



Multiplier event 11 May- Interdisciplinary Education and Training on Hybrid Warfare - Report

On 11 May 2023, an info day was held within the EU project "Interdisciplinary education and training on hybrid warfare". The project is led by the Hungarian University of Public Administration and involves 5 other countries- Slovakia, Italy, Romania, Israel and the United Kingdom. The Info Day was implemented in the form of a one-day scientific and professional conference supported by exercises on simulators in the field of hybrid warfare.

The conference was held in the Simulation Center and was attended by 60 participants who had the opportunity to expand their knowledge of hybrid warfare in two parallel activities - theoretical (presentations), open discussion and practical (simulations)

After lunch, a unique simulation exercise was conducted by AOS students with the theme for dealing with hybrid threats during a crisis situation. The exercise was characterized by a specific interconnection of several simulation technologies in order to obtain the greatest possible educational effect in the above-mentioned area.

The idea was to deal with a standard crisis situation in the form of the threat of a dam breaking. Within the framework of practicing hybrid warfare the exercise directors purposefully added aspects of hybrid warfare in the form of fake news, civil unrest and systematically complicated the activities of rescue forces within the crisis management.

This unusual scenario required, in addition to the combination of constructive and virtual simulation tools, the involvement of such specific elements as the website of the municipality and its attack for the purpose of feeding false information to the population, the imitation of the town's public address system and its disruption by a diversionary group, as well as a complete system of telephone connection of the individual actors, including the essential components of the town (schools, shops, businesses, offices), with the possibility of making anonymous phone calls as well.

In one exercise, 15 students were involved in different roles, from a member of the crisis team to a fire truck driver. In addition to the above, three other operators ensured the smooth running of the simulation environment and triggered some pre-programmed sequences of behavior of the entities in the simulation environment. Two other operators provided live phone connectivity and response for various departments and city website management, including hacking and disinformation.

The exercise lasted 25 minutes and provided the students with the kind of perceptual inputs that ensured highly effective preparation for combating hybrid threats. The mentioned simulation was a basic verification tool within the EU project to confirm the correctness of the design and outline of the "Massive Open Online Course on Hybrid Warfare", which will be the output product of the entire project. The prepared online course will serve as a basic means for creating teaching subjects for this area.