Press Release

New Horizon 2020 Project

YAKSHA - Cybersecurity Awareness and Knowledge Systemic High-level Application

The European Commission (EC) recently approved the project YAKSHA, which will reinforce European Union (EU) and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) cooperation and build partnerships in the Cybersecurity domain by developing a solution tailored to specific users and national needs, leveraging EU Know-How and expertise. The launch event of the project took place on January 10, 2018, at the Salão Nobre of University of Porto, Porto, Portugal. The event included a high-level discussion on Cybersecurity and EU–ASEAN Cooperation in Research and Development. The event was attended by European and Southeast Asian leading STI institutions, H. E. the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Portugal and representatives from the EC.

YAKSHA will develop innovative methods for malware detection, collection and analysis, as well as design a specialised ontology to be used for long-term storage and analysis of the information, and deploy standard information formats and interfaces to facilitate interoperability. YAKSHA will build an ecosystem of partners around its solutions that will contribute to enhancing cybersecurity skills in Europe and creating new positions for cybersecurity specialists in ASEAN. Moreover, the direct access to the important ASEAN market will positively impact the competitiveness of European security industry. The YAKSHA software solution will be validated in real-world pilot projects in both Europe and Southeast Asia regions, initially focusing on Vietnam and Greece, and with plans to expand the deployments to other countries.

YAKSHA's main target groups are SMEs and large corporations handling sensitive data; Critical infrastructure (power plants, hospitals, etc.); Government organisations (ministries, security agencies, etc.); Policy makers related to international cooperation in cybersecurity; Associations and network of organisations; and other interested parties, including media representatives and NGOs.

The YAKSHA software solution will be supported by the network of 100+ YAKSHA Ambassadors. These are representatives of YAKSHA who are active in the field of cybersecurity, software and/or more largely internet security and defence. In addition, the project will create YAKSHA Label of Excellence - a European certification of technology excellence which will serve as a sustainable recognition of a product's quality. This will support ASEAN users to certify the quality, security and functionality of labelled product and services.

The project, budgeted at €2.5 million, is scheduled to run from January 2018 until June 2020. The project is coordinated by Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (Portugal) and includes seven European partners: University of Piraeus Research Center (Greece), Studio Alessandro Guarino (Italy), Inno TSD (France), Motivian EOOD (Bulgaria), Hellenic Telecommunications Organization S.A. - OTE AE (Greece), Teknologian tutkimuskeskus VTT Oy (Finland), ATOS SPAIN S.A. (Spain) and five Southeast Asian partners: Vien Khoa Hoc Cong Nghe VINASA (Vietnam), Cybersecurity Malaysia (Malaysia), National Science & Technology Development Agency (Thailand), ASEAN Chief Information Officer Association (Thailand), and Cong Ty Tnhh Digital Identity (Vietnam).

To refer to: photos from the event, please click here; a video from the event, please click here

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