ILEAnet

Innovation by Law Enforcement Agencies networking

Deliverable 5.16:

Public report on the ILEAnet findings n°8

Grant Agreement number: 740714	H2020-SEC-2016-2017-1
Start date of project: 1 June 2017	Duration: 60 months
Lead beneficiary of this deliverable: ENSP	Deliverable type: Report
Dissemination Level : Public	Release: V1
Due date of deliverable: 31/07/2021	Actual submission date: 26/07/2021
Description: Based on contributions from WP1-WP4, the public report summarises the main results from ILEAnet: practitioner challenges and needs, recommendations for uptake of RDI results, best practice exchange, standardisation, future RDI activities.	

Public Report on ILEAnet findings n°8

Description

Based on contributions from WP1-WP4, public report summarising the main results from ILEAnet: practitioner challenges and needs, recommendations for uptake of RDI results, best practice exchange, standardization, future RDI activities.

Executive Summary

This public report aims to give an insight to the work performed within ILEAnet from month 43 to 48.

The ILEAnet Community continued to live and grow. The community now counts more than 260 members connected through the ILEAnet online platform, but their participation goes beyond their digital activities. A daily work is undertaken to reinforce and boost the ILEAnet practitioners' and researchers' community. Given the global sanitary situation, ILEAnet's goal to build an online community of practitioners and researchers had more incidence.

The events proposed by the ILEAnet project, together with the dissemination and communication activities, strengthened the dynamism of the current community and opened it up to the European community interested in security research.

A continuous work is being done to better involve practitioners in security research. It is ILEAnet's core mission to connect researchers and law enforcement practitioners through joint events (e.g. workshops) but also research-focused activities, such as in-depth studies.

During the reporting period, the first open call was awarded to the *Information sharing mechanisms between European Law Enforcement Agencies* study. The second tender on *Age Determination assessment techniques* will soon be awarded. Both studies will perform states of the start and explore potential solutions to those two cross-cutting needs identified by the ILEAnet community.

In addition, the scientific coordination team continued to propose a set of offers to researchers, in order to reinforce the connections among them and with practitioners.

One of the great accomplishments under the current reporting period was the exploration of the standardisation topic, with the objective of identifying the areas of most common interest for future standardisation. An intensive work was carried out and these efforts led to the preparation of the fourth ILEAnet Public Workshop (PW4). The virtual event, held in June 2021, was dedicated to *Standardisation in Security Research* and its outputs will be further reported in the next public report.

The ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP), a process designed to support the uptake of existing innovative solutions, was refined. Firstly experimented during the second ILEAnet Public Workshop (PW2 in 2019), the IPUP was complemented during the third ILEAnet Public Workshop (PW3 in 2020). A targeted uptake webinar focused on the research project receiving the highest level of feedback following PW3 (namely ROBORDER) was delivered. The webinar was held in collaboration with iProcureNet and with the support of FRONTEX. With a view to further assessing the solution presented and making recommendations, ILEAnet implemented a post webinar questionnaire to explore the next steps for the solution uptake.

Finally, ILEAnet continued its work on assessing LEAs' challenges and needs regarding age determination. The results of the questionnaire circulated within the LEAs' network are available and are fully aligned with the related tender.

A detailed description of the activities performed in each of the three technical WPs is provided in this report, and structured as follows:

🌐 Report of the general activities
🌐 Strategy for the next six months

Furthermore, an additional section presents the crosscutting activities, not necessarily visible in the three technical work packages, but nonetheless crucial for the success of the project.

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Introduction

The ILEAnet project

ILEAnet is a European project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and launched on the 1st of June 2017 for a 5-year duration. The overall objective of ILEAnet is to build and develop a sustainable organisational Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) practitioners' network focused on Research, Development and Innovation (RDI). ILEAnet addresses LEA challenges, together with a community of individuals, including practitioners and experts from academia and industry, interesting in exchanging and collaborating in this area.

Detailed information about the project is available online (www.ileanet.eu).

The ILEAnet Network and Community were created adopting a two-way perspective: top-down and bottom-up.

⦿ Top-down:

ILEAnet functions as a network of organisations. It is aligned with existing institutional structures respecting the corresponding institutional mandates and operational set-ups.

⦿ Bottom-up:

In addition, ILEAnet functions as a community of people who are interested in innovation-centred collaboration. Thereby, innovation is facilitated, and key LEA challenges are addressed.

The effective iterative interaction between these two approaches helps to identify needs and opportunities and prioritise suggestions with respect to future LEA-relevant RDI in the EU and national programmes, policies and standardisation efforts.

Figure 1: ILEAnet involved countries

21 partners from 17 countries are involved in the project. Most of them are practitioners, together with research centers and institutes (see Figure 2 below).

Organisation	Country
Federal Ministry of the Interior	**Austria**
Ministry of Interior – Bulgaria	**Bulgaria**
Cyprus Police	**Cyprus**
Police of the Czech Republic	**Czech Republic**
Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	**Estonia**
ARTTIC	**France**
French Ministry of Interior	**France**
Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Police	**France**
Bavarian University of Applied Sciences for Public Service, Department of Policing (in replacement of the Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei)[1]: **to be validated in the amendment in preparation**	**Germany**
Hungarian National police	**Hungary**
University College Dublin, Centre for Cybersecurity & Cybercrime Investigation	**Ireland**
Ministry of Public Security	**Israel**
Italian Public Safety Department, Ministry of Interior	**Italy**
State Police of Latvia	**Latvia**
European Forensic Initiatives Centre	**Poland**
Police Academy in Szczytno	**Poland**
Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs	**Romania**
Slovakian Criminal Police, Ministry of Interior	**Slovakia**
ISEMI INSTITUTE	**Slovakia**
Unitad Central Intelligencia Criminal	**Spain**
Police Service of Northern Ireland	**United Kingdom**

Figure 3: ILEAnet Consortium

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[1] The organisation signed a non-disclosure agreement and its application to become an ILEAnet organisation member was included in the second amendment to the Grant Agreement submitted to the European Commission in July 2021.

The ILEAnet approach: the activities portfolio

ILEAnet's growing ambition is to provide a conducive environment for security research and innovation up to the deployment of practical solutions by LEAs.

ILEAnet is concerned with **enhancing its practitioner network** and **facilitating their involvement into research activities**: from identifying challenges and needs translated into research topics, to the uptake of research projects' solutions into practice.

As in the last reporting period, ILEAnet continued to **experiment the ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP)** and define the conditions for the project incubating process (**IPIP – ILEAnet Project Incubation Process**). While the IPUP aims at facilitating and accelerating the implementation of security research projects' outputs by Law Enforcement Agencies, the IPIP aims at federating LEAs on common needs or requirements in order to identify research needs (e.g. research projects and/or research programs) and help practitioners transform their needs into action.

Those two processes are supported by a **panel of tools** such as an assessment **questionnaire for developed solutions**, emphasising that the solution is to be implemented in a LEA environment. The ILEAnet community benefits from a **digital library**, which clusters security-related knowledge and helps identifying potential solutions that meet LEAs needs. The IPIP process is supported by **open calls** that were launched at the European scale to make the scientific community conduct in-depth studies on some specific LEA needs. Lastly, **events** (webinars, workshops, brainstorming sessions, etc.) are fully integrated and supporting the IPUP and IPIP processes.

Simultaneously, ILEAnet **builds on a community of practitioners and researchers** interested in security research. The animation of such a community is a daily-basis task and requires human resources. The implicit objective is to bridge the gap between practitioners and research. To concretely work on this, ILEAnet collected **recommendations to better involve the practitioners in security research.**

Finally, ILEAnet started studying the topic of "**standardisation**" and proposed related activities, such as a dedicated Public Workshop on the topic.

The ILEAnet Workflow: "the cycle"

For LEA practitioners who face daily challenges, identifying existing solutions from research and finding time and space to assess them, may be a challenge in itself.

Consequently, the ILEAnet team **developed and experimented a cycle**, based on a close cooperation between inter-related work packages (WP2, WP3 and WP4). This cycle enables ILEAnet to:

1. Define the practitioners Challenges and Needs,
2. Monitor, collect and organise the current state of the art and existing or recent research initiatives
3. Identify gaps, requirements, opportunities and priorities
4. Provide recommendations and feed them back to the Consortium.

WP2
Analysis of practitioners' challenges & needs

WP3
Knowledge Factory + identification of gaps & opportunities

WP4
Feasibility & standardisation assessment + recommendations for uptake

- Desk review
- Design & circulation of surveys
- Priority list of LEA challenges & needs

- Identification of the available expertise & state-of-the-art
- Initial report on gaps & opportunities
- Development of the knowledge factory (KF)

- Feasibility study of opportunities and in-depth analysis (including states of the art and gaps/priorities analysis)
- Standardisation recommendations
- Recommendations for uptake & RDI roadmap

Figure 4: ILEAnet Cycle

It should be noted that the other work packages support the ILEAnet cycle, through the ILEAnet National Contacts and scientific referents' networks, the project management and scientific coordination, as well as numerous dissemination and communication activities.

The ILEAnet Online Platform

A collaborative space, encouraging discussions between European LEAs and researchers was created at the beginning of the project. The ILEAnet Online Platform, hosted in the Community Management Tool (CMT), allows an exchange between ILEAnet contributors. The ILEAnet Online Platform is structured with respect to the main topics raised by European practitioners. The interactions are monitored by several members of the ILEAnet team: the coordination team, the ILEAnet National Contacts, the Community management and the Scientific coordination.

The ILEAnet Online Platform is continuously adjusted to the needs of the ILEAnet members, who provide feedback on their own user experience on a regular basis.
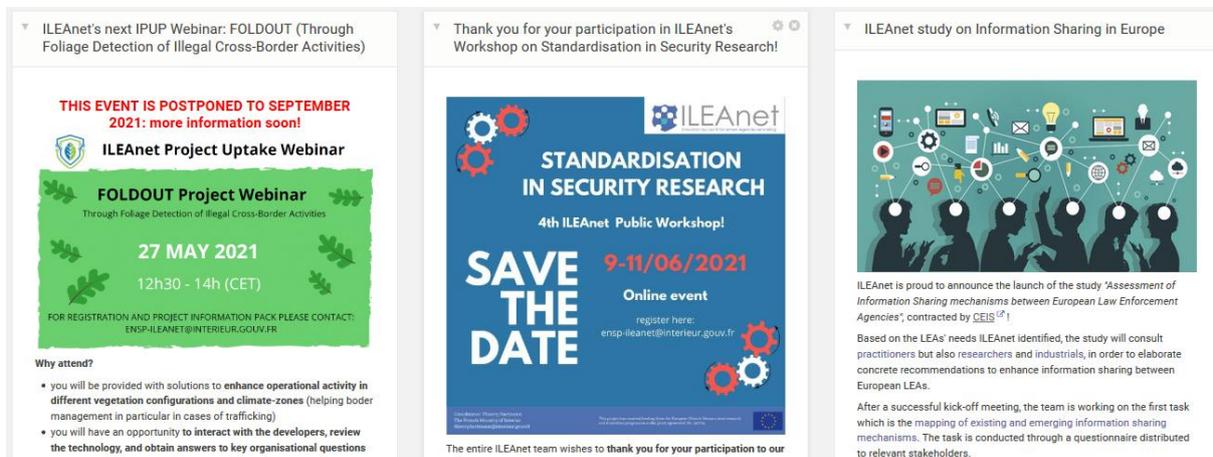

Figure 5: ILEAnet Online Platform Landing page (screenshot of 22 June 2021).

Main findings

WP1: ILEAnet networking, including INC role and contribution to topic strands

WP1 aims at providing the resources and inputs from the ILEAnet National Contacts (INCs) and their respective national networks of practitioners, academia, industry and other stakeholders.

The ILEAnet National Contacts (INCs)

As a reminder, ILEAnet is organised around ILEAnet National Contacts (INCs), who are dedicated ILEAnet consortium members or Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) representatives from all involved member states. They are responsible for the functioning of their "national networks". Together with the Scientific Coordination, they ensure good quality of the online exchanges. They act as a hub for the ILEAnet bottom-up and top-down oriented activities.

Organisation	Country	INC
BMI- Ministry of the Interior	Austria	Caroline Schmidt
Ministry of Interior – Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Mila Lalova
Cyprus Police	Cyprus	Chryso Angeli
Police of the Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Veronika Bouchalova
Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	Estonia	Raul Savimaa Hannes Jarvine
French Ministry of Interior	France	Thomas Fressin
To be validated in the amendment in preparation: Bavarian University of Applied Sciences for Public Service, Department of Policing (in replacement of the Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei)[2]	Germany	Sven-Eric Fikenscher Holger Nitsch
Hungarian National police	Hungary	Kornel Borbas Orsolya Varnai
University College Dublin, Centre for Cybersecurity & Cybercrime Investigation	Ireland	Cheryl Baker
Italian Public Safety Department, Ministry of Interior	Italy	Elisabetta Ialongo Lorenzo Rinaldi
Israel National Police -Ministry of Public Security	Israel	Tibby Roth
Latvian State Police	Latvia	Inese Voloseviča Ieva Klavina

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[2] The organisation signed a non-disclosure agreement and its application to become an ILEAnet organisation member was included in the second amendment to the Grant Agreement submitted to the European Commission in July 2021.

European Forensic Initiatives Centre Foundation - EFIC	Poland	Monika Pawelec
Institute for Research and Development of the Police Academy in Szczytno	Poland	Jakub Muraszko
Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs	Romania	Gabriel Iancu
Presidium of Police Force	Slovakia	Zuzana Zachova
ISEMI INSTITUTE	Slovakia	Alena Dikosova
Spanish National Police	Spain	Pablo Fernández López
Police Service of Northern Ireland	United Kingdom	*Under discussion*

Report of general activities

The WP1 activities for this six-month period can be summarised as follows:

- Coordination of the ILEAnet national networks by the INCs in their respective countries;
- Facilitation of the contributions from the national networks to ILEAnet;
- Expert contributions from the INCs to ILEAnet.

INCs went on **raising awareness** about ILEAnet activities nationally.

Their role was particularly significant to enlarge the audience for the **fourth ILEAnet Public Workshop**, as they invited a large number of national counterparts and experts to participate in the discussions (see chapter about WP4 for more details).

The INCs also contributed to inviting practitioners and researchers to **webinars** (see chapter about WP3) and to **brainstorming sessions** (see chapter about WP4).

They contributed to the **dissemination of the *Age determination* tender** ILEAnet published at the European level on Dec. 4th, 2020 and of the **questionnaire** launched by the *Information Sharing* study's contractor. INCs were involved in sharing information about their **scientific network**, as ILEAnet offers the possibility to promote the work of researchers and practitioners having a researcher hat (see chapter about WP6).

The INCs function not only as facilitators of their national networks but also as experts participating in discussions themselves, asking **questions**, **sharing knowledge** and interacting with the members in the ILEAnet Online Platform. Some INCs were crucial in animating in-depth discussions about their **topics of interest** and sharing **news about the EU security research agenda.**

Similar to the previous reporting periods, interactions between INCs and the ILEAnet team were supported by **teleconferences**. The ILEAnet Coordination team offered **interviews** to new members to welcome them in the project and facilitate their integration.

Strategy for the next six months

Once again, the last months have shown how much INCs play a key role in building and enlarging the network.

The effort will focus on increasing the number of members by enhancing the involvement of the national practitioners and researchers.

Furthermore, INCs will continue circulating information about ILEAnet activities and events

in their respective countries and contribute to
the Knowledge Factory thanks to information
received from their respective networks.

WP2 Law Enforcement Challenges and Needs

WP2 aims to collect challenges and needs from Law Enforcement Authorities at the national and EU level, in order to facilitate solutions to these issues through research and development activities. The outputs from WP2 feed the WP3, by determining which angle to use to identify best practices and potential subjects for an in-depth analysis.

The WP2 is designed to collect and analyse the needs and challenges of LEA practitioners. This collection of data is performed using three approaches:

- Top-down, by suggesting topics based on analysis of policy, strategic documents and strategic research agendas,
- Bottom-up, by collecting inputs in open surveys and non-directed interviews,
- Analysis of surveys and observation of the activities within the ILEAnet network (ILEAnet community, ILEAnet network and ILEAnet practitioners' network).

Report of general activities

The previous work of WP2 consisted in the review and analysis of the strategic and policy documents to "*Identify the Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies Concerning Age Determination*". The focus topic emerged as a result of expressed LEAs' needs. Nine main challenges (and thirty-four related needs) were identified during the desk review. All show the complexity and significant impacts of the age determination on LEAs' job. The related **survey** was circulated among INCs and ILEAnet practitioners (via the ILEAnet Online Platform) in May 2021 and results were analysed. Nine countries participated in the survey. The top three challenges (among the nine set by the desk review) were:

1. Accuracy and reliability of age assessment techniques

2. Lack of effective, consistent and timely procedures for age determination and age assessments within and between Member States

3. Potential misidentifications of children as adults (or adults as children) by LEAs in 'first line' contact situations

Those three most important challenges reinforce the importance of the age determination issue. LEAs need an accurate and reliable age assessment technique, shared among EU countries, to better identify children, in particular for 'front-line' situations. Respondents underlined the importance of innovative processes and technological development to assess the age of an individual. They also shared results from national projects, recommendations and good practices, for instance to perform age assessment with a child-centric and child-sensitive approach.

The survey also provided results regarding the needs of LEAs for age assessment. The top three needs are:

1. **Improved training** for LEAs in making immediate 'on the spot' decisions concerning 'age determination' (as a potential solution to the #3 top challenge *Potential misidentifications of children as adults (or adults as children) by LEAs in 'first line' contact situations*)

2. **Improved information sharing** between Member States in cases of age determination (as a potential solution to a challenge that was not listed in the top three: *Duplication of effort by Member States in repeating age determination procedures with the same individual*)

3. **Collect and exchange data on missing children in migration in a harmonized and systematic way**, including for children at risk of trafficking (as a potential solution to a challenge that was not listed in the top three above:

Identifying and supporting migrant children who come to the attention of LEAs that are 'missing' or victims of migrant smuggling or human trafficking).

This priority list for the needs showed that LEAs' training should be improved to facilitate immediate 'on the spot' decisions concerning 'age determination'. It also demonstrated that there is an operational need for improved information sharing between Member States. Cooperation between agencies involved in cases of missing, exploited or trafficked children or involved in family tracing activities should be enhanced to better collect and exchange data on missing children.

These results are in line with the tenders launched by ILEAnet on *Information Sharing mechanisms between EU Law Enforcement agencies* and *Age determination techniques* (see chapter about WP6 for further information).

Finally, WP2 is responsible for **monitoring discussions on the ILEAnet internal platform and among ILEAnet practitioners**. Because of the news, the role of Covid-19 vaccination for LEAs' missions abroad was discussed. The legal basis for Data Warehouse systems in the police and lessons learnt from recent terrorist attacks were quoted. The goal is for the network itself to answer to its members, by providing expertise or information.

Strategy for the next six months

The WP2 team will continue to monitor the activities and discussions of LEAs on the ILEAnet Online Platform, capturing emerging topics and facilitating the discussions for a smooth networking of LEAs on the ILEAnet Online Platform. For instance, WP2 plans to collect LEAs challenges and needs on important topics related to implementation of threats and benefits offered by Artificial Intelligence solutions.

WP2 will also support other WPs on new topics that may emerge and participate in the strengthening of the collaboration with other EU projects such as iProcureNet, by sharing ILEAnet results on LEAs' challenges and needs.

WP3 ILEAnet Knowledge Factory

WP3 has four main tasks:

- Enhancement and analysis of the online profiles of the ILEAnet community members
- Identification and coordination of specific best practice and state-of-the-art/technology reports
- Initial gaps and opportunities analysis
- Development and management of the ILEAnet wiki (ILEAnet Knowledge Factory)

The first task is considered concluded, and no other actions were undertaken to enhance member profiles. The other tasks are still ongoing.

Report of general activities

WP3 mostly concentrated on furthering the **IPUP** initiative (**ILEAnet Project Uptake Process**) through the delivery of **targeted** uptake webinars focused on research projects receiving the highest level of feedback following the third Public Workshop (PW3). As a reminder, the IPUP seeks to provide a robust tool to identify and support LEA exploitation of research results, thanks to a methodological framework.

The third Public Workshop (PW3), held in November 2020, was designed to identify solutions and gaps regarding a migration-related topic previously identified by WP2: *Identification and Control of Irregular Migration through Modern Technologies.* As ILEAnet previous surveys show that respondents were not familiar with research projects in this field, PW3 aimed at showcasing some of the research outputs. Thus, eight projects presented their outputs by adopting a LEA-approach.

A survey was run during PW3 to assess the level of relevancy of the presented projects to LEAs daily operations. Based on the results of the survey, WP3 **selected the most promising projects** and invited them to **participate in targeted IPUP webinars**. The **ROBORDER**

project had the highest score in terms of solution relevance and interest in participating in a further information session. A 1.5 hour webinar was held in 30 March 2021. The objective of the event was to provide a more extended opportunity for practitioners to explore the technology developed by ROBORDER and gain a greater understanding of how the research could be exploited and deployed in a LEA environment.

To allow time for a deeper dive into the solution, participants were provided with an **information pack** prior to the event. The information pack included the original TELOS survey, the scenario and the Project ID card developed for PW3 and the original project presentation. Researchers and industrials were welcome in the webinar as well. In collaboration with WP4, the webinar allocated time to collect participants' opinions about possible standardisation and commercialization opportunities (post webinar questionnaire, see below).

Targeting Border Guard Authorities, specifically decision makers, purchasing managers and technology specialists, ILEAnet collaborated with **FRONTEX** to circulate information about the webinar. ILEAnet also invited **iProcureNet** to present its work on joint procurement for the security field, both projects being concerned with market uptake of security solutions.

In total, 43 participants from 14 countries registered to the event (more than three quarters were LEAs, there were a few industrials, and the remainder came from various academic institutions).

With the ROBORDER webinar, WP3 **tested the IPUP concept from end to end**, and the next period will focus on refining the process with another promising project (the FOLDOUT project). WP3 also made **recommendations** for revisions to the IPUP unfolding and to some of

the templates used for information gathering, in order to improve responsiveness.

🌐 Management of the ILEAnet wiki (ILEAnet Knowledge Factory)

The Knowledge Factory is filled with information on relevant academic publications, white papers, national and international research projects and official documents. All users are encouraged to contribute to the body of knowledge with their own expertise or experiences, add value and applicability to the information by evaluating knowledge, and search the Knowledge Factory to find ideas, solutions, events, collaboration opportunities in Europe and internationally.

There are more than 500 references of information available in the Knowledge Factory, at the disposal of the ILEAnet Community, but despite the encouragement of individuals outside the Steering Committee,

the tool feeding is only performed by WP3 contributors.

In order to continue populating the Knowledge Factory, a 'push' rather than a 'pull' approach was chosen. Publication of relevant entries is in the ILEAnet scientific newsletter, published every 2 months.

Strategy for the next six months

WP3 will go on refining the IPUP process and the hosting of further project uptake webinars. The preparation of the FOLDOUT project webinar has already started and will benefit from FRONTEX support for the dissemination component.

Finally, the work on the Knowledge Factory will continue, by feeding the ILEAnet platform with new knowledge and publishing a selection of Knowledge Factory's items.

WP4 ILEAnet Scouting activities

The purpose of this section is to provide a status update on the main areas of work related to the WP4 for month 43 to 48, which are as follow:

- To perform an analysis of opportunities identified in WP3 and assess feasibility of the most promising ones;
- To define the areas of most common interest for future standardisation;
- To connect with relevant initiatives and RDI projects.
- To elaborate recommendations for uptake of solutions by LEA practitioners and RDI roadmaps.

Report of general activities

Standardisation

Most of WP4's work for the reporting period was dedicated to the **preparation of the fourth ILEAnet Public Workshop** (PW4), dedicated to *Standardisation in security research*.

WP4 had been involved in the **agenda** definition, the **identification and invitation of relevant stakeholders** (e.g. CEN CENELEC Technical Committees) and **standardisation-oriented research projects**.

Among all the projects analysed in terms of standardisation, eleven ones were initially spotted for PW4, and **five projects** finally agreed and/or were available for PW4: INSPECTr, FORMOBILE, EU CISE 2020, DRIVER+ and STAIR4SECURITY. Supported by the ILEAnet Scientific Coordination team, WP4 prepared a set of questions related to standards and standardisation in Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) security projects, to be used as guidelines for project presentations during PW4. The design of the questionnaire embraced a natural presentation flow to make projects describe in

a structured way their standardisation activities as part of their research project, starting from the EU call to the concrete standardisation outputs.

ILEAnet invited **CEN/TC 419 Forensic Science Processes** chaired by Mr Michel Smithuis and **CEN/TC 391 Societal and Citizen Security** chaired by Ms Patricia Compard to present the work of the CEN Technical Committees during PW4. Besides, two managers from national standardisation bodies agreed on presenting their respective project: Dr Karl Grün (Director of Standardisation at **Austrian Standards International -** FORMOBILE project) and Anja Seeliger (Project Manager, Innovation, Research & Transfer, **DIN**, Germany - DRIVER+ project). Further information about PW4 are available on the [ILEAnet website](#) and a specific ILEAnet public deliverable will be drafted.

WP4 initiated the work on the **identification of areas of most common interest for future standardisation**.

- The process started with the **desk study** performed by WP4 regarding the standards featured in the Horizon 2020 Security calls and RDI projects. The analysis aimed at preparing the background for further steps of the ILEAnet process of defining the areas for future standardisation. It allowed WP4 to compare tendencies and trends (the study results were presented during PW4).
- A preliminary work had been conducted by WP4 in the **brainstorming activities** conducted with Klaxoon tool (see D5.15 for further information) to identify standardisation areas.
- The topic of standardisation areas was then further explored through the circulation of a **questionnaire** to ILEAnet Steering Committee (first round of idea collection) and INCs and Scientific Referents (second round of idea collection). The objective was to collect ideas and suggestions of areas for future standardisation. It seemed important to

provide background information and definitions of what standards are at the beginning of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into four sections reflecting ILEAnet's priority areas (i.e. Migration, Cybercrime, Serious and Organised Crime, and Terrorism), to which were added findings from the Klaxoon-based brainstorming activities on LEAs' involvement in RDI projects. Each section started with some initial examples of standards, with the type and objective of the standard defined, in order to guide the respondents on what path to follow with their suggestions.

- Finally, the second round for the collection of ideas was followed by another Klaxoon facilitated brainstorming session to offer to every interested INC the possibility for more in-depth discussion about standards and standardisation.

- Data were then aggregated by WP4.

- In total, nine ILEAnet Member States sent their suggestions for standards and after an initial scanning and processing, 140 propositions were assigned to the four ILEAnet's priority areas. Additionally, 34 ideas for standards were suggested by LEAs as those that can make the LEAs participation in the Research, Innovation and Development projects easier and more effective.

After summary and aggregation of all data obtained, the results were presented during PW4 and discussed with participants. The ideas regarding the four ILEAnet topics were also prioritized during PW4.

WP4 participated in the final event of STAIR4SECURITY project, that was held on 27-28 May 2021. STAIR4SECURITY platform seems a very interesting tool for standardisation issues and ILEAnet is likely to further discuss collaboration with the project.

Participation in subcontracting activities

WP6 (ENSP, as contracting authority) moved forward with public procurement procedures to launch two open calls (see chapter about WP6 for further information). After ensuring that the two calls took into account the **standardisation** component, WP4 dedicated a significant portion of time to assist WP6 in the preparation and execution of the first open call awarded, namely 'Development of mechanisms for better information sharing among law enforcement agencies'.

WP4 suggested to include in the analysis the perspective of representatives from **academia and industry** and to pay a special attention to the **monitoring of research and innovation projects** and to the **recommendations regarding the uptake of the industrialization of results**.

Finally, the results shall help ILEAnet in preparing recommendations for the industrialisation of the RDI results, expressing common requirements regarding innovations as well as indicating priorities regarding domains requiring more standardisation.

WP4 will provide guidance when the 'recommendation' task of the call will start and will support WP6 in a similar way for the second open call (on Age Determination).

IPIP

The results of the **two brainstorming activities** led in 2020 to answer the question: "What are the concrete solutions to better involve practitioners in security research?" were presented by the ILEAnet Scientific Coordination team during PW4 (June 2021). In the coming months, the conditions for a successful ILEAnet Project Incubation Process (IPIP) will be further refined, thanks to the opinion of industry and academia.

IPUP

As mentioned in the last public report, WP4 also worked on the final stage of IPUP and suggested the addition of **a post webinar questionnaire** for the participants to get a clear understanding of the uptake potential of presented solutions. In collaboration with WP3, WP4 designed a post webinar questionnaire for this purpose which was used during the ROBORDER webinar (see chapter about WP3 for further information). Three main questions were asked:

1. Do you think that the solution presented by the project is suitable for commercialisation?
2. Do you consider the solution to be suitable for further development?
3. In your opinion, would the LEA community benefit from standardisation of the solution?

The objective was to collect webinar participants' opinion about next steps for the solution presented by the research project.

9 respondents out of 43 participants of ROBORDER webinar completed the questionnaire, most of those being LEAs. 89% of the responses said that the ROBORDER solution was suitable for commercialization, but only about 11% declared their interest for buying the product. The reason might be that there were not the decision-makers who participated in the workshop. Every responder declared that the solution should be further developed and some suggested some possibilities. Finally, the majority of responders declared that standardisation of the solution would be useful for LEAS and some express their willingness to cooperate in standard setting. The post webinar questionnaire might be further refined to ensure a better responsiveness of participants.

Recommendations

As ILEAnet is entering its last stage, there were also intensive discussions about the format of the WP4 final deliverables and the Recommendations. WP4 further defined the "shape" of the final **recommendations** that will be provided. Recommendations will come from (i) in-depth analysis of selected topics (tenders), i.e. specific and practical recommendations, and (ii) the ILEAnet community, i.e. a generic roadmap covering the research project cycle from incubation (IPIP – ILEAnet Project Incubation Process) and uptake (IPUP), as a shared methodology for the involvement of LEA practitioners from the early stage of a research work and the active participation of LEAs in projects, to the exploration of research project outputs compared to the LEAs current challenges and needs.

Strategy for the next six months

In the next reporting period, the WP4 activities will be focused on different tasks:

- Analysing PW4 results & conducting follow up activities (liaison with CEN-CENELEC initiatives, research projects, etc.);
- Starting and/or strengthening the discussion around the ILEAnet's perspective and particularly standardisation, with the selected contractors of the two open calls;
- Participating in refining the conditions for an successful IPIP process;
- Participating in refining the end of the IPUP process, particularly the post webinar questionnaire;
- Going on with the dissemination activities of ILEAnet (e.g. participating in the final conferences of security research projects).

WP5 and WP6: transversal activities

This section will shed a particular light on the **transversal activities** led within the ILEAnet project.

The first mission being to build on **a network of practitioners and researchers,** the community management is a crucial part of the project and requires a daily investment from the coordination team and the Community Management. Below are examples of (ad-hoc or regular) activities proposed to the practitioners and researchers' communities.

- Attention was given to connect INCs with each other. The **format of the monthly teleconference meeting** already improved during the last reporting period continued to **foster discussion** among attendees and facilitate the sharing of security research knowledge. In addition, the ILEAnet Online Platform is being **updated** to support the integration of new focal points and the networking among practitioners.

- The Scientific coordination team continued to offer **a set of digital services to attract researchers and foster exchanges between researchers and practitioners**, and **acts as a bridge** between those two different communities. The first tangible example of this work is the **launch of two open calls.** One of ILEAnet's partners, namely ENSP, is the contracting authority, and launched two calls on the European and French procurement platforms, to lead in-depth studies on two topics considered as important for the ILEAnet community: the sharing of information and data and the determination of age. Besides performing in-depth analysis on topics for which ILEAnet identified a pressing need for LEAs, the two tenders aim at making researchers work on practitioners' needs and connect these two worlds. The first

tender, on *Information Sharing*, was awarded and the team is working on the first task which is the mapping of existing and emerging information sharing mechanisms. The task is conducted through a questionnaire distributed to relevant stakeholders followed by a workshop. The second tender, on *Age determination*, will be awarded and kicked off very soon. The second example of "gap bridging" is the **promotion of scientific work through the ILEAnet scientific newsletter**, the two first issues having been released in the reporting period.

- A substantial work is the **organization and preparation of virtual events (webinars, public workshops, etc.)**.

- The support team is also involved in the **creation of graphical materials (infographics, flyers, etc.).** The pictorial aspect of the project tools is key to explain at a glance the abstract processes ILEAnet is trying to implement.

- To internally and externally communicate about the project's activities, the **ILEAnet newsletter** describes news and enables ILEAnet members to stay updated about the project.

- ILEAnet analysed the results of **brainstorming activities** designed to make practitioners and researchers debate the best ways to involve practitioners in security research. The events turned out to be successful and three policy briefs highlighting the main results were circulated with the European Commission. Results were also presented during PW4.

- Finally, as a network of practitioners and a community of individuals interested in RDI, ILEAnet responds to requests from other EU projects and EU Agencies, and **disseminate information, questionnaires** in its network (such as the Europol's questionnaire on Predictive Policing tools).

Conclusion

ILEAnet's first mission is to build and develop a sustainable LEA practitioners' network focused on research and innovation addressing LEA's challenges together with a community of individuals. ILEAnet's role turned out to be even more crucial during the COVID-19 crisis that imposed teleworking and virtual meetings. ILEAnet proved its resiliency by adapting and digitising information in the most effective way.

It resulted in:

- An intensive work to identify areas for future standardisation;
- The preparation of the fourth ILEAnet Public Workshop, a virtual event dedicated to *Standardisation in security research* (the event having supported the above work);
- The refinement of the ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP) with follow up and targeted webinars after the third ILEAnet Public Workshop and the experiment of a new tool to explore uptake routes;
- The attribution of the first open call launched by ILEAnet and the kick off for the *Information Sharing* in-depth study;
- The preparation of the second open call (on *Age determination*);
- A survey of LEAs' challenges and needs regarding Age determination, that will be used as support material for the tender mentioned above;
- The involvement of the INCs, scientific referents and their national networks in connecting ILEAnet and the national networks;

The enhanced format of ILEAnet National Contacts (INCs) monthly meetings still fosters discussions and exchanges of information. ILEAnet continued to strengthen its network thanks to bilateral interviews with its INC new members.

To reinforce the collaboration between ILEAnet and academia, the scientific coordination developed a set of offers to promote the work of European security researchers, such as a scientific newsletter. All ILEAnet members are invited to suggest content for the newsletter and particularly to highlight the scientific work carried out in their respective countries.

By analyzing and sharing the results of the brainstorming sessions, ILEAnet deepened its work on recommendations to better involve law enforcement practitioners in security research and to facilitate the uptake of research outputs.

Besides the outward communication and dissemination activities, ILEAnet ensures the consistency and understanding of its activities internally. The project newsletter is distributed on a regular basis and computer graphics are developed. These documents help popularising the activities carried out within the project.

The ultimate goal is to enhance ILEAnet's legitimacy and visibility among academics and LEA end-users, to develop a conducive environment for innovation and facilitate practitioners' involvement into research activities.

The next steps will be focused on:

- Analysing the outcomes of the PW4;
- Drafting the list of standardisation areas;
- Collaborating with relevant standardisation stakeholders to sustain ILEAnet results on standardisation;
- Pursuing the experimentation of the IPUP;
- Refining the IPIP process and the conditions for successful project incubation;

- Supervising the tender activities and using the outputs to elaborate recommendations;
- Fostering the collaboration between LEAs and academics, taking advantage of ILEAnet events, open calls but also promotion of the scientific work through ILEAnet communication channels
- Encouraging the INC network to feed the platform with research, development and innovation activities and make their national network grow continuously;
- Continuing to develop the e-reputation of ILEAnet through a clear digital identity and regular newsletters and digests on the platform.

Feel free to contact your national INC and/or your scientific referent to join the ILEAnet Community!