

# EU Borders Security: Acting Ahead across Research, Practice, and Policy

**Madrid, 27-28 September 2023 ISDEFE**

## Scope and Objectives

European Union's borders constitute a complex critical infrastructure with multiple functions of crucial importance. While both internal and external borders should enable movement of people and goods in an efficient way, they need at the same time to continuously filter out threats and ensure safety and security. As the geopolitical environment and the threat landscape are evolving, so the requirements for European Union's ability to effectively sustain its foreign and security policy, promote international cooperation and trade, strengthen its open strategic autonomy, and not least defend its fundamental values. This is an act that involves constant exchange among edge research and innovation, strategy and policy planning, and implementation on the ground, and, respectively, all involved stakeholders at regional, national, and EU level.

The ambition of this two-day conference during the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union is to highlight some key aspects of that challenge, take stock of what has been achieved so far, and sketch out the way ahead. This conference is set:

- First, to address the impact of hybrid cyber-physical threats to borders, the interconnection with migration moves, as well as explore the parameters for resilience at European, member state, and societal level.
- Second, to highlight the fundamental role of interoperability for enabling crossborder and cross-sectoral situational awareness preparedness, timely response to threats, and effectiveness of law enforcement.
- Third, to assess the role of security practitioners and responders from nongovernmental, governmental, and international bodies in security research action, and the potential for them to contribute hands-on insights, but also to receive useful and usable solutions at the end of the day.
- Not least, fourth, to advise on the constant challenge of alignment between security policy planning with security research, which besides considering the current facts on the ground, needs, moreover, to anticipate emerging trends, and project action into the future.

This conference is organized by the MEDEA network (Mediterranean practitioners' network capacity building for effective response to emerging security challenges), 2018-2023, under Grant Agreement no. 787111.

## Agenda Day 1 - 27 September 2023

- 13:00-14:00 Registration & Lunch
- 14:00-14:15 Welcome & Opening Remarks – ISDEFE
- 14:15-14:30 Introduction & Objectives of the Conference  
**George Kokkinis, BSc, MSc, CEng**  
**MEDEA Project Coordinator**
- 14:30-15:00 Keynote  
**Guardia Civil General Juan Manuel Llenderozas Valladolid**  
Border and Maritime Police Command  
Border and Customs Police Command
- 15:00-16:30 ***Session I: Hybrid Threats & Border management***  
*Moderator:*  
**Patricia Romeyro**  
EU Satellite Centre Project Manager  
*Panellists:*  
**Guardia Civil Major José Pérez Alcaraz**  
Fiscal and Borders Command  
SIVE Program and Technological Innovation Office  
**Dr.Sc. Professor Yantsislav Yanakiev**  
Bulgarian Defence Institute "Prof. Tsvetan Lazarov"  
Principal National Representative to Human Factors & Medicine Panel of NATO  
S&T Organization  
**Captain Georgios Giannoulis**  
Deputy Director of COI Vulnerabilities and Resilience  
The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats  
**Dr. Sc. Associate Professor Rubén Arcos**  
University Rey Juan Carlos (URJ), Madrid. School of Communication Sciences.  
Principal co-researcher at the EU-HYBNET project (Empowering a Pan-European  
Network to Counter Hybrid Threats)  
**Genny Dimitrakopoulou, MSc, MA, LLM**  
**DYNAMO Project**  
Research Associate at Centre for Security Studies (KEMEA)  
Lecturer in EU Law and policies at the Panteion University of Athens  
**Giuseppe Vella**  
**FLEXI-cross project**  
Technical Manager at Engineering Ingegneria Informatica S.p.A  
Border Management and Defence Research Unit
- 16:30-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-18:30 **Session II: Evolving Interoperability Challenges**

Moderator:

**Pedro B. Água**

Subdirector of Naval Research Centre (CINAV).  
Ministry of National Defence, Portugal

Panellists:

**Guardia Civil Sergeant Miguel Ángel Segarra**

Coasts and Maritime Police Command  
Coasts & Borders Surveillance Coordination Centre (CECORVIGMAR)

**Miriam Fernández Suárez**

Project coordinator at General Sub-directorate of Operations  
Deputy Directorate of Customs Surveillance  
Customs and Excise Department  
State Agency of Public Administration - AEAT

**Eduardo Villamor**

**PERIVALLON Project Coordinator**

Project Manager at GRUPO ETRA  
Large-scale control systems and UAV/C-UAV products

**Pertti Woitsch**

CEO at Woitsch Consulting Ltd.  
Security and Defence Industries Consultant  
Standardization expert

**Dimitrios Myttas, Army Col. Ret, MSc**

**COURAGEOUS project**

Research Associate at Centre for Security Studies (KEMEA)

18:30-18:45 Conclusion of Day 1

21:00 Conference Dinner

## Agenda Day 2 - 28 September 2023

9:00-11:00 Visit to the Coordination Centre for Maritime Surveillance of Coasts and Borders (CECORVIGMAR) operations room

11:00-11:45 Coffee Break and transfer back to ISDEFE

11:45-13:15 **Session III: Practitioners' Key Role in Security Research**

Moderator:

**Giulio Maria Mancini, PhD**

Policy Officer, Area Coordinator for Border Management  
Innovation and Security Research Unit  
European Commission Directorate-General Migration & Home Affairs

Panellists:

**Inspector Ignazio Pirrotta**

Ministry of Interior of Italy  
Central Directorate for Immigration and Border Police  
Border Police Service

**Commissioner Vlad OLARU**

Senior Intelligence Analyst  
Central Intelligence Analysis Unit  
General Inspectorate of Romanian Police

**Dr.Sc. Professor Mateo Burgos**

Polytechnic University of Madrid  
Telecommunications Engineering Higher Technical School  
Signals, Systems and Radiocommunications Department

**Paola Fratantoni, MSc**

Senior Research Analyst  
Zanasi & Partners ZANASI & Partners

**Mirela Rosgova, MSc**

**TENACITY project**  
Research Associate at Centre for Security Studies (KEMEA)

13:15-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 ***Session IV: Looking Forward: A common path between Security Policy and Security Research***

Moderator:

**Dr Georgios Kolliarakis**

Advisor for Research Strategy  
Technology, Security, Defence  
German Council on Foreign Relations, DGAP

Panellists:

**Maite Boyero**

National delegate, National Contact Point Cluster 3 Security  
Horizon Europe. Societal Challenges  
Directorate of European Programmes and Regional Cooperation  
Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation – Centre for the Development of  
Industrial Technology, CDTI

**Guillermo González**

Head of Innovation, Research and Development  
Directorate Technologies for Defence and Security  
ISDEFE, Systems Engineering for the Defence of Spain

**Dr Karen Latricia Hough**

Anthropologist and migration expert  
Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies

**Dr. Pantelis Velanas**



**METICOS Project Coordinator**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Sciences European  
University Cyprus  
CERIDES, European University Cyprus

16:00-16:15 Conclusion & Outlook