

SECUR-EU PARTNERS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE KICK-OFF MEETING

2nd February 2024, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

SECUR-EU Consortium is pleased to announce starting the implementation of the Project „Enhancing Security of European SMEs in Response to Cybersecurity Threats”. The Project objectives are: Open-Source (OS) security projects to achieve enterprise grade security; Provide open-source security solutions to the SME market; Enhance the white-hack testing techniques via the HackOlympics initiative; To support the market and improve the quality and spread of innovative cybersecurity solutions; and To improve knowledge and auditing of cybersecurity preparedness.

The SECUR-EU Project started its implementation on 1st December 2023, and gathers 14 Consortium Partners Organizations and 2 Supporting Organizations, from Norway, Netherlands, Romania, France, Italy, Greece, and Cyprus. The Kick-Off meeting has been organized in a hybrid format and the physical meeting took place in Predeal, Romania. The Project Officer joined the team of the 28 Consortium representatives actively participating in the Kick-Off Meeting with various presentations over 1 ½ days. The Project Officer Mrs. Felicia CUTAS of ECCC highlighted the key elements related to the project implementation phase, including monitoring and reporting, reviews, communication, dissemination, exploitation and visibility of funding, policy feedback.

The SECUR-EU Kick-Off Meeting Agenda covered the main activities and tasks such as: Project Guidelines and Management; Technical Coordination; Work Packages Implementation; Intelligence and Threat Modelling on Critical Infrastructures, Advanced AI-based Predictive Analytics for Cyber-Threats; Consortium Guidelines and Collaboration Tools; SECUR-EU Attack, Detection, and Prevention Systems Enhancements; Plan to the SECUR-EU Integrated Toolset; The Key Role of Cybersecurity for Regional Coordination Centers; CyberDiplomacy, Current Challenges, Action Recommendation and Remediation Guidance; Resource Planning, Financial Reporting and Coordination; and Impact, Dissemination and Communication Plan.

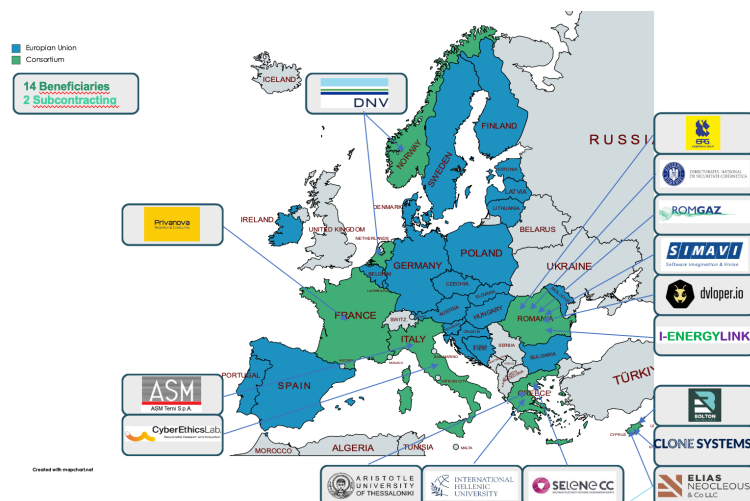
Moreover, two Open Debates were part of the Agenda in order to stimulate innovative ideas and communication amongst Partners: **Open Debate on Existing Solutions for the Protection of SMEs and Critical Infrastructure and Open Debate on Results Exploitation and Market Plan.**

The European Consortium Partners is coordinated by EXIMPROD ENGINEERING (RO) working together with CLONE SYSTEMS (CY), CEL (IT), ROMANIAN NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY DIRECTORATE (RO), DNVGL (NL), ASM TERNI (IT), SELENE (GR), ROMGAZ (RO), ENC (CY), SIMAVI (RO), AUTH (GR), BOLTON TECHNOLOGIES (CY), IHU (GR), SQS (RO), supported by I-ENERGYLINK (RO), PRIVANOVA (FR), as subcontracted organizations.

SMEs organizations have been already invited to join the Stakeholder Group of this Project and contribute together to its implementation. The SMEs will further be invited to participate in dedicated Training Sessions on Cybersecurity Awareness and Solutions for SMEs, which will be offered as part of the Project Work Plan.

Based on experience and lessons learnt from its Partners in many European Union (EU) funded Projects, **The Enhancing Security of European SMEs in Response to Cybersecurity Threats** Project recognizes the paramount importance and challenges that cybersecurity plays when dealing with vital sectors and infrastructures of EU economy, i.e. critical infrastructures (CIs), and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

In particular, SECUR-EU Project aims to foster a common culture of cybersecurity awareness on cybersecurity solutions for SMEs, to enhance open-source security solutions, make them available to the SME market, and spread white/ethical-hack testing techniques via HackOlympics initiative. Will address the challenges of increased attacks on critical infrastructures and SMEs and will use the State of the Art technology-including inter-alia Artificial Intelligence-to advance methods for Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI), and SECUR-EU outcomes will be tested and validated by ethical-hackers during HackOlympics in controlled environments.



This Project has received funding from the European Union's Cybersecurity and Trust Programme under Grant Agreement no. 101128029

