



2° ECSCI Workshop

Innovations to counter hybrid threats

Dr Souzanna Sofou, SATWAYS Ltd

Okke Lucassen, Rick Meessen, TNO

Rimantas Zylius, Evaldas Bružė, L3CE

28/04/2022

Empowering a Pan-European
Network to Counter Hybrid-Threats



Objective: *WP3 aims in monitoring and selecting innovative solutions that can be utilised to counter hybrid threats, based on the priorities identified for the latter in WP2 (presentation by Hybrid CoE in AW2022). Also, WP3 aims in mapping current and future needs for innovations across the different operational areas, focusing on practitioners and relevant actors. A thorough assessment of the results is carried out, and events are also arranged to interact with providers of innovations (of technical and non technical nature).*

Milestones: For the priorities identified in each project cycle, WP3 should create a taxonomy and identify innovations and research projects to counter hybrid threats. Assessment of the results and communication of the main outputs via the Innovation Arena and the annual Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Events.

WP3 – Surveys to Technology, Research and Innovations

Task 3.1 Definition of Target Areas for Improvement and Innovations	Task 3.2 Technology and Innovations Watch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main objective: Defining Target Areas for Improvement • Template for describing innovations, enabling an initial assessment. • Mapping and assessment methodology, based on Excellence, Impact and Implementation. • T3.2 innovations integrated in the Innovation Arena. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Objective: Map and Identify existing Innovations for countering hybrid threats • 23 innovations and ideas have been identified. • Innovations have been identified for and mapped to each of the 4 Core Themes of Hybrid Threats, and to each of the three Primary Contexts of each Core Theme.
Task 3.3 Ongoing Research Projects Initiative Watch	Task 3.4 Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main objective: Research Projects Monitoring, surveys • Scanning analyzed the scientific research landscape for the gaps and needs identified by practitioners in the hybrid threats field. • Deeper Understanding of the current state of research and its outcomes with respect to filling identified gaps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main objective: Annual Events for information exchange • More than 100 participants registered for the First Innovation Knowledge and Exchange Workshop. • The Future Trend Workshop attracted several stakeholders. • The second IKEW is being planned for June 14th and planning is well underway.

Work Package 3 Main Results-Template for presenting Innovations (T3.1)



NAME OF THE IDEA DESCRIPTION OF THE IDEA	
REFERENCE TO CAPABILITY GAP/NEED - Describe the use of the solution in reference to the gap/need - Applicable JRC domains as stated by the gaps/needs: - Applicable core theme(s) as stated by the gap/need:	TYPE OF SOLUTION - Technical - Social/Human - Organizational/Process
PRACTITIONERS - Provide applicable JRC domains for which the solution is valuable: - Provide the level of practitioners in the same discipline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I) ministry level (administration): ○ II) local level (cities and regions): ○ III) support functions to ministry and local levels (incl. Europe's third sector): - Provide the expected end-users of the idea (such as NGO's, private citizens, private companies, media outlets, police, firefighting departments)	
STATE OF THE ART - Indication of Technology Readiness Level (TRL 1-9 index): - In which stage is the idea (research, technology, available innovation, proven innovation): - Expected time to TRL-9. - Expected time to market.	
DESCRIPTION OF USE CASE(S)	

IMPACT ON COUNTERING HYBRID THREATS - Describe how the idea contributes to countering hybrid threats; relate this to one or more capability gaps and needs. - Resilience/defensive/offensive	
ENABLING TECHNOLOGY - Which technologies are critical in fielding the idea?	RESTRICTIONS FOR USE - Are there any restrictions with respect to using the solutions, e.g.: legal, ethical, security, etc.?
COSTS - Indication of costs. Differentiate if possible in development, procurement and exploitation.	COUNTERMEASURES - Are there any potential countermeasures that could degrade the effectiveness of the solution? - How durable is the idea (how long is the idea expected to be effective/useful?)
MISCELLANEOUS Any additional remarks/disclaimers/comments/information you might want to provide	



Work Package 3 Main Results- 23 Innovations mapped to Core Themes (T3.2)

CORE THEME	PRIMARY CONTEXT	IDEA / INNOVATION PROPOSED
1. FUTURE TRENDS OF HYBRID THREATS	1.1 Trend: Official strategic communication losing power	Guides to identify fakes Hybrid online dilemma game
	1.2 Trend: Big data as a new power source	Countering disinformation with strategic personalized advertising Automated detection of hate speech in social media
	1.3 Trend: increasing strategic dependency of critical services	A blockchain-based real-time information management and monitoring system A crawler and real-time search engine for investors
2. CYBER AND FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES	2.1 GAME CHANGERS: QUANTUM AS A DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY	Open European Quantum Key Distribution Testbed (OPENQKD project) Future Proofing the Connected World: A Quantum-Resistant Trusted Platform Module
	2.2 HYPER CONNECTIVITY AS AN IMPACT MULTIPLIER OF CYBER	Efficient cyber threat information sharing through Hyper Connectivity networks Cross sector cyber threat information sharing Public-private information-sharing groups developing collaborative investigations and collective action
	2.3 THE INDIVIDUAL AS A DIGITAL ENTITY	Fake news exposé Factcheckers communities
3. RESILIENT CIVILIANS, LOCAL LEVEL AND ADMINISTRATION	3.1 DISTRUST AND STRESS IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING	Resilient democracy infrastructure platform
	3.2 RELIANCE ON CRITICAL SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS	Early or Rapid Damage Assessment System Smart message routing and notification service for sharing the operational picture to every agency involved in the response at every level of coordination
	3.3 GLOBALIZATION VS. LOCALISATION	Tool that monitors and detects the population's response to the information being published and is able to identify the dominant emotion occurring in social networks
4. INFORMATION AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	4.1 GOING VIRAL	Journalism trust initiative Debunking of Fake News Non-partisan native-language news channels for most interdependent abroad regions
	4.2 DIGITAL MONOPOLIES AND MASSIFICATION OF DATA	Fair Trade Data Program
	4.3 DETERIORATION OF THE QUALITY OF CONTENT	Training application for media literacy Automated fact-checker



Criteria:

- Excellence: description, scope, credibility
- Impact: coverage, acceptance, effectiveness, robustness
- Implementation: effort, TimeToMarket, preconditions

Scoring:

- Scores 0-5, using a score card
- Each innovation assessed by 3-4 consortium partners (after initial review and complementing)
- Primary and secondary thresholds

Table 2: Example of additional requirements for passing secondary threshold

Assessor	Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Assessor A	4	3	4
Assessor B	3	4	2
Assessor C	4	3	3
Average score	3,7	3,3	3,0
Total score	10,0		



Work Package 3 Main Results- Assessment Results (T3.1)

CORE THEME	PRIMARY CONTEXT	IDEA / INNOVATION PROPOSED	ASSESSMENT
1. FUTURE TRENDS OF HYBRID THREATS	1.1 Trend: Official strategic communication losing power	Guides to identify fakes	Green
		Hybrid online dilemma game	Yellow
	1.2 Trend: Big data as a new power source	Countering disinformation with strategic personalized advertising	Green
		Automated detection of hate speech in social media	Yellow
	1.3 Trend: increasing strategic dependency of critical services	A blockchain-based real-time information management and monitoring system	Orange
		A crawler and real-time search engine for investors	Orange
2. CYBER AND FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES	2.1 GAME CHANGERS: QUANTUM AS A DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY	Open European Quantum Key Distribution Testbed (OPENQKD project)	Orange
		Future Proofing the Connected World: A Quantum-Resistant Trusted Platform Module	Yellow
	2.2 HYPER CONNECTIVITY AS AN IMPACT MULTIPLIER OF CYBER	Efficient cyber threat information sharing through Hyper Connectivity networks	Orange
		Cross sector cyber threat information sharing	Green
		Public-private information-sharing groups developing collaborative investigations and collective action	Green
	2.3 THE INDIVIDUAL AS A DIGITAL ENTITY	Fake news exposé	Green
		Factcheckers communities	Yellow
3. RESILIENT CIVILIANS, LOCAL LEVEL AND ADMINISTRATION	3.1 DISTRUST AND STRESS IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING	Resilient democracy infrastructure platform	Orange
	3.2 RELIANCE ON CRITICAL SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS	Early or Rapid Damage Assessment System	Orange
		Smart message routing and notification service for sharing the operational picture to every agency involved in the response at every level of coordination	Orange
	3.3 GLOBALIZATION VS. LOCALISATION	Tool that monitors and detects the population's response to the information being published and is able to identify the dominant emotion occurring in social networks	Orange
4. INFORMATION AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	4.1 GOING VIRAL	Journalism trust initiative	Yellow
		Debunking of Fake News	Green
		Non-partisan native-language news channels for most interdependent abroad regions	Orange
	4.2 DIGITAL MONOPOLIES AND MASSIFICATION OF DATA	Fair Trade Data Program	Orange
	4.3 DETERIORATION OF THE QUALITY OF CONTENT	Training application for media literacy	Yellow
		Automated fact-checker	Orange

LEGEND:

UPTAKEN IN WP4

DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN D3.1

KEEP IN INNOVATION ARENA



Work Package 3 Main Results- Discussion on first year findings

- The scanning analyzed the scientific research landscape for the gaps and needs identified by practitioners in the hybrid threats field.
- The relative report will hopefully contribute to a **deeper understanding** -of the hybrid threats community- regarding the **state of play of the research on the phenomena of interest**. A better understanding is also expected regarding the **outcomes that could be expected** from the scientific research field.
- The report also identified **areas, which apparently lack research of the phenomena**, which is deeply important for hybrid threats better understanding.
- Furthermore, scanning did identify some of the EU research and other projects, which would **contribute, if successful, in filling the identified gaps**.
- **Disinformation innovations were assessed relatively high**. It is estimated that the type of innovations that have been identified can be implemented **cost-effectively** (medium to low impact with fair costs).
- The work conducted so far has served to **identify solutions for different dimensions of hybrid threats**.
- It should be highlighted that **a hybrid threat is multidimensional, time dependent and part of a larger hybrid campaign that targets vulnerabilities, sometimes by occasion and opportunity**.
- Therefore, in order to produce one holistic solution, we should be able to detect and attribute hybrid threats timely across all domains in order to effectively respond.
- Teaching computers how to **respond to a multidimensional and time dependent situation is not yet easy to implement** as hybrid threat patterns are not ready to be described.
- In the future, **Artificial Intelligence tools and quantum technology could be used to help** identify and respond to such threats in a timely manner.
- Besides advanced technologies, **interdepartmental and international cooperation and alignment would be required**.
- For many innovations **implementation and exploitation problems** are foreseen. Most of the problems, leading to potential restrictions to use these innovations, refer to ethical, legal and public acceptance issues. In addition to defining and designing innovations that can mitigate hybrid threats, it is essential to consider these perspectives.

Work Package 3 Main Results- Innovations & Ideas integrated in the Innovation Arena

Manage

Content

+ADD CHALLENGE

+ADD IDEA

Main

Ideas

Challenges

News

Community

View
Revisions

← Back to ideas

Hybrid online dilemma game

In online dilemma games, players are confronted with a series of dilemma's based on a contextual scenario. The players have to make decisions for each dilemma while getting pre-defined advice from various perspectives (Diplomacy, Economy, Security, Legal etc.). Online dilemma games are computer-based and can be played at any time individually or with a team. These kind of games can help to improve awareness and understanding of the complexity and cross-sectoral impact of hybrid threats.

<p>REFERENCE TO CAPABILITY GAP/NEED</p> <p>CORE THEME: Future Trends of Hybrid Threats Resilient Civilians, Local Level and National Administration</p> <p>JRC DOMAIN: Administration, Culture, Cyber, Diplomacy, Economy, Information, Infrastructure, Intelligence, Legal, Military/Defence, Political, Social/Societal, Space</p>	<p>TYPE OF SOLUTION</p> <p>TYPE OF SOLUTION: Technical Social/Human Organisational/Process</p>
---	--

PRACTITIONERS

DISCIPLINES FOR WHICH THE SOLUTION IS VALUABLE: Governance, administration, security

LEVEL OF PRACTITIONERS:
Local level (cities and regions)
Ministry level (administration)
Support functions to ministry & local levels (incl. Europe's third sector)

MORE DETAILS ON THE LEVEL OF PRACTITIONERS:
Ministry level (administration): policy-makers and decisionmakers at (for hybrid) relevant ministries: Economy, Security, Defence, Internal affairs, External affairs, Critical Infra, Intelligence services
Local level (cities and regions): Mayors, regional boards.
Support functions to ministry and local levels (incl. Europe's third sector): industry participation in game sessions might be useful in relation to the protection of critical infrastructure (for which dilemmas in countering hybrid threats relate to security and protection versus commercial interests).

FOLLOW

LIKE IDEA

CREATED
21/01/2021

CHANGED
25/01/2021

RATING AND STATISTICS

1 OVERALL SCORE

2 VOTES

0 COMMENTS

20 VIEWS

STATUS

1 Prepare

2 **Discuss**

3 Refine

4 Innovate

FOLLOWERS

Private information



WP 3 Current Challenges: Innovations mapped to Core Themes (T3.2 preliminary results)



CORE THEME	PRIMARY CONTEXT	IDEA / INNOVATION PROPOSED
1. FUTURE TRENDS OF HYBRID THREATS	Geopolitical heavyweight of domestic policy	DOMESTIC POLICY FORUMS
	Digital escalation and AI-based exploitation	Digital connected security in response to hybrid tactics Commitment to Validating and Verifying AI
	Rise of populism	Establishment and reinforcement of political education of democratic values Installation of rules for mandatory declarations
2. CYBER AND FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES	Space interference and counterspace weapons	7SHIELD : a holistic framework for European Ground Segment facilities that is able to confront complex cyber and physical threats ResilienceTool (incl. RiskRadar)
	Offensive cyber capabilities	The Development of a Proactive Defensive Framework based on ML and cloud A fully automated incident response solution based on CT Intelligence
	Disruptive innovation	The Development of a Deepfake Detection System Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems
3. RESILIENT CIVILIANS, LOCAL LEVEL AND ADMINISTRATION	Exploitation of existing political cleavages	Detection of Disinformation Delivery Proxy Actors
	Exploitation of critical infrastructure weaknesses and economic dependencies	Risk assessment of critical infrastructures in a complex interdependent scenario: A four-stage hybrid decision support approach PRECINCT: Resilience Methodological Framework for Cascading cyber-physical Threats on Multiple Critical Infrastructure Modes
	Exploitation or investment in companies by foreign actors	
4. INFORMATION AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	Information manipulation with the aim of destabilization	Increasing capabilities to systematically assess information validity throughout the lifecycle Crowdsourced verification systems of fake news to counter disinformation in encrypted messaging applications DDS-alpha
	Foreign interference in key information institutions	Integrated Monitoring System Against Malware-Based Cyber Operations
	Promoted ideological extremism and violence	Collection and sentiment analysis of targeted communication Identify and safeguarding vulnerable individuals



2nd Future Trends Workshop

- Hosted in Rome by the UCSC on April 5th, 2022
- Topic: Democracies on the Edge divided into three breakout sessions
 - o Changing populism
 - o Instrumentalization of social media networks
 - o Constitution of International Groups
- The goal of the workshop was to address expected future manifestations of hybrid threats, and how current innovations and solutions may or may not apply in tomorrow's world



EU-HYBNET **REGISTER NOW!**
registrations will close on 23rd of March

2nd Future Trends Workshop
5th of April 2022
9.00-16.00 CEST

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome and online!

www.euhybnet.eu @EuHybnet EU-HYBNET

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



EU-HYBNET **Save The Date!**
2nd Innovation & Knowledge Exchange Workshop
June 14th, 2022
The Hague, Netherlands

www.euhybnet.eu @EuHybnet EU-HYBNET

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

2nd Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Workshop

- Hosted in the Hague by TNO on June 14th, 2022
- The goal of the workshop is to address the gaps that have been identified in the second cycle.
- Please join us for this event!

CONTRIBUTORS AND PUBLISHED DELIVERABLES



Number	Task Name	Duration	Responsible	Contributors	STATUS
T3.1	Definition of Target Areas for Improvement and Innovations	M1-M57	TNO	RISE, MTES, USCS, HCoE, MoD, ZITiS, Laurea, KEMEA	ongoing
T3.2	Technology and Innovations Watch	M1-M58	SATWAYS	ICDS, KEMEA, L3CE, ZITiS, COMTESSA	ongoing
T3.3	Ongoing Research Projects Initiative Watch	M1-M58	L3CE	LAU, PPHS, RISE, KEMEA	ongoing
T3.4	Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Events	M4-M58	EOS	TNO, PLV, UCSC, MVNIA, HCoE, URJC, JRC, MoD, COMTESSA	ongoing

All WP3 deliverables have been accepted and can be found at the project CORDIS page provided by the European Commission: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/883054/results>

Number	Deliverables	Completed	Responsible
D3.3	First Report on Improvement and Innovations	M7	Satways
D3.7	First Report on Innovation and Research Project Monitoring	M7	L3CE
D3.11	1 st Innovation and Knowledge exchange events Report	M10	EOS
D3.14	1 st Future Trends analysis Workshop Report	M13	Hybrid COE
D3.1	First Interim – Report mapped on gaps and needs	M16	TNO

The contents of this presentation reflect only the authors' view and the Research Executive Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.



THANK YOU!

 Dr. Souzanna Sofou

 Satways Ltd

 s.sofou@satways.net

