

EU-CIP NEWSLETTER

March 2024 | 2nd Newsletter Edition 1, No. 1



Content:

- EU-CIP in a nutshell
- Innovation Support Services
- Knowledge Hub
- Open Call Type A winners
- 2nd EU-CIP Annual Conference
- Blog spotlight
- CIP/CIR events

EU-CIP in a nutshell

Launched in October 2022, EU-CIP is an EU-funded project under Horizon Europe (GA ID: 101073878) which brings together 20 partners under the coordination of Engineering Spa to establish a **novel pan European knowledge network for Resilient Infrastructures**.

EU-CIP will thus enable policy makers to shape and produce data-driven evidence-based policies, while boosting the innovation capacity of Critical Infrastructures (CI) operators, authorities, and innovators (including SMEs). In this direction, EU-CIP partners have already established the **European Cluster for Securing Critical infrastructures (ECSCI)**, which brings together 31 projects that collaborate in CI Resilience.

EU-CIP will leverage the achievements of the ECSCI cluster to establish an EU-wide knowledge network with advanced analytical and innovation support capabilities.

Its main objectives are to:

- Enhance **Europe's analytical capability** regarding research outcomes, technologies, and policies - fostering data-driven evidence based policy and innovation development;
- Maximize the impact of R&I CIP/CIR activities in Europe through **innovation support and solution validation services**;
- **Establish a knowledge-hub** and create a vibrant ecosystem of interested and committed stakeholders around the project's results.

EU-CIP Consortium



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the grant agreement No 101073878.



EU-CIP Innovation Support Services

EU-CIP is designing and developing a set of services aimed at supporting innovators in their efforts to develop and offer novel products and services for Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP). **EU-CIP's innovation support services portfolio** includes:

1. A catalogue of training courses that enables innovators to access CIP-related training resources through a single entry point.
2. An on-line innovation consultation & support service that provides innovators with information relating to their products and services, including information for access to finance opportunities, training and marketing of their products.

These services will be made available through the EU-CIP Web Site and Knowledge Hub. Furthermore, EU-CIP will engage innovators in the validation and fine tuning of these services as part of the project's Open Call Type B for Small Medium Enterprises- stay tuned for this exciting opportunity.

Innovation and Exploitation Opportunities Analysis

As a first step, EU-CIP is working identifying innovation opportunities in the development, deployment and operation of solutions for resilient infrastructures. An internal consultation has taken place to identify these innovation areas and related opportunities, which will then be used to define the kind of innovation management support and the content of the training and validation services to be offered.

Business Modelling, Exploitation and Innovation Support Services

A questionnaire (using the EUSURVEY tool) was disseminated throughout the ECSCI mailing list and partners' networks to understand the needs of those involved in the commercialisation of services in the CIP/CIR sector.

The survey aimed to establish who is involved in this kind of capacity, what problems they are seeing on your journey to commercialisation and what type of training and support they would like.

Early results indicate that **lack of experience and training in commercialisation** is a key barrier with regulatory barriers, lack of qualifications and lack of finance following. The EU-CIP consortium is currently assessing these results - more information will be published soon.



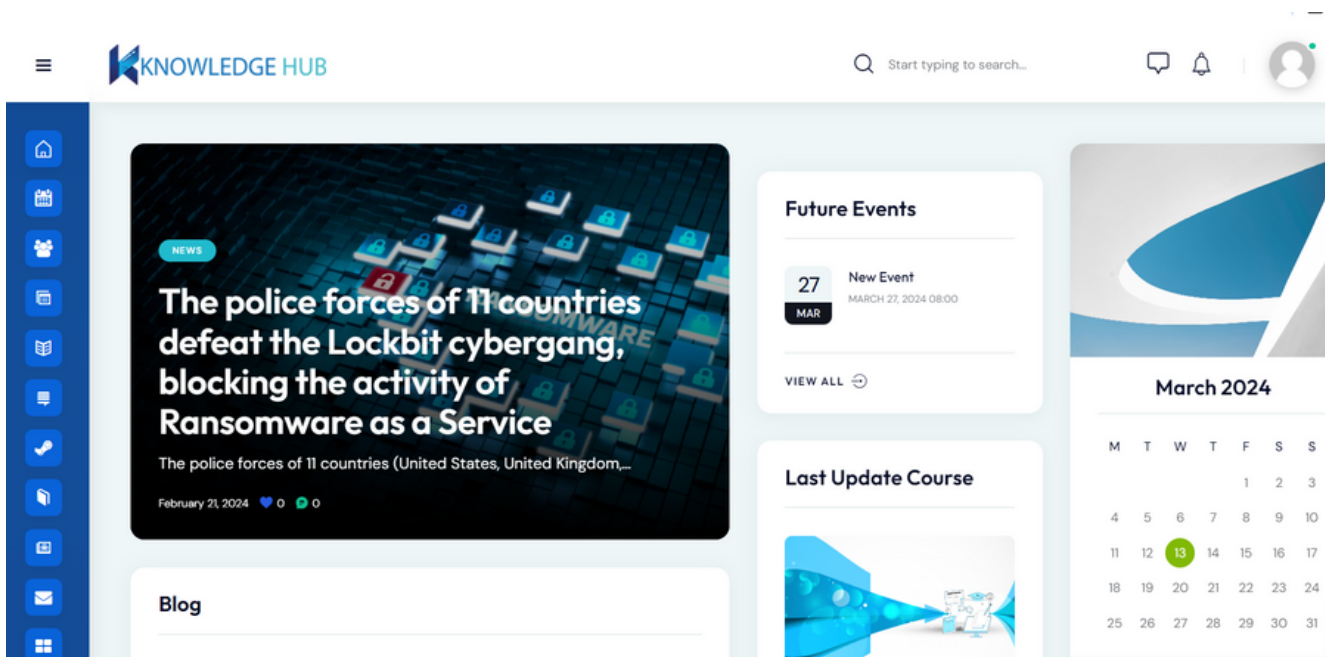


The EU-CIP Knowledge Hub

EU-CIP is working towards **creating and sustainably managing the EU-CIP Knowledge Hub**.

The EU-CIP Knowledge Hub has been launched, and serves as a central repository for sharing knowledge, best practices, and cutting-edge technologies. It brings together experts, practitioners, and stakeholders from various fields, including cybersecurity, energy, transportation, telecommunications, etc.

The link is the following: <https://knowledgehub.eucip.eu/>



EU-CIP Reference Model and Key Indicators Framework

The reference model defines the stakeholders involved in the CIP/CIR ecosystems, the technologies utilized in CIP/CIR solutions, and the functionalities and capabilities that characterize a CIP/CIR system. This model will serve as a **structure for organizing information in the knowledge-hub** and as a **taxonomy for reports and outcomes in the project's analysis pillar**. The **taxonomy**, which provides a clear and comprehensive understanding of all assets and components, will support the EU-CIP objectives and contribute heavily to their successful achievement.

Finally, the key indicators framework provides a means to monitor project activities, achievements, and performance, including the project's value to users. The team has been working towards the establishment of indicators for policies, standards, capabilities, analysis activities, innovation management services, innovation support activities, solution validation activities, and more.

"We aim for the Knowledge Hub to be a place where users can find all the information about critical infrastructure protection, are able to download reports upon registration and have a strong community built around critical infrastructure protection."





EU-CIP Open Call Type A: Winners Announced

The EU-CIP project foresees as an eligible activity the provision of financial support to third parties through an Open Call, as a means to achieve its own objectives. In its first project year, EU-CIP has launched **Open - Call Type A**, aiming to attract and engage CIP experts (e.g. CI operators/authorities, research organizations, SMEs, start-ups, security experts, security technology providers, CIP system integrators, natural persons) to analyse and validate the EU-CIP information collection process.

Congratulations to the winners of the Open Call Type A*:

- [Sitna Slova Consultancy](#)
- [Quadible Ltd.](#)
- [Department of Engineering -University of Naples Parthneope](#)
- [CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HELLAS \(CERTH\)](#)
- ["AI FOR SECURITY" IDEAS NCBR SP Z.O.O.](#)
- [TH Koeln](#)

The EU-CIP consortium will now assess the applications received concerning the experts for the second Open Call. Stay tuned for the results coming out in April as well as more opportunities to consult the project on Critical Infrastructure Protection.

*7 overall winners, here portrayed only 6 due to privacy concerns





2nd EU-CIP Annual Conference on Critical Infrastructure Protection: Critical Infrastructure Protection Week 12th-14th November 2024, Madrid, Spain

In light of the forthcoming challenges with the **CER Directive** and **NIS2 Directive**, and the ever increasing threats against European critical infrastructures, IACIPP is launching 'CIP Week' in Europe to help **raise awareness** and **promote greater collaboration** amongst operators, agencies and the CI security community.

The first 'Critical Infrastructure Protection Week' will take place in Madrid Spain and will see IACIPP host the '**Critical Infrastructure Protection & Resilience Europe**' conference and exhibition and '**EU-CIP Horizon Project**' conference as the first two events as part of the initiative. Additional events are expected to be announced as part of the CIP Week in due course.

The registration link will soon be provided through the EU-CIP website.

***“Protecting critical infrastructures is safeguarding physical assets
and defending the essence of society's key resilience aspects”***

***Emilia Gugliandolo,
DECISION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES DATA & ANALYTICS R&I Lab,
Project Manager***





EU-CIP Blog Spotlight

Availability of the mini course AI in Critical Infrastructures. The course is offered by the EU-CIP Horizon Europe Project. It is tutorial in nature and aims at introducing Artificial Intelligence and its use cases in Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP). It is tailored to professionals working in critical infrastructure sectors, who would like to understand the capabilities of AI and its potential applications in the CIP domain. The course can also help professionals in other sectors (e.g., security, cybersecurity) to gain insights on how AI can aid in increasing the security and resilience of modern critical infrastructures. To follow the course press [here](#).

Inlecom Commercial Pathways, webinar series. As part of its contribution to the EU-CIP project, Inlecom Commercial Pathways is responsible for providing commercialisation training to the project consortium and members of the ECSCI. This involves hosting a series of webinars on commercialisation to support innovators and developers within the critical infrastructure protection and resilience (CIP/CIR) sector. These webinars aim to provide a basic understanding of the necessary mindset and priorities when setting out to commercialise developments in this sector.

Following these webinars, materials will be provided via the EU-CIP Knowledge Hub in the form of templates outlining themes covering each of the modules and those completing these templates, will be invited to participate in one-on-one mentoring sessions given by Inlecom commercial experts to discuss issues more closely related to the specifics of the CIP/CIR sector, and the most important requirements and potential avenues in the field. Feedback from participants will be used to incorporate changes into the material provided when the second round of webinars, templates, and one-on-one sessions are given.

For more information, please contact Kevin Fleming (kevin.fleming@inlecomsystems.com) or Colin Keogh (colin.keogh@inlecomsystems.com).

CIP/CIR Events

- **INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND EXPERT CONFERENCE. 12-13/10/2023**, Belgrade, Serbia. EU-CIP participation in panel discussion on Safety of infrastructure systems.
- **CANTATA 2023 and TrustCom 2023. Workshop 1-3/11/2023** Exeter, England, UK.
- **SUNRISE 2023 and NIKT 2023, Workshop, 27-30 November 2023**, University of Stavanger, Norway.
- **ECSCI SPM Workshop Collaborative Standardisation and Policy Making For Greater CI Resilience in Europe, workshop. 05/12/2023,**





The Financial Sector Whitepaper. EU-CIP has released a white paper on the protection of the critical infrastructures of the finance sector. The whitepaper reviews the main challenges faced by financial organization when it comes to protecting their critical assets. Moreover, it proposes solutions that can effectively address these challenges and provides recommendations for financial institutions and other stakeholders of the finance ecosystem to increase the resilience of their critical infrastructures.

The whitepaper has been co-authored by partners [INNOV-ACTS LTD](#) and [GFT Italia](#) and is freely available for download [here](#).

Launch of Innovation Management Services. EU-CIP offers a pool of services for innovators in the critical infrastructure protection domain, including:

- A pool of training resources (including video-based tutorials) available
- A form-based innovation support services that encourages innovators to provide brief information about their ideas and innovation activities in order to be assessed by EU-CIP experts/partners. EU-CIP provides to innovators that submit this information with feedback on their ideas, as well as links to relevant resources and innovation support services.

Upcoming Events

- [EU-HYBNET Annual Workshop](#). 24/4/2024. Valencia, Spain
- [2nd EU-CIP Annual Conference on Critical Infrastructure Protection](#). 12-14/11/2024, Madrid, Spain



<https://www.eucip.eu/>

[@EUCIP_HorizonEu](#)

[@EU-CIP Project](#)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the grant agreement No 101073878.