

## REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROMANIAN ENERGY CENTER ASSOCIATION ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTED AT THE KICK-OFF MEETING WITHIN CYBERSEAS PROJECT ON CYBER SECURITY

15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021, Carina Ioana ZIDARU

The Romanian Energy Center Association (CRE) expands its portfolio of European Projects to a new one entitled "CyberSEAS" – "Cyber Securing Energy dAtA Services" in the field of CyberSecurity, together with TRANSELECTRICA. During March 2021, the Project it has been accepted for funding by the European Commission (EC), within the H2020 Program. The project started on 1<sup>st</sup> of October and will lasts for a period of 36 months, with 26 organizations involved from - IT, DE, EE, ES, SI, RO, EL, HR, and the coordinator of the consortium is ENGINEERING - INGEGNERIA INFORMATICA SPA from Italy.

The representatives of the Romanian Energy Center (CRE) Association participated and actively contributed to the CyberSEAS KICK-OFF MEETING, organized by the Coordinator of the Consortium, on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. The Virtual KICK-OFF MEETING highlighted the overview of CyberSEAS Project in order to have a better understanding of its direction and the current status. The agenda of the KICK-OFF Meeting underlined the CyberSEAS Project Guidelines, the Project Quality Plan, CyberEPES Clusters, the Analysis of the Interdependencies in Electricity Supply Chains and the Analysis of Existing Solutions for the Protection of EPES.

**CyberSEAS** Project ambition is to improve the resilience of energy supply chains, protecting them from disruptions that exploit the enhanced interactions and extended involvement models of stakeholders and consumers in complex attack scenarios, characterised by the presence of legacy systems and the increasing connectivity of data feeds.

The main strategic objectives of **CyberSEAS** Project are: countering the cyber risks related to highest impact attacks against European Electrical Power Energy Systems (EPES), to increase EPES trust and safety, protecting consumers against personal data breaches and attacks, increasing the security of the Energy Common Data Space. All three objectives are equally important, since cyber-criminals are shifting tactics to favour multi-stage attacks in which stealing sensitive data is a precondition for the real attack and enables them to maximise damage and profits.

To achieve these objectives, CyberSEAS delivers an open and extendable ecosystem of 30 customisable security solutions providing effective support for key activities, and in particular: risk assessment; interaction with end devices; secure development and deployment; real-time security monitoring; skills improvement and awareness; certification, governance and cooperation. CyberSEAS solutions are validated through experimental campaigns consisting of 100+ attack scenarios, tested in 3 labs before moving out to one of 6 piloting infrastructures across 6 European countries.

**CRE** Association will have an important role in **CyberSEAS** Project within the contribution to the following activities: Collaborative assessment of cyber vulnerability and risks in the energy supply chain – WP2, CyberSEAS integrated toolset for cyber-resilient EPES – WP3, Fostering the culture of cyber-resilient Energy supply chain – WP8 and From lab to market – WP9. During the discussions in the KICK-OFF Meeting, CRE Association presented the WP9 objectives and the Exploitation Plan, as a Leader of this Work Package.

CRE Association is constantly preoccupied and interested in the cyber security domain, also in the development of cybersecurity toolkits for critical infrastructure for its members. The association is also very active to find solutions to improve awareness of cyber threats and attacks for the power energy infrastructure. CRE is in constant contact with EU partners to identify project consortiums that will tackle the cyber-security matter but also to actively participate in dedicated conferences and workshops. Further on, CRE concrete action, in terms of cyber security projects in which the **Department of Innovation and Development** has a significant contribution will follow.

**PHOENIX** Project – „*Electrical Power System's Shield against complex incidents and extensive cyber and privacy attacks*”, started in 2019 and it will end in 2022. The main objective of the project is to improve the cyber security of EPES. PHOENIX aims to offer a cyber-shield armour to European EPES infrastructure enabling cooperative detection of large scale, cyber-human security and privacy incidents and attacks, guarantee to minimize cascading effects in infrastructure, the environment, the citizens and the end-users at reasonable cost.

The CRE Association is an active and strategic partner together with its members and other potential members in international consortia for deploying energy projects funded by the EC, such as: **CROSSBOW**, **PHOENIX**, **TRINITY**, **EDDIE**, **EDGEFLEX**, **SUCCESS**, **RESERVE**, **NRG5**, **WISEGRID**, **SOGNO** and **CYBERSEAS**.

