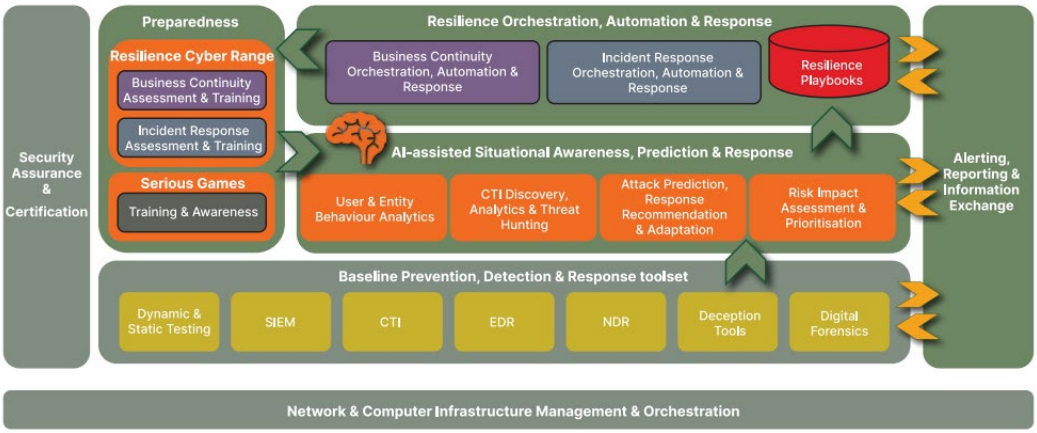
8th Newsletter

June 2025

Project Final Stage and Key Achievements

We are pleased to present the 8th and final edition of the PHOENI2X Newsletter, marking the successful conclusion of the PHOENI2X project, which officially ended on June 30th, 2025. This final issue provides an overview of the key activities and achievements during the last two months of the project, as well as a reflection on the milestones reached over the past three years.

Since its inception, PHOENI2X has pursued the objective of enhancing the cybersecurity and resilience of critical sectors through the design and development of a Cyber Resilience Framework providing Artificial Intelligence (AI) – assisted orchestration, automation & response capabilities for business continuity and recovery, incident response, and information exchange, tailored to the needs of Operators of Essential Services (OES) and of the EU Member State (MS) National Authorities entrusted with cybersecurity. After three years of intensive research, technological development, integration, and testing, the project has successfully achieved its goals.



During the final project phase, the main focus was on validation and assessment activities**,** both at the individual use-case level and across the framework as a whole. This included:

- The deployment and final validation of the PHOENI2X platform in the three pilots, each corresponding to one of the targeted critical sectors (energy, transport and health).
- Detailed technical validation and performance assessment of the platform functionalities.
- Cross use case validation of the PHOENI2X framework on Smart Grid Operator with cascading impacts across critical OESs.
- Engagement with national authorities, who conducted formal notifications in alignment with the NIS2 Directive.
- A dedicated Trustworthy AI assessment, evaluating the PHOENI2X platform from an AI ethics perspective.

For ongoing updates, publications, and access to project materials, we invite you to visit our website phoeni2x.eu and follow us on LinkedIn (@Phoeni2x Project) and X (@Phoeni2xProject)**.**

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PHOENI2X NEWS AND EVENTS

9th PHOENI2X Plenary Meeting

The 9th Plenary Meeting of the PHOENI2X project took place on June 10th and 11th, 2025, in Nicosia, Cyprus, hosted by DSA (Digital Security Authority). This meeting marked one of the final opportunities for the consortium to meet in person before the project's conclusion. The primary objectives of the meeting were to finalize the validation and testing activities of the PHOENI2X framework within the context of the project's three use cases, energy, transport, and healthcare; and to prepare the consortium for the upcoming final project review.

The first day discussions centered on technical work packages, specifically those related to the AI-assisted and Coordinated Response Enablers developed within the PHOENI2X platform. Consortium partners reviewed the content and structure of the presentations being prepared for the final review meeting, ensuring alignment across all workstreams and highlighting the platform's innovative contributions in the fields of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and critical infrastructure protection. This was followed by the review of the final demonstrators developed for each of the three use cases. Partners shared results, discussed performance outcomes, and collaboratively addressed any remaining testing and validation challenges encountered during the final phase of deployment. The last part of the day focused on discussions around dissemination, exploitation, standardisation, and sustainability, aimed at ensuring the long-term impact and continued visibility of the project results beyond its formal conclusion.

The second day of the plenary meeting was dedicated to coordination activities. It began with a session on project and ethics management, where the consortium reviewed the overall progress of the project. The next session focussed on innovation management, which examined the exploitable results of the project, their alignment with market needs, and potential pathways for future development and commercialization. This was

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followed by parallel working sessions to address remaining technical and operational issues, allowing partners to clarify open points and align on final deliverables. The meeting concluded with a wrap-up, summarizing the key decisions made over the two days and outlining the final steps in preparation for the project's concluding review.

PHOENI2X Internal training events

Energy use case

On Friday, June 20th 2025, the Phoeni2x Platform training workshop took place for the employees of PPC, the Energy Critical Infrastructure. The total number of the workshop's participants was 15 of which 60% were IT/OT professionals and the rest 40% were generic personnel. The trainees had the opportunity to use the two training platforms that consist of the Phoeni2X solution: SPHYNX Cyber Range and PROTECT.

Transport use case

On Monday, June 2nd, 2025, the PHOENI2X cybersecurity training session was held at FGC's headquarters in Barcelona for railway control centre (CC) operators and members of the company. The training was prepared by the FGC team directly involved in the project, together with the internal cybersecurity team.

The training had the direct participation of 9 people in person, and 2 connected online, taking a questionnaire at the beginning and end of the session to see the evolution of their knowledge of cybersecurity once they had attended the course.

Health use case

Two cybersecurity courses and one training event were held on June 23 and 27 in Athens, Greece, with eight participants from NODALPOINT attending. The Supply Chain Attacks course explored how cyber threats exploit trusted third-party software, services and development pipelines to compromise systems. The Secure Coding course equiped developers and organizations with the knowledge to defend against supply chain attacks through secure software development practices. Finally, the NIS2 Regulatory and Compliance Training for the Healthcare Sector equiped participants with a foundational understanding of cybersecurity obligations under the EU NIS2 Directive, tailored specifically to healthcare organizations.

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CyberHot 2025

The PHOENI2X project co-sponsored the 5th Cybersecurity Hands-On Training (CyberHOT) Summer School, held from May 26 to 30, 2025, in Chania, Crete, Greece, under the auspices of the Technical University of Crete (TUC).

CyberHOT is an internationally recognized training initiative that brings together cybersecurity professionals, researchers, and practitioners from around the world. Its aim is to advance practical skills in key areas such as ethical hacking, risk management, incident response, and sector-specific cybersecurity challenges, particularly within the maritime, healthcare, and energy sectors.

This year, Alejandro Quintanar and Sebastian Pape from Social Engineering Academy (SEA) GmbH represented PHOENI2X at the event. They delivered an interactive session on the HATCH serious game, a tool developed to raise awareness and deepen understanding of social engineering attacks. The session specifically highlighted the energy-sector scenario, offering participants a hands-on learning experience aligned with the real-world challenges addressed by PHOENI2X.

Cluster Synergies Webinar

On May 15, 2025, the PHOENI2X project participated the Cluster Synergies Webinar. This initiative brought together several Horizon Europe projects, including CyberSecDome, COcyber, PHOENI2X, SecAwarenessTruss, SYNAPSE, CUSTODES, CONSOLE and Coevolution, focused on cybersecurity to share insights, results and explore future collaboration opportunities.

Agenda

Time (CEST)	Project	Presenter
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome & Introduction	Vina Rompoti - ITML
10:10 - 10:20	CyberSecDome Project Presentation	Armend Duzha - Maggioli
10:20 - 10:30	COcyber Project Presentation	Alessandra Zini - EIT Digital
10:30 - 10:40	PHOENI2X Project Presentation	Argyro Chatzopoulou - Apiroplus
10:40 - 10:50	SecAwarenessTruss Project Presentation	Nikolaos Nikoloudakis - PPC
10:50–11:00	SYNAPSE Project Presentation	Panagiotis Bountakas - Sphynx
11:00–11:10	CUSTODES Project Presentation	Simon Bouget - RISE
11:10 -11:20	CONSOLE Project Presentation	Ciprian Pavel Oprisa - Bitdefender
11:20 -11:30	COevolution Project Presentation	Andreas Miaoudakis - CyberAlytics
11:30 - 11:40	CraCoWi Project Presentation	Chrysa Alexia - ITML
11:40 - 12:00	Q&A session	All

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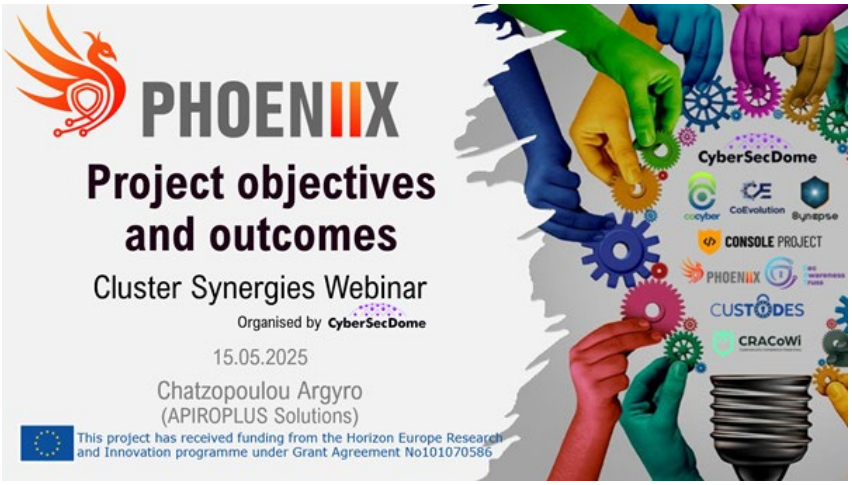
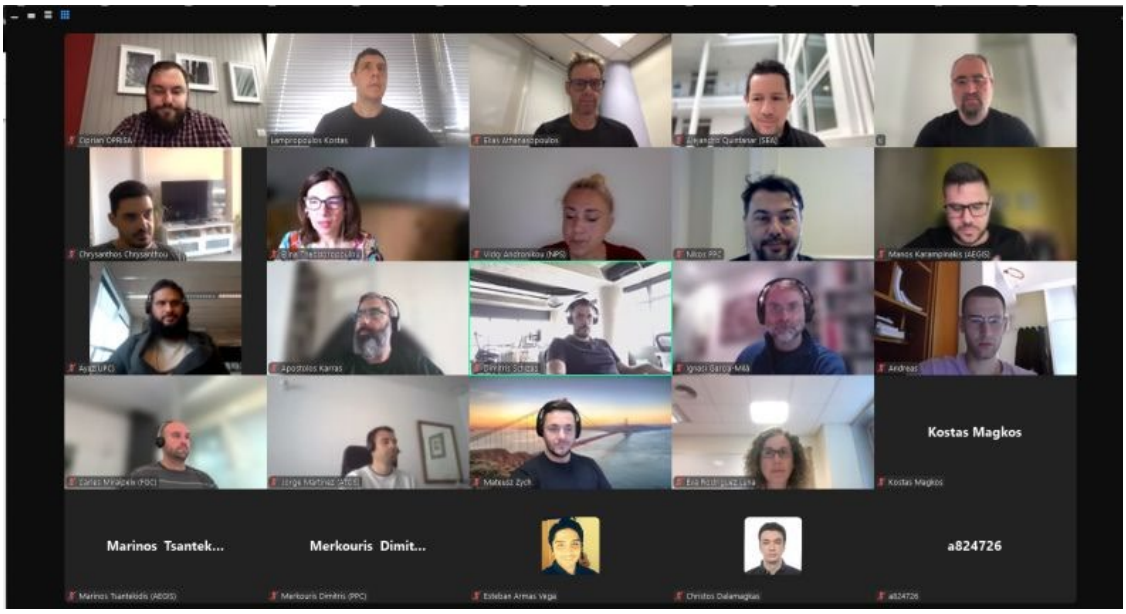


Advisory board meeting

On May 9, 2025, the PHOENI2X consortium had the opportunity to present the project's most recent and significant advancements to its Advisory Board, in a dedicated session aimed at gathering expert feedback during the final stages of the project. The meeting featured updates on the technical progress, including the integration and refinement of the PHOENI2X framework, as well as the outcomes of the pilot demonstrations carried out in the energy, railway, and healthcare domains. Each pilot showcased the platform's capabilities in real-world operational environments, highlighting its effectiveness in enhancing cybersecurity, resilience, and coordinated response across critical infrastructures. The Advisory Board members provided valuable insights and constructive feedback, which sparked productive discussions among consortium partners. These exchanges confirmed the relevance and applicability of the PHOENI2X approach but also led to important conclusions and recommendations that will inform the project's final activities.



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