Press Release

Completion of the YAKSHA project activities and future exploitation

YAKSHA ("CybersecuritY Awareness and Knowledge Systemic High-level Application" – https://project-yaksha.eu/) is a project co-funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme. It seeks to enhance and develop partnerships between the EU and ASEAN member-states via embarking on joint development of a cybersecurity software toolkit, specifically, the development of honeypots-as-a-service that aims to boost cyber threat analysis and intelligence, thereby strengthening capabilities in protection from hostile actors online.

YAKSHA started on January 2018 and is now proud to announce that all relevant project activities have been completed with key milestones achieved. Relevant software solutions have been validated in real-world pilot projects, with future expansions to other countries considered. Pilots have been represented by a complexity of end-users with articulated cybersecurity risks, allowing the project consortium to gather feedback to further improve existing software solutions for subsequent market launch. Despite the challenges brought by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the team still managed to overcome the difficulties and successfully deployed the software solutions in pilot deployments in Greece, Vietnam and Malaysia.

In addition, to ensure the sustainability of YAKSHA's solutions beyond the stipulated project duration, YAKSHA has engaged in significant publicity efforts to promote the potential benefits its cybersecurity solutions can bring to the public. More than 100 prominent individuals in the field of information security have been recruited across ASEAN as project Ambassadors. Key stakeholders were also engaged through end-user events and other externally organised cybersecurity events that provided a platform to promote YAKSHA's progress and value proposition to prospective users. Constant dissemination of key updates through the official website and social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter.

Moving forward, YAKSHA aims to address critical gaps in the global cybersecurity environment such as cognitive detection and dynamic risk handling with the commercialisation of its solutions. The YAKSHA venture plans to launch the solution on the market in October 2021. ASEAN will be the first region to be targeted, followed by Europe in early 2022. Specific industries such as critical infrastructure providers (healthcare, utilities etc.) and finance would be targeted. YAKSHA's portfolio would include a joint venture pursued by its consortium partners, with plans to provide the platform via installation and cloud-based services, with core services offered on a subscription basis. Key aspects such as intellectual property rights (IPR) have been inked out between involved partners via a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Shortly, the new YAKSHA website will be launched at www.yaksha.eu, where the existing community will find all the information about the new venture, as well as direct contacts with the partners.

Ambassadors recruited during the project will continue to be involved in their mobilization roles to promote YAKSHA's software solutions to prospective end-users under the YAKSHA Community Programme. Some Ambassadors will take on the role of channel partners targeting private companies, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), while others will continue being local contact points to promote YAKSHA products among the national ecosystems. A strong academic stakeholder group is also planned to be developed to foster stronger cooperation among research partners in both EU and ASEAN in honeypot deployments for research and training purposes.

Finally, we would like to thank all consortium partners, project Ambassadors, and every other stakeholder who has supported YAKSHA during this entire project duration. We will continue to reach for further developments in cybersecurity so that our partners, clients and end-users enjoy a safer online environment in the years to come.