

## EU-HYBNET 3rd Future Trends Workshop (#FTW2023): Hybrid Threats in the EU Neighbourhood – Implications for the future of EU security



**Ramada Plaza  
Hotel, Bucharest,  
Romania**



**09.00- 16.00 EEST**

*The purpose of the Future Trends workshop is to support the practitioners' and stakeholders' everyday work by providing a future outlook for strategic planning and use of innovative solutions and to consider consequences of today's policy choices in long-term.*

The EU-HYBNET consortium will hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> Future Trends Workshop (#FTW2023) on 19 April 2023 in Bucharest, Romania!

Three years into the EU-HYBNET project, this workshop builds on the project findings and provides a platform of interaction for various stakeholders to discuss hybrid threats in the EU's neighbourhood, implications for the future of EU security and innovations to counter them.

Since the landscape of hybrid threats is continuously evolving, foresight and creative thinking is central for understanding, detecting and responding to emerging threats. It focuses on a more anticipatory and prospective outlook, highlighting the weak signals and outliers of disruptive and paradigmatic change to the European security environment.

Recent events in the EU neighbourhood have brought into attention a complex dynamic of adversarial tools and strategies involving weaponization of information, technology, cyberspace, critical infrastructure, energy, in an intricate pattern aimed to weaken cohesion and generate polarisation across the EU and its neighbourhood.

**Who?** EU-HYBNET Partners, stakeholders, EAB members, network members, and interested innovation providers, industry, SMEs and NGOS, according to registration check.

**When?** 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at 09.00-16.00 EEST

**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)

## Agenda

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Future Trends Workshop** will begin with two keynote speeches introducing the topic from a regional and a European perspective. The speeches will be followed by an introductory panel that will set the scene by presenting existing hybrid threats (e.g., information manipulation, cyber warfare, threats to critical infrastructure etc.) and begin drawing conclusions on future trends for EU security practitioners, industry and policymakers.

During the afternoon session, participants will be split in three break-out sessions to discuss innovations responding to the future trends of hybrid threats in three fields arising from EU-HYBNET's core themes. The discussions will be concluded in a last panel that will present the findings of each break-out session and participants' insight on future trends and innovations. This panel will also begin to draw some first conclusions for their implications on the future of EU security.

| Time EEST                                       | Topic   | Speaker  |
|---|---|--|
| 08.30-09.00                                     | Registration  |  |
| <b>Plenary session</b><br>(Room: Ramada Europe) |   |  |
| 09.00-09.15                                     | Welcome & Practical Information   | Dr. Päivi Mattila, EU-HYBNET Coordinator, Laurea<br>Dr. Cristina Ivan, Mihai Viteazul National Intelligence Academy  |
| 09.15-09.30                                     | <b>Keynote Speech #1:</b> "Hybrid threats in the Black Sea Region and implications for European security" | Mr. Ovidiu Raetchi, President, Euro-Atlantic Resilience Centre   |
| 09.30-09.45                                     | <b>Keynote Speech #2</b>  | Mr. Dan Cîmpean, National Directorate for Cyber Security, Romania  |
| 09.45-10.00                                     | <b>Keynote Speech #3:</b> "EU Maritime Security Strategy"   | Mr Thierry Segers, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission - <b>online speaker</b>   |
| 10.00-10.15                                     | Audience Q&A  | <b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Isto Mattila, EU-HYBNET Innovation Manager, Laurea   |
| 10.15-10.35                                     | Coffee Break (at Foyer Plaza)   |  |
| 10.35 – 12.00                                   | <b>Panel Discussion:</b> Hybrid threats in the EU's neighbourhood shaping the future of EU security       | <b>Chair:</b> Dr. Cristina Ivan, Mihai Viteazul National Intelligence Academy<br><br><b>Panel speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Iulian Fota, State Secretary for Strategic</li> </ul> |

|                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
|                                   |   | <p>Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Liudmyla Buimister, Member of Parliament, Ukraine</li> <li>• Dr. Orlando Cenciarelli, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control</li> <li>• Dr. Souzanna Sofou, Senior Research and Innovation Manager, SATWAYS</li> </ul> |
| 12:00 – 13:15                     | Lunch Break (at Red Pepper)   |  |
| <b>Parallel Breakout Sessions</b> |   |  |
| 13:15-14:45                       | <b>Breakout Session #1:</b> Cyber & Future Technologies<br><i>Room: Ramada Africa</i>                                 | Evaldas Bruze (L3CE)   |
|                                   | <b>Breakout Session #2:</b> Resilient Civilians, Local Level and National Administration<br><i>Room: Ramada Asia</i>  | Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv (UiT)  |
|                                   | <b>Breakout Session #3:</b> Information & Strategic Communication<br><i>Room: Ramada Europa</i>                       | Rubén Arcos (URJC)<br>Irena Chiru (MVNIA)  |
| 14:45-15:00                       | Coffee Break (at Foyer Plaza)   |  |
| 15:00-15:30                       | <b>Panel Discussion:</b> Future Trends for EU security  | <p><b>Chair:</b> Mr. Isto Mattila, EU-HYBNET Innovation Manager, Laurea</p> <p><b>Panel speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaldas Bruze (L3CE)</li> <li>• Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv (UiT)</li> <li>• Dr. Rubén Arcos (URJC)</li> </ul>  |
| 15:30-15:45                       | Audience Q&A  |  |
| 15:45 - 16.00                     | <b>Closing Keynote Speech:</b> The role of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for EU Maritime Security | Mr. Gianluca Luraschi, Project Officer, Department 2 - Safety, Security and Surveillance at European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)   |
| 16.00-16.05                       | Closing remarks   | Dr. Cristina Ivan, Mihai Viteazul National Intelligence Academy  |

## Break-out sessions

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### BREAK-OUT SESSION #1

**Core theme:** Cyber and Future Technologies

**Title:** Future Trends in Cyber and Future Technologies

**Led by:** Evaldas Bružė (L3CE)

**Supported by:** Maltego

**Description:** This session will look at the current EU security environment as a whole and will address hybrid threats arising from Cyber and Future Technologies to allow participants to identify the most pressing future trends in this field, as well as the innovations that could support the work of pan-European practitioners.

The discussion will be split in three building blocks: persistent and recurring threats already identified by practitioners in the first two cycles of the EU-HYBNET project (e.g., threats related to quantum computing); developing trends identified by the 3rd EU-HYBNET Gaps and Needs assessment as well as the European Commission (e.g., vulnerabilities related to space and GPS navigation infrastructure); new and shifting trends in the tech sector (e.g., foreign investments in social media platforms, filtering techniques applied by social media gatekeepers, social change brought by AI developments and initiatives, the metaverse, AI and ML operations, supply chain dependencies and their impact on clean tech). Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss innovative solutions and receive a demonstration of how the technology is working.

### BREAK-OUT SESSION #2

**Core theme:** Resilient civilians, local level and national administration

**Title:** Hybrid threats in the Arctic

**Led by:** Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørsv (UiT)

**Supported by:** SATWAYS

**Description:** This session will begin with the thesis that the Arctic region is already (and will continue in the future) experiencing increased targeting via diverse non-conventional hybrid threats. This is particularly relevant given the ongoing accession talks of Finland and Sweden into NATO. The northern part of Europe is still very vulnerable due to small population concentration (compared to the south), poor infrastructure (e.g., supply lines, roads), lack of investment, vulnerability to “sympathetic” narratives etc. The region is very remote and forms a key part of the EU’s external borders in the current geopolitical environment, while also being close to critical third-country-owned military bases.

Third-country defence in the area is more than likely to be of a non-conventional nature than conventional, and could involve the manipulation and destabilization of the northern regions, to cut them off from their capitals if not physically (territorial capture) then by all other means necessary including cyber-attacks on infrastructure, sabotage (including water sources), mis- and disinformation,

and attempts to network and build up 5th columns. This could destabilise the entire northern region of Europe.

### **BREAK-OUT SESSION #3**

**Core theme:** Information & Strategic Communication

**Title:** Awareness, anticipation, and responses for building resilience to disinformation as part of hybrid threats

**Led by:** Rubén Arcos Martín (URJC) and Irena Chiru (MVNIA)

**Supported by:** VOST Europe, MTES

**Description:** Starting with an overview of current security threats arising from disinformation as a hybrid threat, in this session participants will work towards identifying the challenges and needs of practitioners in countering this phenomenon, existing technological and non-technological solutions as well as the need to adopt a more anticipatory outlook. What trends can be identified for the future outlook of disinformation?

The EU Code of Practice on Disinformation will be discussed and evaluated: how does it address disinformation used by foreign actors especially given the current threat landscape, as well as emerging trends (AI-produced disinformation, ownership changes in signatories etc)? The French Ministry of Ecological Transition will also present their perspective and needs when it comes to protecting strategic assets, values and the economy against disinformation. Taking into consideration these trends, participants will discuss required innovations that could assist the work of hybrid threats practitioners through an integrated and anticipatory approach.

**“** *This workshop should also address expected future manifestation and evolution of hybrid threats so that we look into innovations and solutions for today and tomorrow*

## Speaker bios

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### 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).

### Irena Chiru

Dr. Chiru is a professor of intelligence studies at 'Mihai Viteazul' National Intelligence Academy, Romania (MVNIA), and the chair of the International Association for Intelligence Education – European Chapter. Dr. Chiru also serves as Director of the Council for Doctoral Studies within MVNIA. She is the author and co-author of several books, chapters and articles focused on strategic communication and its impact on intelligence organizations. She has also joined international research teams involved in research projects dedicated to security and intelligence: Citizen Interaction Technologies Yield Community Policing – CITY COP, Horizon 2020 (2015-2018), Culture and Risk Management in Man-made and Natural Disasters - CARISMAND, Horizon 2020 (2016-2018), Evolving security science through Networked Technologies, Information Policy and Law - ESSENTIAL – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks European Joint Doctorate (2014-2020), Mind the gap in media CoverAge and Strategic Communication in Case of security Threats - CRESCEnt, ERASMUS+ (2018-2021), A radical model of resilience for young minds - ARMOUR, DIGI Home (2019-2021), The Empowering a Pan-European Network to Counter Hybrid Threats – EU-HYBNET, Horizon 2020 (2019-2024).

### Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv

Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv is Professor in Critical Peace and Conflict Studies (Security and Geopolitics) at the UiT- The Arctic University of Norway, and Arctic 5 Chair in Security Studies (arcticfive.org). Hoogensen Gjørv's research examines comprehensive security dynamics in the context of hybrid threats and warfare, civil-military interaction (out of area operations, and Norwegian total defence), and Arctic perceptions of security focusing on "bottom-up" and intersectional approaches. She leads a variety of projects regarding hybrid threats and civilians, including *Resilient Civilians* (funded by the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme), and the recently awarded 1,2 million euro for the FAKENEWS. She is a core theme leader on "Resilient Civilians" for the EU-HYBNET project, and a partner with the THREAT DEFUSER project. More information is available at *The Grey Zone* research group at UiT: : <https://uit.no/research/thegreyzone>. Her publications and media activities can be found at her UiT profile page: <https://uit.no/ansatte/gunhild.hoogensen.gjorv>

### **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: ARMOUR (2019-2021); SAFFRON (2016-2018); CARISMAND (2016-2018); CRESCEnt (2019-2021); EU-HYBNET (2020-2025). Google Scholar [link](#).

### **Gianluca Luraschi**

Gianluca Luraschi has graduated in Computer science and has a master in Cultural Anthropology. He has worked for 10 years in the private sector as entrepreneur in the ICT sector. Since 2005, he has been working for EU organizations as Project Officer. From 2005 to 2010 at the Commission, he contributed to the INSPIRE EU Directive. From 2010, he has been working in EU Agencies (EMSA and Frontex) where he has contributed to develop several maritime surveillance services based on different platforms as: earth observation, remotely piloted aircraft systems, and aerial assets. In 2019, he was appointed as Project Manager to transform an R&D project for maritime interoperability, the Common Information Sharing Environment, into an EU operational service.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Thierry Segers**

Graduated from the Royal Military Academy in Brussels, Thierry Segers served in the Navy from September 2011 to December 2020. He assumed various functions like operation officer, principal warfare officer and head of the ICT branch of the Belgian Navy. In January 2021, he joined the European Commission to work in Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and in particular in the

unit responsible for the Sea basin strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security. As policy officer in this unit and with the team, he deals with maritime security affairs.

### **Souzanna Sofou**

Dr. Souzanna Sofou, 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-fact0r, 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.



## Practical Information

The working language of the event is English.

### VENUE



The FTW 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
- BOS 1 – Ramada Africa
- BOS 2 – Ramada Asia
- BOS 3 – Ramada Europe
- 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

Following the FTW, on 19 April 2023 at 19.00 EET, a social dinner will take place in Naive Restaurant at 36 Ion C. Brătianu Blvd., Bucharest, 030167 ([location](#)). Registered participants are welcome to join at own cost. The organisers will provide a bus to cover the transfer of participants from the hotel to the restaurant.

### 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](http://euhybnet.eu)



[EU-HYBNET](#) LinkedIn Group



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