

## Press Release

# CRESCent PROJECT



**Mind the gap in media CoveragE and Strategic communication in CasE of security Threats – the development of critical thinking and responsible reaction**

### **Implementation period**

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### **Participating organizations:**

- *“Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy (MVNIA) – Romania*
- *Kentro Meleton Asfaleias (KEMEA), Center For Security Studies – Greece*
- *Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate for Information and Public Relations (MAI-DIRP) – Romania*
- *University Rey Juan Carlos (URJC) - Spain*

CRESCent project is approaching its end. Within its scope, a diverse set of learning and promoting activities dedicated to audiences interested in disinformation and security has recently been developed:

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Transnational Project Meeting (TPM3)**

URJC organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Transnational Project Meeting of the [CRESCent](#) project, on June 2-3, 2021. During the meeting, the consortium partners discussed the project's implementation, with reference to the activities pursued by each partner and the three Intellectual Outputs developed to date. Moreover, the consortium discussed and evaluated the results of the two multiplier events carried out in Spain and Romania, while finalizing arrangements for the 3<sup>rd</sup> multiplier event that was to be organized in Greece. Additionally, the partners analysed the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> MOOC editions offered through the URJCx platform, and discussed the details of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, which became available on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Finally, a significant part of TPM3 was dedicated to the organization and implementation of the Virtual Learning Activities that, during June 2021, offered online training to learners from the three partner countries: Greece, Romania and Spain.

### **Multiplier events**

Three [multiplier events](#) were organized by project partners, in order to increase the project's visibility and boost the dissemination of the project's intellectual outputs and online learning activities. In [Spain](#), the multiplier event took place on May 20<sup>th</sup>, organized by URJC, in a hybrid format of both onsite and online audience, with 38 attendees. In [Romania](#), the multiplier event took place on May 28<sup>th</sup>, jointly organized by MVNIA and MAI-DIRP, with 43 onsite attendees. Finally, in [Greece](#), the multiplier event took place virtually on June 11<sup>th</sup>, with 27 online participants. All three multiplier events were structured around the same format, roughly divided in two parts: the first part consisted of a brief, yet comprehensive, presentation of the project's outcomes and activities, while the second part consisted of a panel discussion with experts on key-topics addressed by the project.

### **MOOC – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition**

The project's MOOC, titled [Strategic Communication to Counter Security Threats in the Disinformation Era](#) addresses the challenge of building awareness and developing resilience to disinformation, fake news, and hostile information influencing campaigns. It aims to increase the key knowledge and competences of institutional spokespersons and journalists (including young professionals in journalism and related disciplines/ areas) in the field of security and defense, and in relation to strategic communication and news reporting on security threats. The course has been developed by all consortium partners and it has been available through the URJCx platform for three editions: the 1<sup>st</sup> edition ran from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with

653 students enrolled and 312 certificates; the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition ran from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with 220 students enrolled and 70 certificates; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition ran from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, with 135 students.

## **Virtual Learning Activities (VLAs)**

Throughout June 2021, project partners implemented a series of [Virtual Learning Activities](#) (VLAs), aiming to increase the key knowledge and competences of institutional spokespersons and journalists (including young professionals in journalism and related disciplines/ areas) in the field of security and defense and in relation to strategic communication and news reporting on security threats.

The VLAs took place through videoconference (Meet), based on a 5-day schedule structured as following: the first day consisted of intensive class sessions, delivered by specialised lecturers from partner institutions; the second day consisted of applied exercises in breakout sessions and Q&A, debates, wrap up and conclusions; finally, the third, fourth and fifth days offered spotlight events – keynote speaker sessions (recorded).

The VLAs were organised in three consecutive editions, 07-11 June, 14-18 June and 21-25 June 2021, with a total of 211 unique online learners.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Transnational Project Meeting (TPM4)**

MAI-DIRP - Romania organized the 4<sup>th</sup> Transnational Project Meeting of the [CRESCent](#) project, on July 7-8, 2021. Having completed all the project's activities and deliverables, the consortium partners had the chance to reflect upon the projects overall development and to discuss the project's impact on the designated target groups. Additionally, the partners focus on numerous administrative matters, in view of the project's completion at the end of August 2021.