

# EU Borders Security: Acting Ahead across Research, Practice, and Policy

**Madrid, 27-28 September 2023 ISDEFE**

## Scope and Objectives

European Union's borders constitute a complex critical infrastructure with multiple functions of crucial importance. While both internal and external borders should enable movement of people and goods in an efficient way, they need at the same time to continuously filter out threats and ensure safety and security. As the geopolitical environment and the threat landscape are evolving, so the requirements for European Union's ability to effectively sustain its foreign and security policy, promote international cooperation and trade, strengthen its open strategic autonomy, and not least defend its fundamental values. This is an act that involves constant exchange among edge research and innovation, strategy and policy planning, and implementation on the ground, and, respectively, all involved stakeholders at regional, national, and EU level.

The ambition of this two-day conference during the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union is to highlight some key aspects of that challenge, take stock of what has been achieved so far, and sketch out the way ahead. This conference is set:

- First, to address the impact of hybrid cyber-physical threats to borders, the interconnection with migration moves, as well as explore the parameters for resilience at European, member state, and societal level.
- Second, to highlight the fundamental role of interoperability for enabling crossborder and cross-sectoral situational awareness preparedness, timely response to threats, and effectiveness of law enforcement.
- Third, to assess the role of security practitioners and responders from nongovernmental, governmental, and international bodies in security research action, and the potential for them to contribute hands-on insights, but also to receive useful and usable solutions at the end of the day.
- Not least, fourth, to advise on the constant challenge of alignment between security policy planning with security research, which besides considering the current facts on the ground, needs, moreover, to anticipate emerging trends, and project action into the future.

This conference is organized by the MEDEA network (Mediterranean practitioners' network capacity building for effective response to emerging security challenges), 2018-2023, under Grant Agreement no. 787111.

## Agenda Day 1 - 27 September 2023

- 13:00-14:00 Registration & Lunch
- 14:00-14:15 Welcome & Opening Remarks - ISDEFE
- 14:15-14:30 Introduction & Objectives of the Conference - MEDEA project coordinator
- 14:30-15:00 Keynote: Guardia Civil General Juan Manuel Llenderrozas
- 15:00-16:30 Session I: Hybrid Threats & Border management  
Moderator: EU Satellite Centre  
Panellists: Guardia Civil  
Bulgarian Defence and Research Institute  
European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats  
University Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid  
DYNAMO Project  
FLEXI-cross project
- 16:30-17:00 Coffee Break
- 17:00-18:30 Session II: Evolving Interoperability Challenges  
Moderator: Ministerio da defesa nacional, Portugal  
Panellists: Guardia Civil  
AEAT, Spanish Customs Surveillance  
PERIVALLON Project  
Woitsch Consulting Oy  
Centre for Security Studies, KEMEA
- 18:30-18:45 Conclusion of Day 1
- 21:00 Conference Dinner

## Agenda Day 2 - 28 September 2023

- 9:00-11:00 Visit at Coordination Centre for maritime surveillance of coasts and borders (CECORVIGMAR) operations room
- 11:00-11:45 Coffee Break and transfer back to ISDEFE
- 11:45-13:15 Session III: Practitioners' Key Role in Security Research  
Moderator: European Commission DG HOME, Border Management Area  
Panellists: Italian Ministry of Interior - Central Directorate of Immigration and Borders Police  
General Inspectorate of Romanian Police  
University Polytechnic of Madrid  
ZANASI & Partners  
Centre for Security Studies, KEMEA

13:15-14:30 Lunch



14:30-16:00 Session IV: Looking Forward: A common path between Security Policy and Security Research

Moderator: German Council on Foreign Relations, DGAP

Panellists: Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation – Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology, CDTI  
ISDEFE, Systems Engineering for the Defence of Spain  
FUNDEA, The Euro-Arab Foundation

16:00-16:15 Conclusion & Outlook