

The title "EU-HYBNET" is written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. It is centered over a light grey map of Europe. The map is overlaid with a complex network of nodes and lines in various colors (blue, green, orange, grey), similar to the logo in the top left. The background of the entire page is a light blue and white geometric pattern of interconnected lines and nodes.

Newsletter – April 2024

Welcome to the eighth 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 followed by the mapping of promising innovations, both technological and non-technological, to the identified threats. This has been supported by various project events where innovative solutions have been presented and their possibilities for uptake under discussion. More about the events and their take aways in the chapters below.

Of course events will stay as important platforms for engagement with policy makers, security practitioners, industry, SMEs, academia, NGOs and EU-HYBNET network members to exchange ideas on present needs and future cooperation. In this respect it has been EU-HYBNET's pleasure to be well engaged with and to continue the cooperation with variety of EU DGs and Agencies and Offices such as e.g. DG HOME, DG SAFE, EUROPOL Innovation Lab, FRONTEX, European External Action Service/Strat.Comm. and SECDEFPOL just few to mention alike with various EU Member State ministries, agencies/offices and authorities to counter hybrid threats. Of course also cooperation with other relevant EC funded project stays in the core of establishing synergies in countering pan-European security concerns and building on joint results.

During the last 12 months of the project EU-HYBNET will stay active and focuses on delivering tangible results in cooperation with stakeholders. Warmly welcome to reach out the project in its' final events where the discussion will continue next to

highlighting promising solutions for challenges. We look forward to collaborating with you and to counter hybrid threats together!

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 has just turned to its final year, running until April 2025. This also means that plenty of efforts will be placed to the hand-over of the network compiled during the project into the hands and lead of EU-HYBNET core partner the European Center of Excellence for Countering Hybrid threats (Hybrid CoE). More about the form and activities of the network in the lead of Hybrid CoE will be shared in coming months in EU-HYBNET events and other channels.

The past months of the project also included 3rd EC project review that was very giving and inspiring for the project. Of course review recommendations will be followed and more emphasis will be laid to strategic messaging from the project and underlining its key take ways and input to stakeholders also for the future.

EU-HYBNET also wishes to continue contributing to pan-European measures to counter hybrid threats in the form of new projects and hence new proposal are under work supporting critical infrastructure protection and LEAs work.

Network Extension

The EU-HYBNET network continues to grow steadily and has welcomed new members to the network on monthly basis. The network has now total of **116 organisations from 26 countries**. This includes 28 practitioners, 40 research and/or education institutions, 19 NGOs, and 29 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
UCD Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation	Ireland	Academia
DataSenseLabs Ltd.	Hungary	SME
Correcta	Spain	SME
ISR Nederland BV	Netherlands	SME
CIN Consult GmbH	Spain	SME
Risk and Crisis Centre Mid-Sweden University	Sweden	Academia
National Cybersecurity Directorate	Romania	Academia
City of Imatra	Finland	Practitioner
Strategic Analysis	Slovakia	NGO
CyberEcoCul Global Services	Cyprus	SME
GREENSOFT SRL	Romania	SME
Prosegur Research	Spain	Industry
OPEWI	Belgium	Academia
EFE Verifica - Agencia EFE	Spain	Industry

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

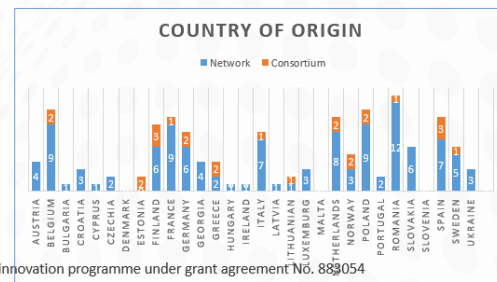
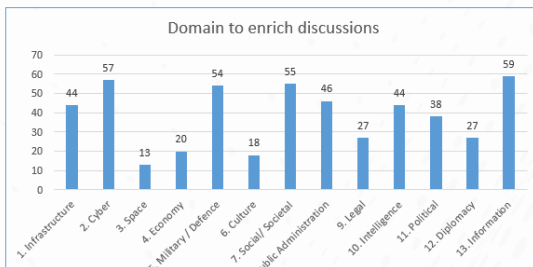
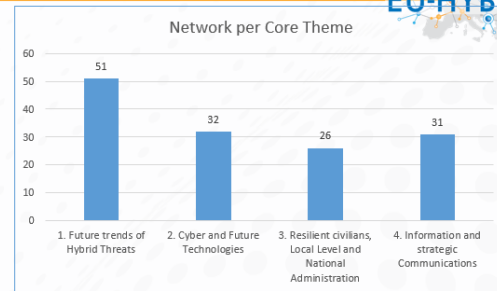
across Europe to join

– 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 April 2024:

EU-HYBNET Network Members in April 2024

Category	Nr	MS	Consortium	All
Practitioner	28	15	10	37
NGO	19	14	2	21
Academic/RTO	40	19	11	50
Industry/ SME	29	11	2	27
In total	118	26	25	143



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 883054

Gaps and needs of European actors against Hybrid Threats

The EU-HYBNET is welcoming consortium partners and network member organizations to the fourth and final Gaps and Needs event on 12 June in Madrid, Spain! The event is organized in collaboration between the Hybrid CoE and Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC). The focus of the event is to discover present pan-European security practitioners and other relevant actors' gaps and needs to counter hybrid threats so the EU-HYBNET may start to analyze promising solutions to these challenges. In addition, in the event a summary of earlier identified gaps & needs in the EU-HYBNET will be highlighted in order to give an insight of possible hybrid threats' trends and how they have been evolving.

Registration is now open and more information, including the draft agenda and link to registration can be found behind this [link](#).

Please note that HCoE & URJC can cover flights and hotel accommodation of network members (at most 40 registered network members on a first-served basis). The payment is approx. €800-1100/partner for travel and hotel. Any costs over that will be covered by the network member. Other costs are also the network member's responsibility. If you would like your flights and accommodation to be covered, please select "yes" and fill out the following information. After network members register through the online form, URJC will contact network members to arrange the booking of flights and accommodation through URJC travel agency. Please note that in order to have the



information in time to make the arrangements, the deadline for receiving this information is NOW! If you have questions, please contact the project via website/ email.

Surveys to Technologies, Research and Innovations

Just before the new year EU-HYBNET Task 3.2 “Technology and Innovations Watch” and Task 3.3 “Ongoing Research Projects Initiatives Watch” finalized their work to identify quantity of innovative solutions to the latest pan-European gaps and needs to counter hybrid threats. Over 40 EU or national funded projects were recognized to deliver technological or on-technological solutions that could also work for countering hybrid threats in certain domains and with certain elements. Also over 20 specific innovative solutions were mapped to certain gaps and needs as solutions to consider for uptake. More details can be read from EU-HYBNET deliverables D3.5 and D3.5 in EC CORDIS: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/883054/results> . All innovative solutions also deriving from variety of projects were under more thorough analysis and review and the most promising innovative solution for procurement and uptake recommendations were selected in EU-HYBNET Task 3.1. More about the selected innovations in the next sub-chapter.

As part of Task 3.4 “Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Events”, EU-HYBNET held the 4th Future Trends Workshop alongside the 4th Annual Workshop (see Communication and Dissemination section) on the 23rd of April 2024 at the Local Valencia Police Headquarters in Valencia, Spain. The event focused on the role of border management in counter future hybrid threats. In this fourth iteration of the EU-HYBNET Future Trends Workshop, participants had the opportunity to move past definitions and current analytical models and dive deeper in the topic of hybrid threats, in what way it is related to border management and border security, and how the EU and member states can adapt to be prepared for what comes next. The workshop included a plenary session with a keynote speech from the Belgian General Intelligence and Security Service outlining various conceptual models to analyse the hybrid threat landscape as well as a panel discussion on Border Management to counter future hybrid threats from the Finnish Ministry of Interior, Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Europol Innovation Lab and Satways. In the second part of the workshop, participants were split into four break-out sessions based on the project’s core themes in an attempt to discuss and draw conclusions on the key trends for the future of border related hybrid threats. The event attracted around 85 participants in person with around 67 views online, and allowed the EU-HYBNET consortium and stakeholders to share key ideas and build connections. More information on the event can be found in [our press release!](#)

Recommendations for Innovations Uptake and Standardisation

During the past months EU-HYBNET has identified four most promising innovative solutions to the project’s latest identified challenges to counter hybrid threats. The innovative solutions are:

1. *Mobile application to pinpoint acts of harassment/violence on the street and online.* To support citizens to announce possible early signals of hybrid threats campaigns to security authorities.
2. *AI enhanced Disaster Emergency Communications.* To support crises communication between citizens and authorities in crises with more secured and multifunctional communication system.

3. *Media Pluralism Monitor*. To support countries to analyze their vulnerability to foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI).
4. *Starlight Disinformation-Misinformation toolset*. To support Starlight project's innovative FIMI solutions uptake for law enforcement needs.

The innovations are now under procurement process analysis and creation of innovation uptake strategy incl. possible industrialization. The results of this work will be shared to wider audience during upcoming EU-HYBNET event, the 3rd 'Innovation Standardization Workshop' in Brussels 22nd OCT, so please Save the Date to your calendars and join! For more information, please see EU-HYBNET website/ Events.

EU-HYBNET has also delivered the Report from the 2nd 'Innovation Standardization Workshop' that took place in Valencia on 8th NOV 2023 where EU-HYBNET's earlier identified most promising innovations to counter hybrid threats esp. in the field of Critical Infrastructure protection and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) were under discussion. The event brought together EU-HYBNET network members, policy makers, representatives from industry, SMEs, academia and NGOs to map the current status of standardization efforts and needs, also to learn on best practices in the dedicated focus areas in order to enhancing the solutions uptake. You may familiarize more on the key take aways and steps for the future from the event report that is available in EU-HYBNET website – enjoy! <https://euhybnet.eu/policy-briefs-and-reports/>

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.

Have you decided to switch off of Twitter/X but want to stay up to date with everything EU-HYBNET? No need to worry, we have opened a Mastodon account where you can follow us to see what we post. [It can be found right here!](#)

Dissemination through EU-HYBNET Events

After the organisation of the project workshops focusing on highlighting innovations that answer the aforementioned gaps and needs, the project shifted focus on presenting the 4th year results of the project to the stakeholders and looking to the future. As mentioned in the last newsletter, EU-HYBNET organised a two workshops focused on innovations in November 2023: The Innovation Knowledge Exchange Workshop (IKEW) and the Innovation Standardisation Workshop (ISW). If you missed either event, you can find an [ISW report here](#) and a [press release on the IKEW here!](#)

EU-HYBNET held its 4th Future Trends Workshop as described in the WP3 section and its 4th Annual Workshop on the 23rd and 24th of April in Valencia, Spain. The 4th Annual Workshop presented results from the past 12 months to stakeholders and provided an opportunity for solution providers and EU-funded projects to present their innovations to counter hybrid threats. The results were presented via a roundtable where EU-HYBNET partners discussed innovations mapped to EUHYBNET's core themes, such as "WeVerify" – a video plugin to debunk fake videos on social media in order to contrast future trends in Hybrid threats and the EC funded project's Starlight Disinformation-misinformation toolset to contrast online manipulation and attacks to democracy within the context

of cyber and future technologies. The Roundtable also discussed the importance of contrasting emerging threats and finding solutions to them such as doxing, SLAPP lawsuits. In addition to the pitches and results, participants also heard keynote speeches from the EEAS/Strat.Comm and EEAS/SECDEFPOL and DG SAFE. If you're interested to read more, make sure to [read our press release!](#)

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 FC/INFRA annual event in December 2023.

Since the last newsletter, EU-HYBNET has not been involved in any other external events; however, cooperation with relevant projects has continued. As part of the Annual Workshop, EU-HYBNET invited various projects to pitch their innovations. The following projects were invited:

- EU-CIP presented their knowledge hub and policy testbed
- AHEAD presented their foresight capabilities
- GEMS presented on their research into combatting radicalisation in game spaces
- PAVED presented their working group of experts from various fields focusing on acute risks posed by disinformation to infrastructure and economic key operators.

The main focus of the DCE team in the next six months is to showcase the 4th year results, communicate the work during the final year of the project 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!

- **12th of June 2024:** EU-HYBNET 4th and FINAL Gaps & Needs Event in Madrid, Spain
- **22nd of October 2024:** EU-HYBNET Webinar "Role of LEAs in combating hybrid threats" – in partnership with CYBERSPACE – LEA Project Cluster"
- **February 2025:** EU-HYBNET's Final Annual Workshop and Future Trends Workshop will be hosted by the Joint Research Center

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

