

EU-HYBNET 3rd Annual Workshop #AW2023



**Ramada Plaza Hotel,
Bucharest, Romania**



09.00-14.30 EET

The EU-HYBNET Annual Workshop presents the project's 3rd year findings and focuses on new innovations and networking. The event is addressed to the EU-HYBNET network members and pan-European stakeholders; the event hosts lectures from policy makers security practitioners, industry, SMEs academia and NGOs.

The EU-HYBNET consortium will hold its 3rd Annual Workshop (#AW2023) on 20 April 2023 in Bucharest, Romania

The programme includes high-level keynote speeches, a presentation of the project results and network activities from the third project year. Additionally, the workshop will host a handful of presenters and European projects introducing their unique **innovation ideas to counter hybrid threats**.

Who? The workshop is open to **project partners and network members**, as well as **external participants** upon registration, it aims at boosting cross-fertilization between the EU-HYBNET project activities, **other EU projects and institutional and industrial operators**.

When? The event will be held on the **20th of April 2023 from 09.00-14.30 EET**

Where? [Ramada Plaza Hotel](#) at Str. Poligrafiei nr. 3-5, Sectorul 1 Bucharest, Romania 013704

Registration: Open online until 30 March 2023.

More information: Ms. Ileana Surdu (ileana.surdu@animv.ro) at the Academia Nationala de Informatii Mihai Viteazul/ The "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy (MVNIA)

3rd EU-HYBNET Annual Workshop:

Thursday, 20 April 2023 | 09:00 – 14:30 EET

In presence at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (Ramada Europe Hall)

Time EET	Topic	Speakers
Welcome and registration <i>Room: Ramada Europe</i>		
8:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:10	Welcome & Practical information	Dr. Päivi Mattila, <i>EU-HYBNET Coordinator, Laurea</i> Dr. Cristina Ivan, <i>Mihai Viteazul National Intelligence Academy</i>
9:10-9:20	Keynote Speech #1: “NIS2 and the way forward”	Ms Svetlana Schuster, <i>European Commission, DG CONNECT, Head of Sector Implementation and Review of the NIS Directive</i>
9:20-9:30	Keynote Speech #2: “Bolstering efforts to counter foreign interference”	Dr. Nad'a Kovalčíková, <i>Senior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies</i>
9:30-9:50	Audience Q&A	Host: Dr. Cristina Ivan, <i>Mihai Viteazul National Intelligence Academy</i>
EU-HYBNET’s latest findings and results <i>Room: Ramada Europe</i>		
9:50-10:50	Round Table Discussion: EU-HYBNET 3 rd year, latest findings and results to countering hybrid threats on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gaps & Needs findings, research focus - Promising innovations for counter measures - Innovation uptake recommendations - Network activities 	Round Table experts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>EUROPOL Innovation Lab</i> - Dr. Teemu Tammikko, <i>Policy Officer, European External Action Service/Hybrid Threats Sector, Security and Defence Policy Division of the European External Action Service</i> - Mr. Juraj Majcin, <i>Program Manager, Friends of Europe</i> EU-HYBNET Consortium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Evaldas Bruze/ <i>L3CE</i> - Dr. Souzanna Sofou, <i>Satways</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Alex Koniaris, Ms Vanessa Papapkosta, Dr. Athanasios Kosmopoulos, <i>KEMEA</i> - Dr. Rolf Blom, <i>Research Institutes of Sweden</i> - Mr. Rashel Talukder, <i>Polish Platform for Homeland Security</i> - Mr. Jari Räsänen/<i>Laurea</i>
10.50-11:00	Audience Q&A	Host: Mr. Paolo Venturoni, <i>CEO European Organization for Security</i>
11:00-11:20	Coffee break (at Foyer Plaza)	
Pitches - Innovation and ideas to counter hybrid threats by organizations and projects <i>Room: Ramada Europe</i>		
11:20-11:30	"Countering Disinformation with Maltego"	Mr. Stefan Iwan, <i>Maltego</i>
11:30-11:40	"TrustServista – AI-powered Content Analytics and Verification Platform"	Mr. George Bara, <i>TrustServista</i>
11:40-11:50	"CRiTERIA - Comprehensive data-driven Risk and Threat Assessment Methods for the Early and Reliable Identification, Validation and Analysis of migration-related risks"	Dr. Aitana Radu, <i>University of Malta</i>
11:50-12:00	Innovations from CYCLOPES EC funded project	Rashel Talukder, <i>Coordinator of Fighting Cyber Crime – Law Enforcement Practitioners' Network (CYCLOPES), Polish Platform for Homeland Security</i>
12:00-12:10	Innovation from CRESCent-DOMINOES EC funded project	Dr. Ruben Arcos, <i>Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain</i> Mr. Alberto Sanchez, <i>Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain</i>
12:10-12:40	Audience Q&A	Host: Mr. Okke Lucassen, <i>TNO</i>
12:40-13:40	OpenCTI/DDS-Alpha Innovation to Counter Hybrid Threats in the Information Domain	Ms. Chiara Pacenti, <i>European External Action Service – Strategic Communication Division</i>
13.30-13.40	Audience Q&A	Host: Mr. Isto Mattila, <i>EU-HYBNET Innovation Manager, Laurea</i>
13:40-13.50	Closing remarks	Dr. Päivi Mattila, <i>EU-HYBNET Coordinator, Laurea</i> Dr. Cristina Ivan, <i>Mihai Viteazul National Intelligence Academy</i>
13:50-14.30	Lunch Break (at Red Pepper)	

Speaker bios

Alberto Sánchez-Acedo

Alberto Sánchez-Acedo is a researcher at the Cyberimaginary Research Group of Rey Juan Carlos University (Spain). He is doing his industrial PhD in collaboration with the company Prodigioso Volcán SL on the development of innovative models of immersive communication through open-source platforms. He has been a researcher in the European project CRESCENT and has participated in different national and international projects where he has been involved in the development of audiovisual and multimedia content, creation of MOOCs, etc., especially interactive and immersive to improve the processes of scientific communication.

Alexios Koniaris

Alexios Koniaris holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and an MSc in Analysis, Design, Management of Information Systems. Alexios is a Research Associate at the Centre for Security Studies (KEMEA), of the Hellenic Ministry of Citizen Protection, and is involved in EU funded projects related to Border Security, Cyber Security and other Security related topics. His professional interests and experience include the areas of Business Development, Requests for Proposals, Project management and Requirements Analysis.

Athanasios Kosmopoulos

Athan KOSMOPOULOS LL.M. PhDc (male) is a technolegal expert with an LL.M in European Law and Politics. Currently he is a Phd candidate in the Dept. Of International Relations of Panteion University on Hybrid threats. His research interests include data protection issues, cybersecurity, disinformation, privacy and the comprehensive approach on countering hybrid threats. He is the National Representative for Greece at the European Cybersecurity Competence Center and appointed as the Data Protection Officer of the Hellenic Ministry of Digital Governance. He participates in the EU-HYBNET research project as an associate researcher at the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), of the Hellenic Ministry of Citizen Protection.

Chiara Pacenti

Chiara Pacenti is a Data Analyst in the Information Analysis, Open Source, and Data Strategy Team at the European External Action Service's Strategic Communications Division. She is currently working on analytical projects aimed at improving a common framework and methodology to collect evidence on foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI). Previously she worked for the spokesperson's service of the European Parliament on data-driven projects related to the fight against disinformation, awareness raising and media literacy.

Cristina Ivan

Cristina Ivan (PhD) is Director of the National Institute for Intelligence Studies, "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy in Romania and a researcher in security and intelligence studies. She holds a PhD in cultural studies. She also has worked as an intelligence analyst. Over the past 15 years she has specialized in the cultural study of violence, radicalization and terrorism, propaganda and disinformation, critical intelligence studies etc. She has taken an active part in European funded projects targeting an enhanced understanding and early detection of radicalization, propaganda,

disinformation, as well as designing both preventive and countering interventions. Research projects include:

- A radical model of resilience for young minds - ARMOUR (2019-2021);
- Semantic Analysis against Foreign Fighters Recruitment Online networks – SAFFRON (2016-2018);
- Culture and Risk Management in Man-made and Natural Disasters, CARISMAND (2016-2018);
- Mind the Gap in media coverage and strategic communication in case of security threats - CRESCent (2019-2021)
- Empowering a Pan-European Network to Counter Hybrid Threats - EU-HYBNET, 2020-2025

Google Scholar link: <https://scholar.google.ro/citations?user=NYG8QzYAAAAJ&hl=ro>

EUROPOL Innovation Lab

The Europol Innovation Lab seeks to foster creativity and collaboration among law enforcement agencies in order to help future proof law enforcement in Europe. It provides a space for experimentation, prototyping, and testing of new technologies and methods, with a focus on enhancing law enforcement capabilities and addressing emerging security challenges. Through its various initiatives and partnerships with law enforcement, industry partners and academic institutions, the Innovation Lab seeks to facilitate knowledge sharing, promote best practices, and leverage cutting-edge technologies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement operations across Europe.

Isto Mattila

R&D Director of Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Isto Mattila, has wide working experience covering diverse assignments in different organisations national and international level. He is a Captain Navy, Finnish Border Guard. As from 2008 to 2014 he has worked for the European Commission, DG MARE. He was a second penholder for Maritime Security Strategy and designed new information sharing mechanism (CISE) between maritime authorities in EU, which is now hosted by EMSA. Today he is responsible for R&D activities, mainly in international scale at Laurea. He is also a project coordinator of the AI-ARC Horizon 2020 project, which aims to build information sharing and anomaly detection to Arctic stakeholders.

Jari Räsänen

Jari Räsänen is a project expert at Laurea University of Applied Sciences and he is the network manager of the EU-HYBNET. He has specialized in air and maritime surveillance systems and information sharing environments during his thirty years' military service in Finnish Defence Forces. After his military service he has worked on several EU Horizon2020 funded security project in various positions at Laurea.

Nad'a Kovalčíková

Nad'a Kovalčíková is a Senior Analyst in charge of the Transnational Security portfolio at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and a project Co-director of the multi-million, EU-funded initiative "Countering Foreign Interference. A project to strengthen EU CSDP capacities against foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)". In particular, she focuses on hybrid threats, foreign interference, disinformation, resilience and democracy, election security, and transatlantic cooperation.

She is a member of the ESPAS Steering Group; a member of the Advisory Board for the TEPESA project *Raising Awareness on Disinformation, Achieving Resilience (RADAR)*; a mentor within the innovative network of Harvard Women in Defense, Diplomacy, and Development; an expert collaborator for Minsait's Ideas for Democracy; and a 2019 awardee and currently also a member of the Steering Committee of Women In International Security.

Nad'a was formerly a Program manager and Fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy in the German Marshall Fund of the United States. She also worked at NATO, the European Parliament, the French and Canadian embassies, and several NGO and think tank projects.

Nad'a obtained her Ph.D. in international economic relations with a focus on globalization and security threats from the University of Economics in Bratislava (EUBA), and master's degrees in Politics and Government from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), in European Affairs from L'Institut d'études politiques de Paris (SciencesPo), and in International Relations from EUBA.

Okke Lucassen

Okke Geurt Lucassen is a scientist in the Defence, Safety and Security unit of the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO). Prior to joining TNO, Okke worked for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Department for Security Policy, and he has written academic research on EU/NATO-Russia relations with an emphasis on hybrid threats. At TNO he specializes in operational challenges and implications of the technological developments of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Counter-UAS. In addition, Okke works on various strategic Defence issues, scenario development and analysis, and hybrid threats. Through his work at TNO, Okke advises the Netherlands Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands National Police, the European Union, and NATO.

Paolo Venturoni

Paolo Venturoni is the Chief Executive Officer of the European Organization for Security (EOS), a Brussels-based association that represents the European security industry and research community. Paolo started his career in the IT sector and then worked for ten years on a number of corporate development assignments for high-tech and telecommunications companies in Europe, North and South America. Based in Brussels since 2002, he was the director of the Brussels office of a major European aerospace and defense concern dealing with EU and NATO affairs, and from 2017 he leads the European Organisation for Security. He obtained an MBA from Columbia University in New York and graduated in Physics from the University of Rome with a thesis on gravitational waves detection.

Päivi Mattila

Dr. Päivi Mattila holds a position of Director of Security Research Program at Laurea University of Applied Sciences (Finland), and she is responsible for quality and growth and strategic goals of security RD activities. Dr. Mattila is the coordinator of EU H2020 funded EU-HYBNET project. She is a Doctor of Philosophy (General History). Formerly she has worked as the head of the Project and Development Unit at the Crisis Management Centre Finland (CMC Finland) and in the Embassy of Finland in Tel Aviv and in the Finnish Institute in the Middle East alike in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland.

Rashel Talukder

Managing Director at the Polish Platform for Homeland Security. Former employee of Polish Police. Master's degree in Political Science and postgraduate studies in economics. Involved in R&D in security area for more than 10 years. Awarded with bronze medal for services to the Polish Police. Coordinator

of European project CYCLOPES – Network of Practitioners Fighting Cybercrime. Interested in national and local government administration. Fan of Shantaram book and Stieg Larsson trilogy.

Rubén Arcos

Rubén Arcos is an associate professor in communication sciences at University King Juan Carlos University (URJC), and member of the research group on Digital Culture and Communication, Cyberimaginario. He is Vice Chair of the Intelligence Studies Section at the International Studies Association ISA). Arcos is a co-founder and codirector of IntelHub—International Online Intelligence Hub. He is also a member of the expert pool on information of the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats. He has been appointed national representative for NATO’s Science and Technology Organization (STO) project SAS-ET-FG on Prediction and intelligence analysis. His last book, co-edited with Irena Chiru and Cristina Ivan, is the Routledge Handbook of Disinformation and National Security (forthcoming 2023).

Rolf Blom

Dr. Blom has since 2011 worked as a project leader and senior researcher in the Cybersecurity unit at RISE. Before that he held an Expert position in Mobile Communications Security at Ericsson Research. He has been active in OMA and 3GPP security standardization and has contributed to security standardization in the IETF. He has also been involved in different EU projects, e.g. SHAMAN on 3G security, SEGRID on smart grid security and 5G-ENSURE on security for 5G. Dr. Blom holds a M.Sc. (1972) in Electrical Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm and a Ph.D. (1979) in Information Theory from Linköping University.

Souzanna Sofou

Dr. Souzanna Sofou [female], Senior Research and Innovation Manager, is a Dipl. Mining and Metallurgical Engineer and a holder of an MBA in Engineering –Economic Systems. With respect to basic research, her Doctoral Thesis and most of her published research work fall in the fields of computational rheology, rheometry and polymer processing. She has worked in applied research FP7 & Horizon 2020 projects in various fields, including security, new product development, metallurgy, polymer processing, RET modelling, software development and value management. She also has background and experience in Intellectual Property, as she has received relevant training and has worked in this field as a Product Design Engineer for a multinational company. Dr. Sofou has served as the innovation, exploitation and dissemination manager in 3 H2020 projects (PROCETS, z-factOr, OACTIVE) and as the Innovation Manager in InDeal H2020 project. For the last years, she has been working in security H2020 projects: as the dissemination & communication manager for the ANDROMEDA project, as the innovation manager for the INGENIOUS & the STRATEGY projects, leading the exploitation of the InfraStress project and the IP Management of the EFFECTOR project. She was also actively involved in the SATIE project and serves as the EU-HYBNET WP3 Leader: Surveys to Technology, Research and Innovations. Dr. Sofou is responsible for the Innovation Management of SATWAYS products.

Svetlana Schuster

Mrs Svetlana Schuster is Head of Sector Implementation and Review of the NIS Directive at the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) of the European Commission, Unit H2 Cybersecurity and Digital Privacy Policy. She joined the European Commission in October 2011 and worked until August 2015 for the unit dealing with the implementation of the EU regulatory framework on electronic communications at DG CONNECT. Mrs

Schuster is a fully qualified German lawyer, graduated from Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt/O., Germany and Vrije Universiteit Brussels (LL.M in International and European law).

Teemu Tammikko

Dr. Tammikko works as a Policy Officer in the Hybrid Threats Sector, Security and Defence Policy Division of the European External Action Service, and he is an Adjunct Professor of Political Violence and Terrorism Studies in Tampere University, Finland. Previously he has worked as a Visiting Expert in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Senior Research Fellow in the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and Danish Institute of International Studies, Team Leader in the EUMM Georgia, and as an Intelligence Officer and Political Analyst in EUFOR Althea, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He holds a PhD in Political Science, from Tampere University, since 2009.

Vanessa Papakosta

Vanessa Papakosta (MSc) (female) is a Civil Engineer and Environmental Engineer with an MSc degree in Civil Engineering, Department of Hydraulic Engineering, Water Resources and Environment. Her interests include energy certificates, environmental studies, technical reports in the fields of health and building permits. Over the last years, she is Owner of a Technical Office, heavily involved in all the above fields. She is communicative, productive and a creative implementer within a team and she has excellent organizational and time management skills. She participates in EU funded research projects related to Security and Border Surveillance, Protection of Public Spaces and Hybrid Threats, as Project Manager and Coordinator, at the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), of the Hellenic Ministry of Citizen Protection.

Practical Information

The working language of the event is English.

VENUE



The AW will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 3-5 Poligrafiei Blvd, District 1, Bucharest, 013704, Romania ([location](#)).

Within the premises of the hotel, the following conference rooms will be used:

- Plenary session – Ramada Europe
- Demonstration booths – Ramada Asia
- Coffee break – Foyer Plaza
- Lunch break – Red Pepper

Participants are welcome to contact the hotel for their stay. Please use the forms provided by the organisers.

SOCIAL DINNER & GUIDED TOUR

Following the AW, on 20 April 2023 at 19.30 EET, a social dinner will take place in [Hanul lui Manuc](#) Restaurant at 62-64 French Street, Bucharest ([location](#)). Registered participants are welcome to join at own cost.

Before dinner on May 20th, a bus tour will be offered to speakers and consortium members. The bus tour, guided by the city guide Larisa, will depart from the hotel at 18:00 EET and will include a tour of the city centre. Pending on weather and traffic, a short walking tour of the old city centre will also be provided. The city guided tour will stop in front of the Hanul lui Manuc restaurant where the dinner will be held.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

The most convenient and cost wise option is that you use an Uber or Bolt (with an estimate cost of 10-15 Euro). Both are accessible and can be ordered via the phone app. The pickup point is in the parking lot right in front of the arrival area.

Alternatively, you can order a taxi from the machine in the arrival lobby.

Bus transportation is also possible, but you will have to also take a 10-15 minute walk to the hotel (Ramada Plaza, 3-5 Poligrafiei Blvd, District 1, Bucharest, 013704, Romania).

More info and updates on the EU-HYBNET project at:



euhybnet.eu



[EU-HYBNET LinkedIn Group](#)



[@EuHybnet](#)

EU-HYBNET Project Coordinator Laurea University of Applied Sciences –
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“ *Annual Workshops will foster network activities, raise awareness of the project and bring together relevant practitioners and stakeholders who may join the EU-HYBNET network and its activities.*