



"Academic Response to Hybrid Threats" Erasmus+ Capacity Building Project WARN
610133-EPP-1-2019-1-FI-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

WHITE PAPER ON HUBS OF EXCELLENCE

Deliverable 5.5

VERSIONING AND CONTRIBUTION HISTORY

Version	Date	Revision Description	Responsible Partner
v.01	30/06/2020	Creation of document	NURE (Liudmyla Titova)
v.02	15/12/2020	Updating the Risk Mitigation	NURE (Svitlana Gryshko)
v.03	15/01/2021	Actualising the tasks	JYU (Timo Tiihonen)
v.04	16/03/2021	Updating the format of the document	NURE (Liudmyla Titova)



Tasks and Functionalities of the WARN Trans-Sectoral Environment

This document is an internal white paper of the WARN project (Academic response against hybrid threats), funded by EACEA. Its purpose is to aid reaching **the third specific object of the project**:

To create a trans-sectoral environment devoted to civic resilience to hybrid threats via the collaborative work of academic and industrial professionals as well civic society on strengthening the hybrid resilience of Ukraine.

Detailed goals

The trans-sectoral environment will:

- i. facilitate trans-sectoral collaboration, improve the visibility and foster the impact of hitherto separate works related to hybrid threats across various fields;
- ii. provide a basis / platform for comprehensive multi-disciplinary research on hybrid phenomena;
- iii. support knowledge transfer between the academic community and industrial/state stakeholders in Ukraine about international state-of-the-art research innovations as well as consequences of actual hybrid attacks for the Ukrainian society;
- iv. create preconditions and promote research-based learning courses for both degree and LLL programmes.

The WARN -environment consists of:

- 1) Hubs of excellence – interfaculty research and training labs in partner HEIs (act. 5.5.1).

Hubs of Excellence devoted to hybrid resilience of Ukraine are established in each UA partner (P5-P11) based on already existing research labs. They work as hubs in a trans-sectoral academic collaborative environment consisting of academic and industrial/societal representatives.

- 2) A virtual WARN community (act. 5.5.2) - an international collaboration network for academic and industrial/state experts as well as proactive representatives of society.

The Network is created on top of the launched Hubs of Excellence (act. 5.5.1). The core of the network is created from the WARN Consortium members and administered by P1 (JYU) and P5 (NURE).

Agreement between WARN partners establishes the WARN Network as a ground for long-term cooperation with educational purposes. The Agreement is signed in February 2021 (act. 5.5.2) to officially establish WARN Network (deliverable 5.4) in order to ensure sustainability of the project outcomes, and in particular regarding the exploitation and dissemination of the results, after the accomplishments of the project.

Mission and tasks for the WARN -environment:

- to become a stimulating space for the collaborative work of academic and industrial professionals as well as proactive representatives of society to increase hybrid resilience of Ukraine;
- to connect and to make visible works related to hybrid threats across various fields and;
- to facilitate trans-sectoral and international collaboration by creating a platform for comprehensive research;



- to network Ukrainian Hubs with EU partners and respective EU/NATO Centres (first of all Hybrid CoE, FI via P1 and Hybrid Strategies Lab, NL) to support knowledge exchange between EU and Ukraine:
- to give an access to the information about innovations and the European state-of-the-art research for Ukrainian academic community and industrial/state stakeholders as well as providing EU experts with case study of hybrid attacks and their consequences for Ukrainian society;
- to offer students and trainees of all modes and forms of education research based courses built on the latest research results and materials created by the EU community in corresponding fields;
- to become a meeting place for students, researchers, and associated partners to learn about the state-of-the-art methods and tools in countering hybrid threats (connected with WP3);
- to provide industry and state with skilled employees trained in new tools and methods for resilience against hybrid threats;
- to promote the latest research results and findings to wider society in order to enhance society's resilience to hybrid threats and capacity to counter new emerging challenges.

Indicators of progress:

- 7 working Hubs of excellence created by 11/2022
- 7 updated labs 06/2021; 7 Hubs 10/2022;
- At least 5 active agreements signed by partners
- Research publications in scientific journals with high impact factor
- Research projects

The main beneficiaries are faculty members and students of the partner HEIs who will be able to realize educational and research aspirations, promote development goals and exploit academic capabilities in a collaborating and stimulating environment. The long-term impact of the environment however addresses the needs of **other target groups** of the project too:

- the partner HEIs will enhance their presence at the international arena;
- industry will get new learning and research opportunities for the employees within hubs of excellence and new tools and methods for hybrid resilience developed in hubs of excellence;
- the state and society in general will get new tools and methods for enhanced hybrid resilience.

Risk regarding effective work of WARN community:

1. Turbulence of political and economic systems in UA
2. Intense competition in hybrid security studies among world researchers.
3. Commitment of academic EU partners to make contribution to creation of the WARN environment.



Means of Risk Mitigation:

1. Partners of WARN environment ensure that the activity focuses on academic level and is agnostic to political and economical aspirations.
2. Partners make efforts to get the globally competitive results.
3. Building Consortium with EU partners: (i) whose experience in countering hybrid threats has been confirmed by academic and applied achievements, (ii) who have had a long successful history of collaboration, (iii) who have been highly interested in the field.