



European wide project on countering hybrid threats kick off

EU-HYBNET (*Empowering a Pan-European Network to Counter Hybrid Threats*) was officially opened in a format of a virtual conference on May 12th, 2020. The aim of the project is to develop a European network to prepare for, detect and counter hybrid threats. This five-year-long project is funded by the European Commission, Horizon 2020 Programme. The project consortium consists of 25 organisations representing 16 European countries.

Laurea University of Applied Sciences coordinates the project. Laurea is the leading civilian security education provider in Finland. Laurea has been able also to build a noticeable and coherent national and especially international/ EU funded security projects' portfolio. April 2020, a total of 18 projects were being implemented of which 14 are EU Commission funded. **Dr. Päivi Mattila**, director of University's *coherent security* strategic research area, is coordinating the EU-HYBNET project.

The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE) located in Helsinki Finland, is the main content provider for the whole project. According to the Hybrid CoE's Research Director **Hanna Smith**, working with a versatile group of organizations and experts from public sector, industry, SMEs, academia and NGOs gives a unique opportunity to develop new tools to enhance societal resilience.

As a first phase of the project, partners will conduct a gaps and needs analysis. This method is used to identify and understand what the network participants' needs are and what are the obstacles to maintaining and improving their resilience. "Gaps and needs will be assessed and used for scenario building and training purposes in the following phases of the project," explains Research Director Smith.

Project participants are:

Laurea University of Applied Sciences - Finland

City of Espoo - Finland

Hybrid CoE - Finland

Polish Platform for Homeland Security (PPHS) – Poland

Polish Internal Security Agency - Poland

University of Tromsø (UiT) – Norway

Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection - Norway

Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE) - Sweden

Center for Security Studies (KEMEA) - Greece

Satways - Greece

Implementation of the Lithuanian Cybercrime Centre of Excellence for Training, Research & Education (L3CE) – Lithuania

Universidad Rey Juan Carlo (URJC) – Spain

Maldita – Spain

Local Police of the city of Valence - Spain

French Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition - France

Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) – The Netherlands

Netherlands Ministry of Defense – The Netherlands

Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Italy

“Mihai Viteazul” National Information Academy (ANIMV) – Romania

German Central Office for Information Technology in the Security Sector - Germany

Competence Center COMTESSA - Germany

Estonian Information System Authority – Estonia

Joint Research Centre European Commission (JRC)

European Organization for Security (EOS)

"Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy, as partner within this project, deals with part of the research process and will also be host of a series of workshops taking place in Bucharest.



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