1st Newsletter

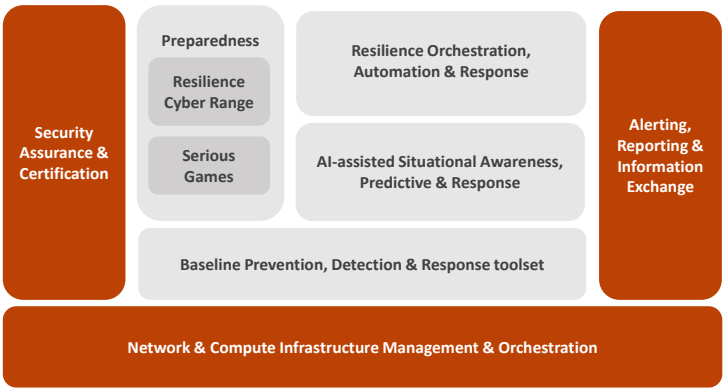
February 2023

WELCOME

Welcome to the PHOENI2X project. In this first edition of the Newsletter, we aim at introducing the PHOENI2X project while also providing a brief summary about the main achievements carried out during the first six months of the project. Follow us through our website (phoeni2x.eu) and social media (@Phoeni2xProject) for periodic releases of the PHOENI2X Newsletter that will be published periodically throughout the project to disseminate key project results and achievements.

WHAT IS PHOENI2X

In short, PHOENI2X proposes a Cyber Resilience Framework intended to provide Artificial Intelligence (AI) – assisted orchestration, automation & response capabilities for business continuity and recovery, incident response, and information exchange, particularly tailored to the needs of Operators of Essential Services (OES) and of the EU Member State (MS) National Authorities entrusted with cybersecurity.



Through the deployment of PHOENi2X Cyber Resilience Centres (PHOENi2X CRCs), we expect OES to gain: (i) enhanced Situational Awareness with AI-assisted Prediction, Prevention, Detection & Response capabilities, and business risk impact assessment-based prioritisation; (ii) proactive and reactive Resilience Automation, Orchestration, and Response (ROAR) mechanisms, providing Business Continuity, Recovery and Cyber & Physical Incident Response; (iii) Increased Preparedness through relevant Serious Games and realistic Resilience Cyber Range (RCR) Assessment & Training, and; (iv) timely and actionable Information Exchange between OES, National Authorities and EU actors, leveraging interoperable and standardised alerting and reporting mechanisms and processes.

PHOENI2X Partners

This project has received funding from the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No101070586.

PHOENI2X OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: To provide trustworthy AI-assisted Situational Awareness & Prediction capabilities, with risk impact assessment, facilitating prioritisation, recommendation and adaptation of system response.

Objective 2*:* To design & develop Resilience Orchestration, Automation and Response mechanisms, encompassing proactive and reactive business continuity, recovery and incident handling tasks.

Objective 3*:* To offer enhanced Preparedness through a Resilience Cyber Range and Serious Games.

Objective 4*:* To provide Alerting, Reporting & Information Exchange mechanisms & processes enabling collaboration between private and public critical sector actors at the national and European level.

Objective 5*:* To integrate, demonstrate, and validate PHOENi2X in the context of 3 Essential Service use cases (Energy, Transport, Health) involving two OES, a provider in the supply chain of an OES, a Telecom Operator and two National Cybersecurity Authorities.

Objective 6: To maximise the project's impact and results' uptake, creating an open & sustainable solution.

PHOENI2X NEWS AND EVENTS

Kick-off meeting

The PHOENI2X project kick-off meeting took place in July 18-19, 2022, to meet all together and start defining the set of activities to be triggered as described in the project work plan. The meeting brought together 16 partners from 8 European countries and was hosted by COSMOTE. The goal of the kick-off was to trigger the discussions related to project objectives and the consensus of all partners on how they will sync-up, the overview of the work to be done in the different work packages and a roadmap of the actions that should be undertaken for the first months of the project. During the two-days meeting, partners discussed at a work package level identifying the key challenges to be addressed, as well as the measurable outcomes and KPIs.

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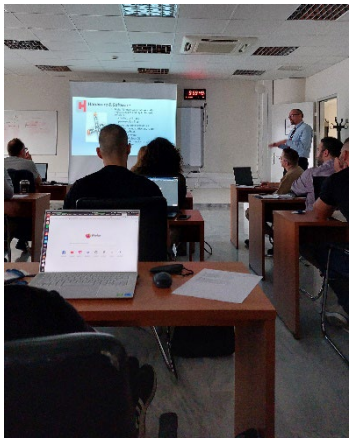
CyberHOT2022

PHOENI2X has co-sponsored the Cybersecurity Hands-On-Training (CyberHOT) Summer School organized in Chania, Crete, in September 2022, under the auspices of NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center (NMIOTC). PhD students from PHOENI2X participated in the event which included seminars addressing the Cyber Hunting at Scale (CHASE) program, Defensive Strategies focussing on the correct incident response principles and phases (Preparation, Detection, Eradication and Recovery), and Advanced Persistent Threats (APT). The Summer School also included interactive training which was based on a Critical Infrastructure protective scenario.



CyberHunt2022

PHOENI2X has co-sponsored the 5th Workshop on Cyber Threat Intelligence and Hunting (CyberHunt2022; https://cyberhunt2022.cyberhunt.no/), which is organized by the Digital Security Group of the University of Oslo (a partner in PHOENI2X), in conjunction with the 2022 IEEE International Conference on Big Data (IEEE BigData 2022). The workshop took place in Osaka, Japan, from December 17 to 20, 2022, and two PHOENI2X partners, the University of Oslo & Sphynx Analytics Ltd, attended the workshop.

Konstantinos Fysarakis from Sphynx Analytics, serving as the PHOENi2X technical coordinator, gave a keynote highlighting challenges tackled by PHOENI2X ("Towards Integrated and Adaptive Cybersecurity Operations with Cross-Border Collaboration – A European Perspective"), as well as presented "A Blueprint for Collaborative Cybersecurity Operations Centres with Capacity for Shared Situational Awareness, Coordinated Response, and Joint Preparedness" (a PHOENI2X -related scientific paper, co-authored by Sphynx Analytics, University of Oslo & the Technical University of Crete).

1st Plenary meeting

The PHOENI2X 1st Plenary meeting has been celebrated the 3 and 4 of November, 2022, in Nicosia, Cyprus. The meeting was hosted by Sphynx Analytics. The meeting has raised a good opportunity to meet all project participants, and to share and discuss the project overall progress, work package objectives, overview of the work conducted the first months of the project, and definition of the roadmap for the different tasks for the first year of the project.

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During the first day of the meeting all PHOENI2X partners went through the work done on the project requirements, architecture and baseline establishment, AI-assisted situational awareness, prediction and response enablers, coordinated response and preparedness enablers, and dissemination activities.

The second day of the meeting, two sessions took place in parallel, one for the EU-Restraint/ Restricted activities and the other one for the definition of the PHOENI2X architecture. Within the EU-Restraint/ Restricted meeting partners discussed the use cases of the project, sharing the actual architectures, data and threats for the different pilots. In the PHOENI2X architecture meeting, technical partners discussed on the tools they will provide the project with, analysing how they fit in the architecture, and how they will interact. The second day concluded with an open discussion and wrap-up of the meeting.

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