommendations for Innovations Uptake and Standardisation

EU-HYBNET finalised the **2nd Report on the Procurement Environment in November 2022**. Progress focused 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 (May 2020 – SEP 2021), the 2nd project working Cycle (Oct 2021 – FEB 2023) focused on the procurement practices of the remaining 13 Member States, concluding with a spectrum of the procurement process, the financial tools and applicable laws covering the entire spectrum. The analysis highlighted the aspects of innovation procurement and joint procurement procedures. The outcome of the aforementioned activities was the formulation of procurement-related recommendations regarding the most promising areas. In addition, potential pitfalls and success cases were identified, which were utilised to develop viable innovation uptake strategies.

On the topic of standardisation, EU-HYBNET will have its second **Innovation and Standardisation Workshop (ISW)** on November 8th, 2023 in Valencia - gathering input and recommendations regarding standardisation for innovations to counter hybrid threats from consortium partners, network members and external participants (practitioners, industry, academia and NGOs). The ISW will build on the EU-HYBNET's **2nd Report for standardisation recommendations** (D4.9, due in M36, April 2023). The 2nd Innovation and Standardisation Workshop (ISW) will bring together EU-HYBNET consortium partners and hybrid threats stakeholders to map the current status of standardisation efforts and needs, also to learn on best practices in the ISW dedicated focus areas for enahhcong measures to counter hybrid threats in the future. This workshop will explore the issue of standardization and best practices in two parallel tracks of work:

1. Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI)
2. Protection of critical infrastructure

[Don't forget to register on for the event on our website!](#)

Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Activities

As the project continues to conduct the work in the 3rd Cycle (March 2023 – August 2024), project partners engaged in several continuous Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation activities to promote the results and vision of the EU-HYBNET project.

EU-HYBNET has just published a report on promising innovation that is recommended for uptake and future implementation plans. The Report "*MIMI an EU-HYBNET Innovation. Boost sharing of IMI (Information Manipulaiton and Interference) Information. Create MIMI, a Marketplace*" can be found in EU-HYBNET website, see Report No. 2 https://euhybnet.eu/policy-briefs-and-reports/ . The report has been written in cooperation with European External Action Service/ Strategic Communication division in order to promote and support their work in FIMI toolbox development to which the named EU-HYBNET MIMI innovation is building on.

Dissemination through EU-HYBNET Events

After the organisation of the project workshops focusing on the current gaps and needs of hybrid threats, the project shifted its focus on highlighting innovations that answer the aforementioned gaps and needs. This work will then serve as the main focus of the next iterations of the Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (IKEW) and the Innovation Standardisation Workshops (ISW), mentioned above. An additional EU-HYBNET webinar will take place on 26th of October focusing on the "Role of LEAs in Combating Hybrid Threats" arranged in partnership with the CYBERSPACE LEA Project Cluster is bringing its own contribution for future research activities in the project.

No new events were held in the period since the last newsletter, but be sure to check out our upcoming events on our website. We have 3 sets of events that will provide new insights and knowledge on countering hybrid threats.

Dissemination through project synergies and external events

Continuing EU-HYBNET's strong participation in DG HOME CERIS Workshops, the project was present in the CERIS FCT workshop on Disinformation, fake news and hate speech.

In addition to this, the project continued building cooperation and synergies with other EU-funded projects and strengthening existing relationships with projects such as PROMENADE, NO-FEAR, NOTIONES, INCLUDING, MEDEA, PRECINCT, ALIGNER, EU-CIP, VIGILANT, CONNECTOR, iProcureNET, CYBERSPACE LEA Project cluster and the ECSCI Cluster.

- PRECINCT Conference (16 May 2023)
- RISE-SD 2023 (29 May 2023)
- EMSA CISE Stakeholders Group (21 June 2023)
- EUISS event (27 June 2023)
- EU-CIP Annual Conference / ECSCI Cluster workshop (20-21 September 2023)
- EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security - annual event (3 October 2023)

As part of EU-HYBET's contributions to these events, project partners would present the findings form the first two cycle and participate in high-level discussions/panels with important stakeholders. For example

- Mrs. Angeliki Tsanta and Mr. Vincent Perez de Leon-Huet presented the EU-HYBNET project to a large research audience at a booth during the RISE-SD event.
- Dr. Paivi Mattila participated to a panel during the PRECINCT project to discuss critical infrastructure protection from hybrid threats
- And Mr. Isto Mattila presented the EU-HYBNET links to CISE to the European Maritime Safety Agency's stakeholders group.
- Results of the previous cycles and new contributions were presented at the SICC2023 conference in Rome via S. Sofou, G. Pestana, D. Diagourtas, A. Kostaridis, 'Innovations to counter hybrid threats: emphasis on Critical Infrastructures & related Data Governance dimensions', 3° Scientific International Conference on CBRNE, Rome, September 25th-29th, 2023.

The main focus of the DCE team in the next six months is on starting to showcase the results of the 3rd cycle and further promote EU-HYBNET events and opportunities for collaboration with stakeholders. Keep an eye out on our social media channels to see which events are coming up. Stay tuned for more!

Stay tuned!

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

- **24 & 25 October 2023**: EU-HYBNET will be presented at the Security Research Event
- **26 October 2023:** EU-HYBNET Webinar ""Role of LEAs in cobating hybrid threats" – in partnership with CYBERSPACE – LEA Project Cluster"
- **7 & 8 November 2023:** EU-HYBNET will have its 3rd IKEW and 2nd ISW in Valencia, Spain
- **18 & 19 January 2024:** EU-HYBNET is pleased to invite you to 3rd Training & Exercise Event in Vilnius, Lithuania
- **April 2024:** The Annual Workshop and the Future Trends Workshop will be held in Valencia, Spain as well! Keep an eye on our website, as the dates will be announced soon!

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