

NEWSLETTER

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MEDCA

A REGIONAL NETWORK
FOR SECURITY
PRACTITIONERS IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN &
BLACK SEA REGION



The Mediterranean and Black Sea region constitutes an international centre of economic and commercial development and transactions. At the same time, though, it is characterised by a very volatile and dynamically changing security environment that pose severe threats and challenges on the societies and prosperity in the wider area. The MEDEA network of security practitioners aspires to contribute to the establishment of more safe and secure societies throughout the Mediterranean and Black Sea region using research and innovation as a catalyst to promote collaboration between professionals from diverse disciplines and countries.

HIGHLIGHTS

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A regional network for M&BS Security Practitioners

MEETINGS

Project launch and six-month meeting

EVENTS

Participation in the Security Research Event (Brussels)

Joint workshop on land borders security with EWISA project

EDITORIAL

Dear security practitioner,

The European Union and its Member States face several new and complex security threats, highlighting the need for further synergies and closer cooperation at all levels. Many of today's security concerns originate from changes in natural hazards occurrence, exposure to technology, modernization of organized crime, lagging of societal resilience and geopolitical instability in the EU's immediate neighbouring countries. A recent initiative of European Commission's DG HOME supports developing disciplinary and regional networks of practitioners and other actors in the field of security, with the aim to advance the EU's capabilities in assisting practitioners with forward-looking problem-solving, in analysing operational gaps, as well as in prioritising future R&D efforts to address actual and emerging security challenges.

MEDEA (Mediterranean practitioners' network capacity building for effective response to emerging security challenges) is such a regional network made up of practitioners from various disciplines coming from nine Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, aiming to offer opportunities of communication and establish sustainable communities of security practitioners in the South-Eastern part of the EU.

MEDEA membership is open to practitioners and security professionals acting in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region with a variety of core expertise and diverse operational mandates to respond to (i) migration flows and asylum seekers; (ii) border surveillance and management; (iii) cross border organised crime and terrorism; and (iv) natural hazards and technological accidents. There are four communities of practice organized around these topics, aiming to foster knowledge and transfer good practices between practitioners.



The European Agenda on Security implements the Political Guidelines in the area of security. As such, the EC who has invested in practitioners' networks, is looking forward to witnessing the development of MEDEA communities and the added value the network will bring through: (1) monitoring research & innovation projects; (2) expressing common requirement needs for innovation; and (3) communicating their priorities in regard to standardization.

All MEDEA members ensure that the network will continue to build upon our work for the next four years. We will remain focused and committed on succeeding in our mission objectives with the support of security actors from the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, the European Commission & its Agencies and, above all, the relevant practitioners' networks operating throughout the European continent.

We are looking forward to sharing with the European community of security professionals our findings in the first version of the Mediterranean Security Research and Innovation agenda six months from now. Thus, we invite all practitioners from the Mediterranean and Black Sea region to join the effort of defining the future of homeland security in this region of the EU by participating to MEDEA networking activity, which includes brainstorming sessions, focused workshops, field tests, dissemination activities, annual conferences and security industry events.

The MEDEA Coordination team



Send email medea@medea-project.eu to coordinate our activity with yours and join our events

MEDEA-EWISA

Joint Practitioners workshop on Land Border Security

MEDEA Practitioners workshops

Scenario-driven thematic workshops are considered an efficient way to involve practitioners in capability gap analysis and build thematic communities of stakeholders. Organization of such workshops jointly with relevant R&D projects and practitioners networks allow interactive communication with security experts and professionals, brainstorming on actual and emerging security risks as well as collecting and analyzing operational capability gaps. These workshops constitute a key instrument in MEDEA methodology for building communities of practice.



TCP-02 Joint Workshop on Land Border Security Needs and Challenges

In the context of the activity of TCP-02 of MEDEA network, the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA) and ISDEFE (Ingeniería de Sistemas para la Defensa de España S.A.) co-organized in conjunction with the EWISA Project partners (GA 608174 – <http://www.ewisa-project.eu/>) a Joint Practitioners Workshop on Land Border Security Needs and Challenges.

The workshop took place in Orestiada, Greece, on the 3rd of April 2019 and brought together twenty-two practitioners from Border Guard Authorities (Romanian Border Police, Bulgarian Border Police, Albanian Border Police, Hellenic Police, Finnish Border Guards and Spanish Guardia Civil) operating at external EU Land borders. The participants elaborated and identified the operational capabilities required for more effectively securing and protecting EU borders.

After being introduced with specific scenarios, the participants were actively engaged in thorough discussions around specific challenges and the desired capabilities for addressing them. In addition, these requested capabilities were examined for their impact and dependency regarding Technological, Organizational, Human and Regulatory/Political dimensions. The final outcomes of the workshop will be subject to further analysis and will serve as input to the Mediterranean Research Security and Innovation Agenda (MSRIA) which aspires to identify the context of future R&D needs and requirements.

EWISA project solutions demonstration day

On the 4th of April, the Workshop attendants participated in a live demonstration of Cutting-Edge Innovative Solutions for Border Security held onsite in the borderline between Greece and Turkey. Two RDI consortia demonstrated their technological solutions in real field conditions, along an area of the land borders. Apart from the workshop participants, more than sixty (60) people attended the demonstrations, as well as the EWISA Project Officer from EC – DG HOME, Research officers from EC – Joint Research Center, the Head of FRONTEX's Liaison Office for Greece & Cyprus, the General Regional Police Director and finally a number of high-ranking officers from the Hellenic Police.

The workshop and the demonstration participants expressed their interest in attending similar events and acknowledged the importance of such events and their added operational value. It was agreed upon that similar initiatives should be performed more frequently, so as to engage the EU industry in developing innovative

Border Surveillance solutions to fulfill the desired capabilities identified by practitioners.



Project meetings

MEDEA Practitioner's Network: Kick Off Meeting (Athens)

KEMEA, being MEDEA's Project Coordinator, hosted twenty five participants representing a consortium of nineteen partners, mainly from the Mediterranean and Black Sea region in the project Kick off Meeting, on the 28th and the 29th of June 2018 in its campus in Athens.

MEDEA is a 60-months project funded by the European Commission under the topic "H2020 SEC SEC-21- GM-2016-2017: Pan European Networks of practitioners and other actors in the field of security". MEDEA aspires to contribute establishing more safe and secure societies throughout the M&BS region using research and innovation as a catalyst and promoting collaboration between practitioners from diverse disciplines and different Mediterranean and Black Sea countries.

During the Kick off Meeting, MEDEA partners had the opportunity to thoroughly discuss the project's detailed plans and activities, to present and share relevant insights and findings, to review the necessary links and correlations between different tasks, thus acquiring an overall view of the project's processes and expected outcomes. Participants were introduced to the context of the four established TCPs and the partners have been arranged in these thematic groups, according to their specialization and expertise.

Finally, based on future commitments, MEDEA partners are given the chance to form strong and lasting partnerships among themselves.



Project meetings

MEDEA Practitioner's Network: 6-month Meeting (Brussels)



The 6-month consortium meeting of MEDEA project took place on the 6th and 7th of December 2018, at the premises of EOS in Brussels. Twenty five representatives from the MEDEA consortium actively participated in this 2-day-meeting, by engaging in thorough discussions around structural, managerial, and procedural issues related to the development of MEDEA network.

The meeting focused to two important concepts of the methodology of MEDEA for developing the RDI-driven approach in establishing security practitioners' communities. The first concept refers to the creation of scenarios and use cases concerning security issues and challenges related to the topics considered in each TCP of MEDEA. A template for creating basic scenarios was discussed during this meeting and is currently under elaboration by the members of MEDEA network. This will be integrated in the online collaboration platform of MEDEA project. The second concept is the THOR (Technology-Human-Organizational-Regulatory) analysis of security challenges and relative capabilities, which can prioritize issues to be addressed. DGAP presented a process for cooperative-scenario-building, which will facilitate the THOR Analysis. Furthermore, mapping of the network stakeholders in the countries of MEDEA partners was discussed and a related interactive map is delivered in the project's website.

Further information regarding MEDEA is available on the project website. To stay updated on activities and events, please subscribe to MEDEA mailing list (Email: medea@medea-project.eu).

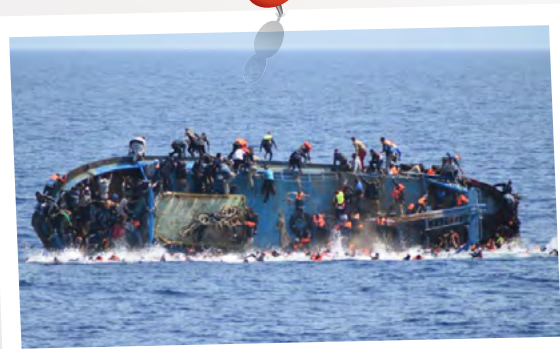
Thematic Communities of Practitioners (TCP)

Within MEDEA, practitioners from Mediterranean and Baltic Sea countries are organized in four communities of practices (TCPs). Each community is arranged in four concentric layers of participation, spanning from MEDEA partners to individual Mediterranean and BS security practitioners. These communities exploit the network capacity to monitor the state of the art and to elaborate further RDI needs on significant security topics in the specific region. Thus, the objective of a TCP is to define common challenges, identify and prioritize missing though desirable operational capabilities, which can be addressed through EU research and innovation actions.



TCP1 - Management of Migration flows and Asylum Seekers

With the migration issue being very high in the EU security agenda, the practitioners of this Thematic Community of Practitioners (TCP) focus on elaborating challenges concerning humanitarian assistance, (electronic) identification of migrants, establishment of safer and more secure reception centers, expedition of asylum process, relocation of migrants and Asylum seekers etc.



TCP2 - Border Management and surveillance

In accordance with the EU integrated Border Management strategies, the members of this TCP aim to review modern surveillance technologies for land and sea borders, linked to common information-sharing environment (CISE), search for advanced solutions for faster and more accurate border control checking leading to detection of irregular crossing, recognition of fraudulent documents as well as more efficient identification of clandestine entries.

Thematic Communities of Practitioners (TCP)



TCP3 - Fight against cross border organised crime and terrorism

A key driver of stability and security across the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries will be the effectiveness of the strategies to combat crime and terrorism. The practitioners of this TCP focus on the identification of new forms of terrorism and radicalization, the smuggling of illicit drugs - weapons and prohibited goods as well as the exchange of security-related information across member states and the development of a plan to address gaps in EU architecture of data management.



TCP4 - Natural hazards and technological accidents

This TCP of MEDEA focuses on natural hazards and technological risks. The Mediterranean and Black Sea region is the most vulnerable European region to earthquakes and forest fires. The frequency, speed and magnitude of hydrological risks are expected to be exacerbated in the region due to climate change. The group of experts elaborates issues relative to wildland-urban interface (WUI) fires, rapid flooding, geophysical hazards and their impacts as well as technological accidents, accounting for all the disaster crises stages.



Send email at medea@medea-project.eu to join the activity of any TCP is related to your expertise

MEDEA participation at Security Research Event (SRE) 2018

The MEDEA project (Mediterranean practitioners' network capacity building for effective response to emerging security challenges, GA 787111 – <https://www.medeaproject.eu/>) was successfully represented at the Security Research Event (SRE) 2018 Conference on the 5th & 6th of December 2018 at the Square Meeting Centre¹ in Brussels, Belgium, presenting in parallel its vision, main objectives and achieved outcomes.

The Security Research Event is the annual meeting where industry, governments and knowledge institutions come together to discuss the state of play and current challenges for security research in Europe, and where EU funded security-related projects are displayed in a large exhibition area. The 2018 Security Research Event (SRE 2018), jointly organised by the European Commission and the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, gathered 800 participants.

The MEDEA project attracted the interest of several SRE visitors representing a wide range of security stakeholders: researchers, industry representatives, public security providers and practitioners (i.e. fire departments, police, border guards, intelligence agencies, etc.), as well as a number of policymakers from across Europe.

Further information on MEDEA is available on the project website. To stay updated on MEDEA's activities and events, please subscribe to our mailing list [here](#).



MEDEA networking activity



On May 23, 2019, the Directory in Albania participated in an event with representatives from the Albania Coast Guard, Border Authority, Navy and Air Forces, and Customs Authority. The thematic of this meeting was “Preparation and cooperation with all Albanian Authorities in case of any event as, migration flows, Search & Rescue Operations in Adriatic an Ionian SEA”. The output of that meeting was to enhance our readiness to face any potential migration flows incident and security of our borders.



On May 6th, 2019, TCP4 organised a workshop in Valabre (near Aix-en-Provence) with four French local stakeholders of different fire brigades located along the Mediterranean coast. The objective was to present MEDEA and in particular the work planned as part of TCP4 and engage with them for the next steps of the project. The meeting was specifically focused on Forest fires. Categories of fires, scenarios, trends, emerging and future challenges (human, economic, environmental and legal) were discussed as well as main gaps and possible solutions. The next step will be a workshop with stakeholders from the overall Mediterranean region.



On April 29th, MEDEA partner's Valabre participated in the meeting of the CMINE wildfire task group as an observer, to identify synergies between MEDEA project and DRIVER+ project on forest fires theme. This workshop, organized as part of the 6th Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference organized in Marseille, was the occasion to finalize a roadmap towards “guidelines” for policy, science and practice, based on expert opinion and expertise, that provides food for thought to prepare the future steps in TCP4 work plan. The next step will be a workshop with stakeholders from the overall Mediterranean region.



MEDEA participated in the 2019 Multidisciplinary International Conference of Research Applied to Defense and Security (MICRADS 19), in Rio de Janeiro, from 8th till 10th of May 2019, where 2 relevant papers were also presented.

MEDEA networking activity



The Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), and the German Council on Foreign Relations (MEDEA partner), among others, participated in the joint final conference of the SAYSO and SMART RESILIENCE projects that took place in Budapest during 15 - 17 April 2019. In the context of this joint final conference, MEDEA was presented to the conference participants during tradeshow and poster session.



On the 28th of February till the 1st of March 2019, MEDEA participated in the poster session of DAREnet Annual Dissemination Forum, in Budapest, where useful contacts with other projects like Heimdall were reinforced and new contacts e.g. with representatives of the cities of Antwerpen, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River / ICPDR were made.



On the 4th of February and 11th of March 2019, project Partners made a brief on MEDEA project to the Senior Naval Officers of the Irish Navy HQ as well as to the Junior Irish Navy Officer Course respectively.



On December 12th , 2018 the MEDEA project was presented in Encontro Anual da Investigação e Desenvolvimento em Ciências Militares in Lisboa, Portugal.



On the 21st till the 24th of November 2018, MEDEA participated in the EFDRR European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, in Rome with fruitful discussions and synergies.



On November 14th, 2018 the MEDEA project was presented in the Nicosia Risk Forum event in Cyprus, where the main objectives and drivers of the project have been presented and thoroughly discussed.



From the 4th till the 7th of September 2018, MEDEA's consortium members networked with NATECH experts e.g. from UN and OECD as well as on international level and JRC, during the OECD Workshop on NATECH in Potsdam.



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