

CRESCent PROJECT



Mind the gap in media Coverage and Strategic communication in Case of security Threats – the development of critical thinking and responsible reaction

Strategic partnership project within ERASMUS+
Program AGREEMENT NO. - 2018-1-RO01-KA202-049449

Implementation period

September 1st, 2018 – August 30th, 2020

Participating organizations:

- ***University "Rey Juan Carlos" (URJC) - Spain***
- ***Kentro Meleton Asfaleias (KEMEA), Center For Security Studies – Greece***
- ***Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate for Information and Public Relations (MAI-DIRP) – Romania***
- ***"Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy (MVNIA) – Romania***

TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING 1

“Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy (MVNIA) organized between 5-6 of December 2018 the first meeting of the CRESCent project. CRESCent creates a cross-sectorial media and strategic communication training and toolkit aimed to empower in an ethical and resilient manner, spokespersons and journalists that communicate and investigate security threats.

The agenda of the meeting addressed administrative aspects and established research activities in the next period.

This first consortium meeting was attended by representatives of all members - the University “Rey Juan Carlos”, the Kentro Meleton Asfaleias (KEMEA), Center for Security Studies and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate for Information and Public Relations – and representatives of the organizing institution.

Project abstract

CRESCent creates a cross-sectorial media and strategic communication training and toolkit aimed to empower spokespersons and journalists in efficiently and ethically addressing security threats.

CRESCent addresses the challenge of social polarization created by the propagation of disinformation and fake news. It is a proven fact that fake news have created in Europe, and in the three countries part of the project, an acute miscommunication and lack of trust between the two professional categories we target. As the media has been pressed into reaching large audiences, institutional spokespersons were forced into communicating what is necessary and not divulging aspects which could jeopardise security investigations and public safety. A gap of trust and efficient communication was thus created and later on widened by the phenomenon of fake news. While it is indeed the media professionals that shape the way information is delivered to the public, they themselves might get trapped in particular “narratives” and share common mental frames. Recognizing that the media professionals are themselves the locus of potential influence by external actors is crucial to developing strategies to combat misinformation and hostile influence. CRESCent aims to address this divide through innovative solutions and multiplication of best practices of both spokespersons and journalist.

Objectives:

- To develop a toolkit of techniques, methods and instruments for institutional spokespersons and journalists who communicate on issues related to security and law enforcement, as support in their professional activity.
- To enhance key-competences and skills of the spokespersons and journalists so that they become resilient to fake news, build an ethics of reporting, perform double fact checking, provide and obey ethical grounds in handling sources, report security threats and handle truth for the preservation of democracy and the rule of law.

Target groups:

CRESCent's main target group consists of spokespersons in the field of national security and LEAs. The secondary group is represented by (young) journalists who are active in the field of security.

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