SEREN4 success stories brochure

Monica Florea, SIMAVI, Romania

Dr. Monica Florea, Head of Unit of European Projects at Software Imagination and Vision (SIMAVI), Romania participated in the Horizon 2020 Secure Societies European Info Day and Brokerage Event, which took place at the Metropole Hotel, Brussels, Belgium, on March 13-14, 2019, an event organized by the SEREN4 project.

- Why did you choose to attend this event?

  SEREN events are very important for Simavi in preparing the Horizon 2020 proposals for the Security calls. The Horizon 2020 Secure Societies European Info Day and Brokerage Event organized by SEREN on March 13-14, 2019 supported us in the following directions:

  - Finding partners with suitable profile in the projects that we were preparing.
  - Networking with other partners, sharing with them our company profile and expertise, and therefore enabling us to participate as partners in other Horizon 2020 project proposals to be submitted in Security calls.
  - Enriching our knowledge in the security calls by attending the information day sessions targeting relevant aspects in the preparation of Horizon 2020 projects on those topics.

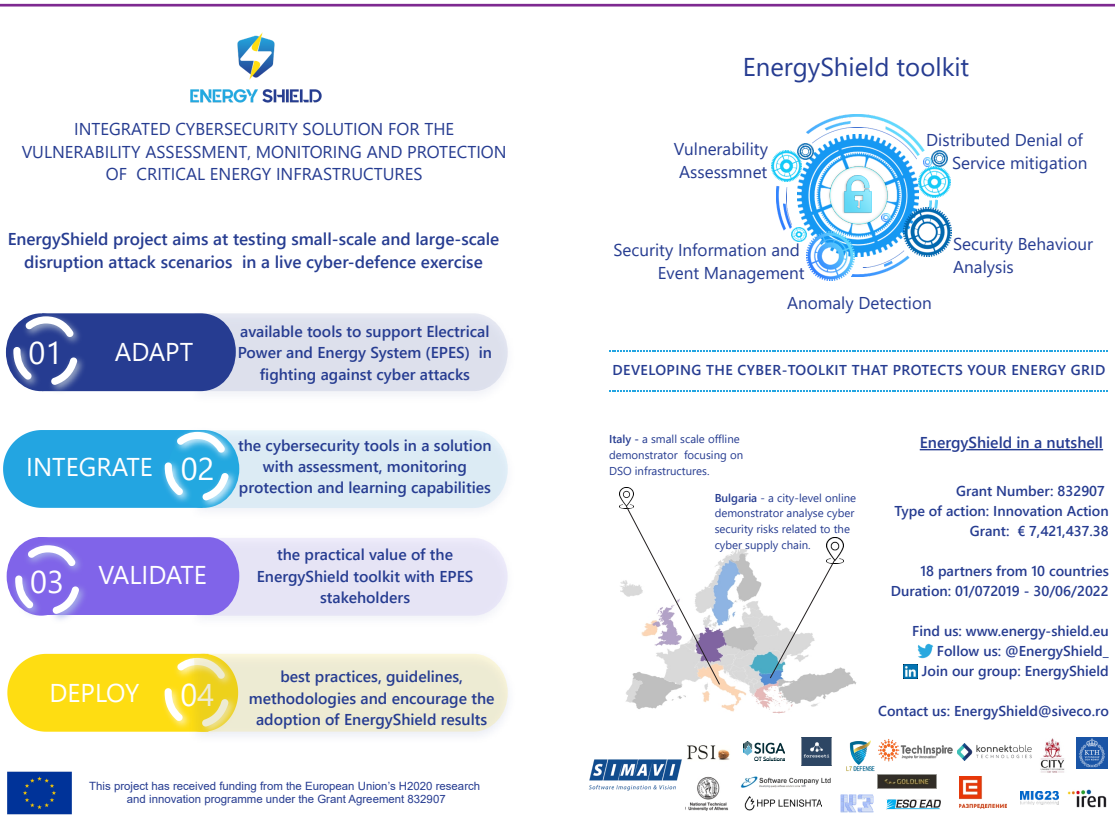
- Have you submitted any project proposal to H2020 Security calls with the August 2019 deadline? If yes, as a partner or coordinator?

  We participated at H2020 Security calls with deadline in August 2019. We played the role of technical coordinonator being in charge of software development, integration, but also support pilots implementation. SIMAVI (www.simavi.ro) provides services on the whole life cycle of H2020 projects:

  - ✓ Analysis of users' requirements
  - ✓ Solution design and architecture
  - ✓ **Software development**
  - ✓ **Integration and interoperability**
  - ✓ Testing and validation
  - ✓ **Pilots deployment and end-users training**
  - ✓ Technical assistance and system maintenance

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 786680

SIMAVI has a strong collaboration with relevant end-users from different domains (LEAs, hospitals, city municipalities, public authorities, research organizations and universities), therefore supporting a pilot implementation in collaboration with a relevant LEAs (end-user) from Romania is part of our core contribution to the H2020 projects. Apart from the role as technological partner and integrator that we play in over 30 H2020 projects, we play also the role of project coordinator as in **RED-Alert** - *Real-time Early Detection and Alert System for Online Terrorist Content based on Natural Language Processing, Social Network Analysis, Artificial Intelligence and Complex Event Processing* (*www.redalertproject.eu*) and also **EnergyShield** - *Integrated Cybersecurity Solution for the Vulnerability Assessment, Monitoring and Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructures* (https://energy-shield.eu/), that are



Horizon 2020 projects in the field of security.

- What were the main difficulties encountered?

I will mention some of the main difficulties and challenges typically encountered in H2020 projects preparation, but also the measures that we took to be able to submit on time a successful project proposal:

- ✓ **Identifying relevant end-users** (BU - border units) and contacting them as early as possible to validate the proposal solution it's very important. Also, designing the proposal with and around BU needs put's the basis for a solid proposal and exploitable results.
- ✓ **Communication does not always go smooth** because of heterogeneous consortia and different cultures but seting-up a collaborative online environment and planning regular teleconferences proved to be useful. When coordinating, SIMAVI team also sets-up a rigorous timeline for proposal preparation with related milestones and provide guidance to partners not familiar to H2020.
- ✓ Aligning the technologies provided by the partners and **setting up a common technical approach** should be tackled early in the project. In this regard, SIMAVIs team has a lot of experience in the integration activity, therefore we have experience in the interoperability requirements requested by handling a diversity of technologies necessary in such research and innovation projects.

- Did your participation to this event contribute to the finalization of the submitted proposal? In which way? Did you find partners? Did you find a coordinator for your project proposal? Did you join a consortium?

  Our participation to SEREN Horizon 2020 Secure Societies European Info Day and Brokerage Event last year was very useful in the preparation and submission of our H2020 projects at the H2020 security 2019 call. The events helped us in the following directions: setting-up meetings by selecting relevant partners profiles; organizing F2F meetings by sharing common interests and project concept, and the follow-up of selected organizations by defining their contribution to the project concept. We found partners for our project ideas, but also enabled us to join the H2020 project proposals that suit our organization profile.

- Is the submitted project proposal a successful one? Will the proposal be funded from the H2020 budget?

  The BorderUAS project that we submitted in 2019 on the BES-02 security call was funded. The project aims to develop a "Semi-autonomous border surveillance platform combining next generation unmanned aerial vehicles with ultra-high-resolution multi-sensor surveillance payload".

- Can you briefly show us what you intend to accomplish in this project?

  The **BorderUAS** project will combine for the first time an airship (**UAV lighter-than-air**) with an **ultra-high resolution multi-sensor surveillance payload supporting border surveillance** as well as search & rescue applications, and specifically rough terrain detection. The project will **use the ground-based infrastructure of border police units**, **innovative data models** and **advanced audio/video analytics and storage**. The project is covering **3 major illegal migration** routes into Europe (Eastern Mediterranean, Western Balkan and Eastern Borders Routes), which **represent 58% of all illegal border crossings** detected and are also the most used for smuggling of drugs, weapons and stolen vehicles. The project gathers 18 partners from 13 countries.

Monica FLOREA, PhD
Head of Unit European Projects

SIMAVI
Software Imagination & Vision

Victoria Park, 73-81 Bucuresti-Ploiesti Drive, C4 Building
District 1, 013685 Bucharest, Romania

Email: monica.florea@simavi.ro
skype: floreamonica