



ONLINE
RESEARCHERS
MATCHMAKING EVENT

ALLIANCES FOR RESILIENCE: MATCHMAKING FOR DEFENCE, SECURITY & SOCIETAL FORESIGHT

27 to 29 October 2025



Registration deadline
23.10. 2025



Alliances for Resilience: Matchmaking for Defence, Security & Societal Foresight

27.-29.10.2025 (online, all times CET)

hosted by Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

The link to all sessions is:

⇒ **[Alliances for Resilience](#)**

In times of crisis, when misinformation spreads faster than truth, protecting our data and defending democracy are more crucial than ever. This event brings together researchers and experts to explore how European values can strengthen resilience and ensure security. From countering digital threats to preparing for the unexpected, we'll show how competitiveness and collaboration can safeguard both societies and economies. It's a chance to exchange bold ideas, build lasting connections, and shape practical solutions. Join us in creating a future where trust, security, and democracy thrive side by side.

Purpose: To spark new collaborations and connect minds across disciplines, this event unites FORTHM researchers with colleagues from other European University Alliances. Together, we'll tackle pressing challenges like defence, misinformation, crisis preparedness, security, and societal resilience — turning shared expertise into powerful partnerships for Europe's future.

Agenda

27.10.2025 DAY 1 – Systems & Threats

Link to the Keynote Session ⇒ [Alliances for Resilience](#)

9:00 Welcome note by University of Latvia top level management

9:15 **Keynote by Doris Schröcker**, Head of Unit Industrial Research, Strategy and Coordination (E.1), DG Research & Innovation

10:00 - 12:00 Topical Session 1: Critical Infrastructures & Digital Attacks

Link to Session 1: ⇒ [Alliances for Resilience](#)

Speaker:

10:00 Klaas de Boer, State Chancellery of Rhineland-Palatinate, Representation of the State to the Federal Government and to the European Union

- **Title and abstract:** As open as possible as closed as necessary: The resilience of critical infrastructures

This session aims at discussing the implications of the new geopolitical reality for the research community Physical and digital infrastructures are at the core of the EU's research ecosystem. At the same time they are of key importance when discussing the shift towards more autonomy and resilience. How to achieve an open and at the same time secure ecosystem?.

13:00 – 15:00 Topical Session 2: Information Resilience & Manipulations

Link to Session 2: ⇒ [Alliances for Resilience](#)

Speakers:

13:00 Dr. Nicoleta-Annemarie Munteanu, Lucian Blaga University Sibiu (FORTHEM Alliance)

- **Title and abstract:** Artificial Intelligence and the Regulation of Disinformation. A Transatlantic Policy Study.

Digital technologies have amplified concerns about the spread of disinformation, carrying profound implications for democratic governance, public trust, and global security. This presentation explores the regulatory responses to AI-generated disinformation within the European Union (EU) and the United States (US), emphasizing both areas of convergence and divergence across policy frameworks,

institutional mechanisms, and underlying normative principles. The EU has adopted a proactive, rules-based approach, epitomized by several regulations, aimed at establishing comprehensive governance structures. In contrast, the US approach remains more decentralized, sector-specific, and market-oriented, prioritizing innovation and voluntary self-regulation.

Through a comparative lens, the study evaluates the respective strengths and weaknesses of these models, particularly in reconciling the protection of freedom of expression with the imperative to mitigate harmful online content. It further assesses the potential for transatlantic collaboration in developing more coherent strategies to address the global challenges posed by AI-driven disinformation. The analysis concludes that while contextual factors influence each jurisdiction's regulatory choices, enhanced mutual learning and coordinated governance frameworks are crucial for effectively confronting this evolving threat. Ultimately, the study underscores the need to align ethical, legal, and technological dimensions in building a sustainable and trustworthy information ecosystem.

13:30 Prof. Turo Uskali, University of Jyväskylä (FORTHEM Alliance)

- **Title and abstract:** How to protect critical infrastructures against hybrid threads?

According to news media hybrid threads seem to be already everywhere. In this talk the term hybrid thread will be defined. Then the evolution of hybrid threads detected in Finland from 2012 to 2025 will be summarized. Finally, a Finnish research project between four universities that aims at creating tools against hybrid threads will be presented.

14:00 Robert Pawlita, PhD student at the Doctoral School of the University of Opole, Political Science

Title and abstract: Considerations on disinformation in political communication. Conclusions from study: Far-right Eurosceptics and Russian disinformation: analysis of speeches in the EP by members of the I&D Group on the Russian-Ukrainian war

The presentation focuses on research into disinformation in political communication. It involves an analysis of the content and features of statements made by I&D politicians during the 9th term of the European Parliament regarding the Russian-Ukrainian war. Within the presentation, the author shares the thoughts on disinformation research, as this topic is relevant to his dissertation. The conversation centres on the definitions, approaches, and methods used to study this phenomenon, as questions arise concerning its classification and purposefulness, both of which are difficult to examine in political science.

28.10.2025 DAY 2 – Preparing for the Unexpected

10:00–12:00 Topical Session 3: Crisis Preparedness & Early Response

Link to Session 3: ⇒ [Alliances for Resilience](#)

Speaker:

10:00 Prof. Jose Julio Gonzalez, Center of Integrated Emergency Management (CIEM), Universität Agder, Norway (FORTHEM Alliance)

- **Title and abstract:** Management of Systemic Risk in Disasters

The talk concerns management of risks in a disaster, understood as an event or set of events, caused by natural events (droughts, floods, pandemics, etc.), by human attitudes (wildfires, etc.); or by human actions (cyberattacks, etc.).

In disasters the risks are interdependent. Each risk can cause new risks, and the consequences are complex and difficult to manage. When risks are interdependent, risks form a system of risks, known as “systemic risk”.

Systemic risk management can be addressed with workshops using participatory modelling. Thereby teams employ strategy mapping, a facilitated management approach to foster direction, alignment and coherence. Strategy mapping builds on maps of causes and consequences of risks. The causal model is a mathematical entity known as a directed graph. Powerful algorithms from network theory allow the analysis of the causal model and the elaboration of strategies deemed impactful and practical by the team.

Strategy mapping helps teams understand and articulate the necessary interventions. Workshop participants visualise the cause-effect chains of a system and the actions they can take to introduce reforms, align the actions they can take to introduce reforms, linking aspirations to capacities.

The talk introduces the strategy mapping method with examples taken from disasters using the Strategyfinder™ software, as DSS.

13:00–15:00 Topical Session 4: Social Resilience & Community Security

Link to Session 4: ⇒ [Alliances for Resilience](#)

Speakers:

13:00 Dr. Tijana Karić, Philipps University Marburg (EUPeace)

- **Title and abstract:** The Double-Edged Concept of Societal Resilience: From Collective Empowerment to Neoliberal Responsibilization

Societal resilience has become a central but contested concept in research and policy, often invoked to describe how communities and institutions adapt to crises and change. This presentation unpacks the complexity of resilience, outlining its key elements and the factors that enable or hinder collective capacity, as well as ways to foster it. At the same time, it highlights common pitfalls, such as shifting

responsibility from systems to individuals or excluding marginalized groups. By unpacking both the promise and the perils of resilience, the talk invites reflection on how to build collective capacity that is inclusive, equitable, and genuinely sustainable. Finally, it points to current research gaps and emerging directions for studying resilience as a dynamic, multi-dimensional process.

13:30 Delia Stefenel (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania, FORTHEM Alliance),
Mihai Ilie Balaban (Unimat & Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania)

- **Title and abstract:** Understanding Professional Stress and Organizational Resilience in Times of Crisis: Lessons from the Romanian Business Sector

The COVID-19 pandemic amplified levels of professional stress and burnout across industries, significantly impacting individual well-being, organizational performance, and broader economic stability (Dimitriu et al., 2020). This case study investigates the incidence and dimensions of burnout among employees in the Romanian business sector during the first wave of the pandemic. Data were collected from 198 employees (N=198) working in various Romanian organizations, using an adapted version of the Maslach Burnout Inventory (Maslach et al., 1996). The analysis confirmed the psychometric validity of a five-dimensional model encompassing emotional exhaustion, depersonalization in customer relations, negative self-evaluation, reduced work engagement, and diminished feelings of personal accomplishment. Results highlight the strong association between increased professional stress and the manifestation of burnout symptoms under pandemic-related constraints. The study discusses implications for human resource management and proposes coping and resilience strategies to mitigate the effects of professional stress and support organizational sustainability in crisis contexts.

29.10.2025 DAY 3 – Futures & Ethics

10:00–12:00 Topical Session 5: Dual-Use Technology & Ethical Frontiers

Link to Session 5: ⇒ [Alliances for Resilience](#)

Speaker:

10:00 Dr. Ivana Stepanovic, Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg (iASK)

- **Topic and abstract:** Ethics as Security: Pathways for Responsible Tech Governance

Ethics is not a constraint but a form of security. Rapid development of autonomous technologies with integrated AI systems increases risks of unjustified surveillance and social fragmentation while at the same time holding potential for collective benefit. Embedding ethical reflection in design and governance is essential for long-term solutions and true resilience. This talk outlines the key ethical challenges related to the development of AI, advanced surveillance systems and other innovative technologies. These not only include transparency and accountability, but also sustainability and human flourishing. The presentation seeks to initiate

collaborations on responsible innovation, integrating various aspects of ethics into security practices.

13:00–15:00 Closing Forum: Matchmaking Outcomes & Next Steps

Link to Closing Forum: ⇒ [Alliances for Resilience](#)