ILEAnet

Innovation by Law Enforcement Agencies networking

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Public report on the ILEAnet findings n°7

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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, standardization, future RDI activities.	

Public Report on ILEAnet findings n°7

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 37 to 42.

The ILEAnet Community continued to **live**. The renewal of focal points shows the relevance of the project for law enforcement activity. The community now counts 248 members. A major work was undertaken to **reinforce** and **boost** the ILEAnet practitioners and researcher community. The members are connected through the ILEAnet online platform, but their participation goes beyond their digital activities.

The **dissemination** and **communication** work is going on. It strengthens the dynamism of the current community and **opens** it **up** to the European community interested in security research.

The COVID-19 crisis that impacted the world from the beginning to the end of 2020 affected ILEAnet activities, that were necessarily adapted to the teleworking approach. ILEAnet's goal to build an **online community** of practitioners and researchers had more incidence given the global sanitary situation.

One of the great accomplishments was the completion the **third ILEAnet Public Workshop (PW3).** The virtual event, led in collaboration with Frontex, focused on *Innovative technologies for border management* and attracted more than 120 participants (mostly law enforcement practitioners and researchers). The second ILEAnet Public Workshop, in 2019, launched the first experiment of the ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP), a process designed to support the uptake of existing innovative solutions. The third ILEAnet Public Workshop was the occasion to refine, complement and test the IPUP at a larger scale. Work packages 2, 3 and 4 had an active role in the

preparation and organisation of the event, and were supported by work packages 5 and 6. An assessment of the lessons learned and its analysis is ongoing.

A continuous work is being done to **better involve practitioners in security research** and 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, **two open calls** were launched at the European and French scales to allow researchers to pool their expertise in finding solutions coping with LEAs' needs. A **brainstorming event** was also designed to make practitioners and researchers debate the best ways to involve practitioners in security research. The event turned out to be successful and ILEAnet is working on the next stages to deepen the discussion. In addition, the **scientific coordination team developed a set of offers** to be proposed to researchers, in order to boost the connections among them and with practitioners.

Finally, in the framework of the elaboration of recommendations mentioned above, ILEAnet is developing a strategy to **identify the areas of most common interest for future standardisation.**

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 organizational 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 have been 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 standardization 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): **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

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.

For the last few months, ILEAnet has **experimented the ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP)** and will develop an incubating process (**IPIP – ILEAnet Project Intake 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 a **questionnaire to assess a developed solution**, which keeps in mind that the solution may be implemented in a LEA environment. The ILEAnet community benefits from a **digital library**, which clusters security-related knowledge and help 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 started to collect **recommendations to better involve the practitioners in security research.**

Finally, it will be a priority for ILEAnet to study the topic of "**standardisation**" and propose related activities.

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

- Report on available expertise & state-of-the-art
- Report on gaps & opportunities
- Overview of project portfolio via a knowledge factory (KF)

- Feasibility study
- Standardisation recommendations
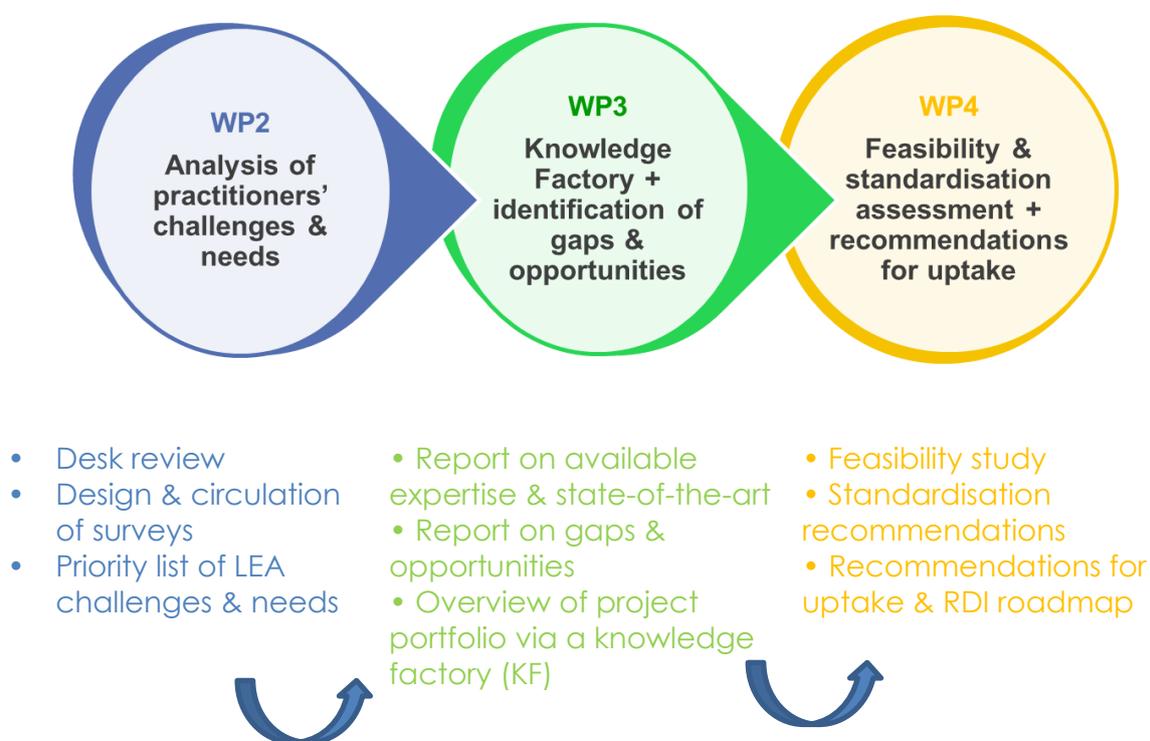- Recommendations for uptake & RDI roadmap

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 has been created. 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.
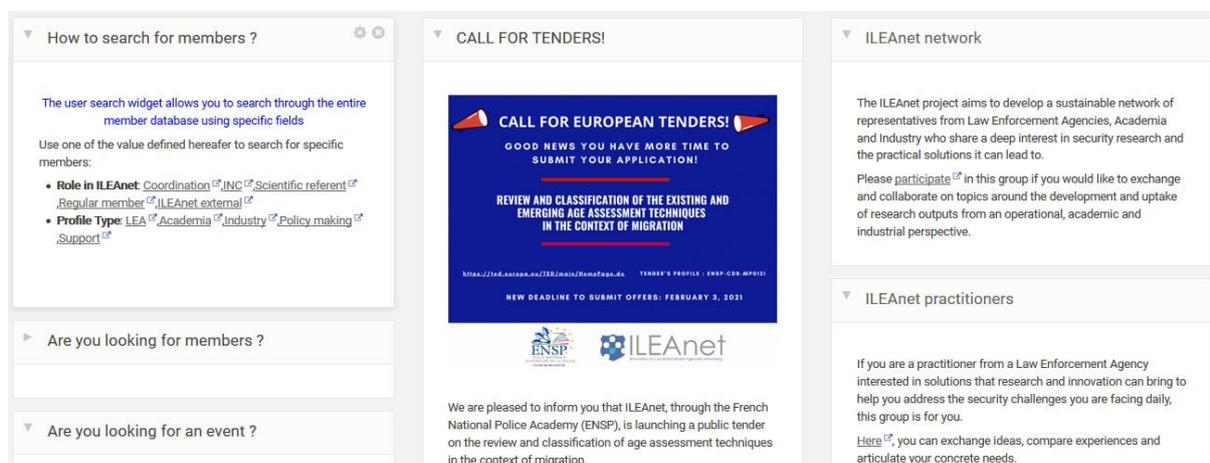

Figure 5: ILEAnet Online Platform Landing page (January 2021). The middle column focuses on the main and most recent new in the ILEAnet project. Below are the events and the newest posts (non visible).

Main findings

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

WP1 aims to provide the resources to 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 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	Aleksandrina Aleksandrova
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)	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	Gabriele Casini Massimo Coleschi
Ministry of Public Security	Israel	Tibby Roth
Latvian Police, International Department	Latvia	Inese Voloseviča Ieva Klavina
European Forensic Initiatives Centre	Poland	Monika Pawelec
Institute for Research and Development of the Police Academy in Szczytno	Poland	Jakub Muraszko

Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs - Directorate General Logistics	Romania	George Popescu Gabriel Iancu
Presidium of Police Force	Slovakia	Zuzana Zachova
ISEMI INSTITUTE	Slovakia	Alena Dikosova
Unitad Central Intelligencia Criminal	Spain	Ignacia Navarrete Sandra Cerrato Moreno
Police Service of Northern Ireland	United Kingdom	Graham Kissock

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 **third Public Workshop**, as they invited a large number of national counterparts and experts to participate in the discussions (see chapters about WP2 and WP3 for more details). The INCs also contributed to inviting practitioners and researchers to **brainstorming sessions** (see chapter about WP4).

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 **project related information.**

Similar to the previous reporting periods, interactions between INCs and the ILEAnet team were supported by **teleconferences**. As ILEAnet is continuously trying to **foster discussion** between national contacts, series of interviews were conducted with INCs and the format of the monthly meetings was improved (see chapter about WP5 and WP6 for further information).

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 spreading information about ILEAnet activities and events in their respective countries.

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 designed. However, its distribution has been delayed by the second wave of Covid-19. The survey is expected to be disseminated early 2021 among the ILEAnet community, with hopefully a good response rate from the agencies.

Between months 37 and 42, WP2 was highly involved in the preparation of the ILEAnet Public Workshop 3 (PW3), dedicated to the

Innovative technologies for border management. The event, held virtually on November 3-4-5, 2020, was led in collaboration with Frontex. The **results of the "*Identification of the Challenges and Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies Concerning Age Determination*" desk review**; **and the results of the 2019 ILEAnet Survey #7 related to migration** (*registration of illegally entering third-country nationals, monitoring of pre-frontier areas and exploitation of public information systems*) were presented during this workshop.

Finally, WP2 is responsible for **monitoring discussions on the ILEAnet internal platform and among ILEAnet practitioners**. ENSP started to collect **a list of needs** among LEAs' members of the network. This list is non-exhaustive and will change as the needs change. Among the top topics, artificial intelligence, drone and unmanned vehicles were quoted, but also OSINT and the impact of Covid-19 on practices. The goal is for the network itself to answer to its members, by providing expertise or information.

General conclusions

The first wave of Covid-19 delayed the third ILEAnet Public Workshop dedicated to the *Innovative technologies for border management*. Eventually, the event became entirely virtual and lasted three days, in November 2020.

WP2's suggestions for PW3 helped designing the event. During the workshop, the leader of WP2, in charge of identifying and analyzing LEAs' needs, presented the results of (i) the desk review on the challenges and needs concerning *Age determination* and (ii) the desk review and the subsequent survey related to the *Identification and control of irregular migration through modern technologies*, distributed to the LEAs' community.

As the second wave of Covid-19 increased the workload of LEAs during the second semester of 2020, the launch of the survey related to the topic of *Age determination* was delayed. However, the desk review has already been provided to WP3 and WP4 so that they can work on the topic.

Strategy for the next six months

To get additional findings and research outcomes on the topic of *Age determination*, the survey will be launched to obtain more responses.

In addition, a cooperation between ILEAnet and Europol Innovation Lab is planned, and a collection of LEAs' challenges and needs on the *Artificial Intelligence* topic is envisioned. If that happens, WP2 will be involved in the needs' identification.

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.

WP3 ILEAnet Knowledge Factory

Work Package 3 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 three other tasks are still ongoing.

Report of general activities

- 🌐 Identification and coordination of specific best practice and state-of-the-art/technology reports

A key activity of WP3 is the identification of solutions (wholly or partly) filling the LEAs' requirements identified in WP2.

During the reporting period, WP3 worked on the two migration-related gaps identified by WP2:
- *Identification and Control of Irregular Migration through Modern Technologies*
- *Age determination of migrants*

Between months 37 and 42, WP3 helped **preparing the Public Workshop 3** (PW3), as a means to identify solutions and/or gaps regarding the first migration-related gap identified (*Identification and Control of Irregular Migration through Modern Technologies).* As ILEAnet's surveys show that respondents were not familiar with research projects in this field, the PW3 aimed at **showcasing** some of the research outputs but also **collecting the inputs** from LEAs regarding the presented projects.
Among the projects originally identified for the PW3, **8 projects presented** their outputs

by adopting a LEA-approach. For this, project holders were requested to provide additional information regarding their project (to fill in an **project's ID card**), but most importantly, they had to complete a questionnaire and to provide a scenario. The **TELOS questionnaire** assesses the maturity level of the project outputs from legal, ethical, technical, operational and scheduling points of view. The **scenario** enables a LEA-centered presentation, trying to present the operational context of use of the developed solution and avoiding the pitfall of an academic presentation. The TELOS questionnaire and the scenario were intended to help designing a customized presentation of the security research projects. They ensured the suitability of the projects for further exploration, and are part of the **ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP).** 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.

Following the presentation of the projects, WP3 led a **wrap-up session** at the end of the workshop. A summary of the projects was given and the participants were invited to respond to some question to assess their level of interest in each of the projects. Now, the next stage of the IPUP is to select the most promising projects and to put in place more targeted sessions between practitioners, researchers and project holders. The audience was also free to share any idea/project or solution that may be helpful.

Regarding the *Age determination of migrants* gap, even if the bottom-up survey has not been conducted, WP3 started searching for solutions/projects addressing the related challenges. The research through INCs, Frontex, European tools (Cordis) and the network of ILEAnet's Project Officer produced negligible relevant results. Consequently, a brainstorming session related to this gap was designed for PW3. The results of the desk review were presented and space was

arranged to let participants share their solutions.

The PW3 was a good opportunity to **test key elements of the IPUP** and to identify potential improvements. For instance, ILEAnet could strengthen its selection process, using the TELOS and scenario received. The project search was not easy either, and maintaining an up-to-date repository of contacts may be helpful for this.
However, overall, the event was very successful and ILEAnet was able to reach a wider audience thanks to the virtual setting of the event.

🌐 Development and 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 410 references of information available in the Knowledge Factory, at the disposal of the ILEAnet Community, but the tool feeding is only performed by WP3 contributors and despite

the encouragement of individuals outside the Steering Committee.

In order to continue populating the Knowledge Factory, a 'push' rather than a 'pull' approach was chosen.

As the focus for this period went into preparations for Public Workshop 3, work on the Knowledge Factory was lightly paused. But regular digests are to be pushed on ILEAnet's communication channels (ILEAnet platform, LinkedIn etc.) to offer an information set related to defined topic(s).

Strategy for the next six months

During the next months, WP3 identified several tasks to complete.

First of all, WP3 will go on refining the IPUP process (definition of the start and the end of the process, description of the benefits for researchers, coordination with the standardization and recommendations of WP4…). Then, WP3 will report on the PW3 and particularly elaborate post-event feedback and next step guidelines for researchers, practitioners and to feed WP4. Some projects presented during the PW3 will be further explored, in line with the IPUP process.

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 37 to 42, 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 standardization;
- 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

A significant part of WP4's work for the reporting period was dedicated to the **integration of stand-alone tools** such as the TELOS questionnaire **into the ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP)** and **design of the scenario** (see above). This work put in place a structured methodology to invite and select security research projects at the ILEAnet Public Workshop 3 (PW3).

WP4 also worked on the **final stages of IPUP** and suggested the addition of a questionnaire for the participants to get a clear understanding of the uptake potential of presented solutions.

The PW3 also enabled the ILEAnet team to **get in contact with project holders (mostly researchers and industrials)** and to distribute the TELOS questionnaire to the eight projects invited at the third public workshop.

Moreover, as already done in the previous reporting periods, WP4 went on participating in the **dissemination** of the ILEAnet project, by attending and presenting the project during the final conference of the Victoria project.

WP6 (ENSP, as contracting authority) moved forward with public procurement procedures to prepare and launch the two open calls the Steering Committee agreed on. The two calls, namely *Development of mechanisms for better information sharing among law enforcement agencies* and *Review and classification of age assessment techniques in the context of migration* were published by ENSP on the European and French public procurement platforms. For the first tender, selection was done and agreed by the Steering Committee. These two calls aim at performing in-depth analysis of topics identified by the ILEAnet network of practitioners and will most likely affect the uptake of RDI solutions. WP4 ensured that the two calls took into account the **standardisation** elements.

Besides the two studied areas (open calls), WP4 initiated the reflection on the **work methodology** to define a list of security-related items for which standardisation should be considered. For instance, WP4 identified relevant European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committees to work with and is on track to further explore the standardisation topic within ILEAnet.

Finally, WP4, with ILEAnet coordination team, agreed on the "shape" of the final **recommendations** that will be provided at the end of the project. Recommendations will come from (i) in-depth analysis of selected topics (open calls) and (ii) from the ILEAnet community, i.e. all recommendations and observations important for the research & development field. WP4 worked on developing the second set of recommendations, with **two brainstorming events**. These events aimed at answering the question: "What are the concrete solutions to better involve practitioners in security research?". Plenty of ideas were generated and their analysis is ongoing.

Strategy for the next six months

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

- Reinforcing the IPUP process by setting a post-webinar questionnaire and testing it with the webinars that will be conducted
- Discussing the ILEAnet's perspective and particularly standardisation, with the selected contractors of the two open calls
- Analysing the first results of the recommendation collection
- Preparing and organising the ILEAnet Public Workshop 4 (PW4) which should be dedicated to the standardisation topic
- Going on with the dissemination activities of ILEAnet, for instance 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 has been given to connect INCs and Scientific referents with each other. After a series of **bilateral interviews** with active members of the focal points community, the **format of the monthly teleconference meeting** was improved to **foster discussion** among attendees and share 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 is now working on **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.** As described in the section of WP4 above, ENSP 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 the determination of age. The two tenders aim at making researchers work on practitioners' needs and connect

these two worlds. The second example of "gap bridging" is the **promotion of scientific work on the Internet (social networks, ILEAnet website etc.) and through a scientific newsletter**, the first version thereof will soon be released.

- Finally, a substantial work is the **organization and preparation of events (webinars, public workshops, etc.),** most of them being virtual due to the COVID-19 crisis.

- More specifically, **a brainstorming session** was organized during the reporting period. The event aimed at thinking about concrete solutions to better involve practitioners in security research (from the proposal to join a consortium, to the monitoring and uptake of security results). The activity was supported by a digital tool (Klaxoon), and successfully created a room for practitioners and researchers of the ILEAnet community to express their ideas and debate. The direct contact between researchers and practitioners outside the framework of security projects is rare enough to emphasize it. Many ideas were suggested, and led to a rich discussion and exchange of points of views. The analysis and reporting of the brainstorming are ongoing.

- 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 **monthly ILEAnet newsletter** describes news and enables ILEAnet members to stay updated about the project.

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 has 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:

- A successful third Public Workshop, led with Frontex, which attracted a large LEA and researcher audience;
- A large-scale experimentation of the ILEAnet Project Uptake Process (IPUP) during the workshop;
- The involvement of the INCs, scientific referents and their national networks in connecting ILEAnet and the national networks;
- The launch of two open calls;
- A virtual brainstorming session to discuss concrete recommendations for a better involvement of practitioners in security research. Both researchers and practitioners participated in the event.

Simultaneously, ILEAnet continued to strengthen its network thanks to bilateral interviews with its national contacts.

The format of meetings was improved to foster discussions and exchanges of information.

To reinforce the collaboration between ILEAnet and academia, the scientific coordination developed a set of offers to promote the work of European security researchers.

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:

- Pursuing the experimentation of the IPUP through a follow-up of some of the security projects presented during the third Public Workshop;
- Developing standardization activities as planned in WP4;
- Holding the Public Workshop 4 in the spring of 2021, with virtual discussion sessions, to stimulate cooperation and discussion on a relevant topic;
- 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!