



EXECUTIVE EDUCATION SEMINAR

SCHOOL OF TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

GLOBAL PANDEMICS AND SECURITY: HOW TO ADDRESS THE EU'S HYBRID THREATS

Course Coordinator

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Trainers

Antonio Missiroli | Non-Resident Associate Fellow, NATO Defence College

Roderick Parkes | Head of Programme, German Council on Foreign Relations

Teija Tiilikainen | Professor, School of Transnational Governance, EUI and Director, The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats

Isabel de la Mata | Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis Management, European Commission

Pasi Penttinen | Principal Expert Coronavirus and Influenza, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Online

26-28 APRIL 2021

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Programme Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has created new vulnerabilities for hybrid action in the EU, those most recent being effectively utilized by global super powers to include both Russia and China.

Given the ever-changing complexity to come in the post-pandemic era, the EU will need to develop a useful mix of policies, instruments and partnerships to successfully manage the acceleration of hybrid threats still to come. In addition to cooperating with traditional actors such as NATO, new and innovative “non-state” and “non-governmental” partnerships within the private sector will need to be established.

Fresh thinking and innovative ideas are needed concerning ways to optimize the EU's policies and approaches vis-à-vis hybrid threats.

Beginning with a focus on those critical gaps and vulnerabilities brought to the fore by the pandemic,



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the goal of this training is to understand and explore the EU's hybrid threats in an interactive manner with participants. The training is designed to encourage the deep comprehension needed to critically analyse different types of hybrid threats, their backgrounds, and root causes in order to evaluate the risk presented at the EU level. The intent is to uncover their transnational linkages for examination and debate in order to facilitate the assessment of existing policies while recommending any needed reforms or changes; all with an aim for enhancing the EU's future state of preparedness.

Hybrid threats activities are both conventional and unconventional, military and non-military and can strike in a coordinated manner by state or non-state actors to achieve specific political objectives. Hybrid action can be targeted against political stability, cohesion or democratic structures of the EU and its member states or against their border security, information technology and other critical infrastructures. The broad field of cybersecurity is one such important target for effective hybrid action.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of hybrid threats, their dynamic form and recent trends;
2. Analyse the role of a pandemic focusing on how the COVID-19 crisis has served as both accelerant as well as multiplier in the proliferation of hybrid threat framework;
3. Compare and contrast the similarities and differences in national and EU/NATO approaches to countering hybrid threats;
4. Formulate ideas for partnerships with the private sector;
5. Develop innovative ideas on ways to optimize the EU's policies and approaches vis-à-vis hybrid threats.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- In-depth analysis and discussion on hybrid threats, their dynamic form and recent trends; how do they differ from conventional security threats? What kinds of approaches are needed to counter them?
- Analysis and understanding of the role of pandemics with a focus on how the COVID-19 crisis has been used as a framework and amplifier for hybrid threats;
- What is the EU's resilience after the pandemic and how can it be strengthened? What are the new shortcomings and vulnerabilities COVID-19 has brought to the fore?
- Similarities and differences in national and EU/NATO approaches to countering hybrid threats: how can synergies between them be improved and coordination/cooperation strengthened?

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Lead managers and executives from EU Institutions and member states in areas of comprehensive security policy to include both military and digital security policy, communication and media policy, as well as critical infrastructure, policy, etc.) Private sector-experts representing the above mentioned fields. Representatives of national parliaments and the EP (officials from committees in charge of foreign affairs, defense, communications and internal affairs). Researchers and experts of hybrid

threats wishing to interact with key practitioners and private sector representatives in the field.

HOW YOU WILL LEARN:

- Topical presentations; information about latest trends and developments concerning hybrid threats and the effects of COVID-19 on EU resilience;
- Engaging with the trainers and the group; raising topical issues and interests related to them; while benefitting from the diverse backgrounds of participants;
- Peer to peer sessions in which participants will be actively engaged in private-public partnership building process simulations.

PROGRAMME

26 APRIL

DAY 1

15.00 - 16.15

Institutional Greetings

Presentation of the programme & the participants

Session 1: The EU's Hybrid Threats - an overview

Teija Tiilikainen & Antonio Missiroli

The concept and phenomenon of hybrid threats: what are hybrid threats; how do they differ from conventional threats? Why are they so topical now? How can Western societies be prepared for hybrid threats in order to successfully counter them?

Presentations by the trainers and discussion with the group (material and themes for discussion to be provided in advance)

16.15 - 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 - 18.00

Session 2: EU comprehensive security: Planning for today as well as tomorrow - Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

Isabel de la Mata & Pasi Penttinen

What are the vulnerabilities pointed out by COVID-19? What is their relationship to hybrid threats? How have new vulnerabilities been used against democratic states during the pandemic? What are the lessons learnt from the crises for the Union's resilience, its supply systems and coordination of resources?

Presentations by the trainers and discussion with the group (material and themes for discussion to be provided in advance)

18.00 - 18.30

Key takeaways of Day 1 and expectations for Day 2: What are the key topics; what does the group want to focus on in particular? (small groups)

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DAY 2

15.00 - 16.15

Session 3: The EU's policies and instruments for countering hybrid threats

Roderick Parkes and Isabel de la Mata

What is the EU's approach to hybrid threats - how can it protect itself against them? How successful have the Union's policies been on countering disinformation and cyber threats and how can they be strengthened? Has the COVID-19 pandemic seriously weakened the EU?

Presentations by the trainers and discussion with the group (material and themes for discussion to be provided in advance)

16.15 - 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 - 18.00

Session 4: Enhancing Resilience: Private Sector Engagement and Partnership Developments

Teija Tiilikainen & Pasi Penttinen

How should the EU engage with the private sector to protect its critical

infrastructure; prevent the misuse of social media platforms for political purposes or ensure security of supply? What are the right means and which are the main vulnerabilities?

Presentations by the trainers and discussion with the group (material and themes for discussion to be provided in advance)

18.00 - 18.30

Key takeaways of Day 2 and expectations for Day 3: What are the key topics; what does the group want to focus on in particular? (small groups)

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DAY 3

15.00 - 16.15

Session 5: Partnering with NATO to counter hybrid threats

Antonio Missiroli & Roderick Parkes

How have the EU and NATO succeeded to deepen their cooperation to counter hybrid threats? What are the key things to be improved? How does the new US administration affect NATO's priorities in this field?

Presentations by the trainers and discussion with the group (material and themes for discussion to be provided in advance)

16.15 - 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 - 17.30

Break-out sessions

Deep dives into a) trends of hybrid threats- where are we going ? b) effects of the pandemic - does the EU need more powers? C) Where to find the right partners to build resilience

All trainers

17.30 - 18.30

Concluding session: Presentation of the findings from break-out groups

Key takeaways

TRAINERS

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Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis Management, European Commission, Belgium

Antonio Missiroli

Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO, Belgium

Roderick Parkes

Head of the Alfred von Oppenheim Center , German Council on Foreign Relations, Germany

Pasi Penttinen

Principal Expert Coronavirus and Influenza, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Belgium

Teija Tiilikainen

Part-time Professor and Director, School of Transnational Governance, EUI and The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats, Italy and Finland

CONTACTS

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