

SECUR-EU PARTNERS ACTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT WORK PLAN

6th June 2024, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

SECUR-EU Consortium continues implementing the EU/ECCC co-funded Project "Enhancing Security of European SMEs in Response to Cybersecurity Threats". The project objectives are to achieve enterprise-grade security for open-source (OS) security projects, provide open-source security solutions to the SME market, enhance white-hat testing techniques via the HackOlympics initiative, support the market and improve the quality and spread of innovative cybersecurity solutions, and improve knowledge and auditing of cybersecurity preparedness.

The Project started on 1st December 2023 and gathers 14 Consortium Partners and 2 Supporting Organizations, across seven EU countries. 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-ENEGYLINK (RO), PRIVANOVA (FR), as subcontracted organizations.

SMEs have already been invited to join the Stakeholder Group of this project and contribute to its implementation. They 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.



Four deliverables have been finalized on time in the first six months of the project implementation. Notable achievements include:

The design and platform architecture of the SECUR-EU solution, including initial mock-ups, have been initiated, and an initial list of tools, functionalities, and outputs has been generated. This includes Dark Web Probing, Vulnerability Scanner & Penetration Testing, Next-Gen SIEM, Big Data Log Collector & Manager, NDR - IDS/IPS, SSL Testing Software, NTRU weakness checking system, Data Traffic Monitoring (DTM), Anomaly Detection (AD), Red Flags, Attack categorization tool, Vulnerability & severity score calculator, Parser and taxonomy tool. The tools are being adapted for the needs of both SMEs and critical infrastructures (lightweight, reliable and robust).

Coordinated by ASM Tern, technical requirements for the six Pilot Use Cases (*Fig. 2*) have been defined, and test beds are currently under development to evaluate the SECUR-EU solutions.

During the first semester of Project implementation, the Ethics Committee (CEL, DNSC, PN, ELIAS) has identified nine main ethics and regulatory concerns and suggested twelve safeguards/guidelines to address them. Moreover, a self-assessment checklist has been defined to support the SECUR-EU partners in improving awareness on ethics and regulatory aspects, as well as to perform continuous monitoring and assessment.

Several dissemination and training activities have already been performed for training and awareness-raising purposes. Specifically, two separate events were organized by Clone Systems, with the support of International Hellenic University and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, highlighting the objectives of the SECUR-EU project, followed by hands-on training on penetration testing methodologies.

Two papers related to some tools to be further used within the SECUR-EU Project have been published by AUTH on "*Attacking (EC)DSA scheme with ephemeral keys sharing specific bits*" in <u>Theoretical Computer</u> <u>Science Journal</u> (Science Direct) and "*Cryptographic primitives based on compact knapsack problem*" in <u>the</u> <u>journal of Information Security and Applications</u> (Elsevier).

Another successful "Capture the Flag" Event (CTF) aiming to enhance cybersecurity skills was organized by







AUTH on May $25^{\rm th}$ at the facilities of the School of Informatics in Thessaloniki, Greece.

A Press Release has been launched by ASM on 12 May.

Consortium representatives participated and highlighted SECUR-EU project's objectives in several events, including the annual BEYOND AI 2024 Event and Exhibition in Thessaloniki/Greece, the annual TechSaloniki 2024 event, the DefCamp Conference in Cluj/Romania, the Black Sea Defense and Aerospatiale 2024 event in Constanta/Romania, the Reflect 2024 in Limassol/Cyprus.

More information can be found on our LinkedIn profile (SECUR-EU) as well as on our project website (<u>www.secur-eu.eu</u>).



SECUR-EU Consortium at Kick-Off Meeting, 1-2 February 2024, Predeal, Romania



