Magdeburger Journal zur Sicherheitsforschung

Gegründet 2011 | ISSN: 2192-4260
Herausgegeben von Stefan Schumacher
Erschienen im Magdeburger Institut für Sicherheitsforschung

Civil Society Organisation (CSO) participation in the European Security Research Programme (ESRP)

Frank Balzer and Christoph Henseler

As one might expect, the interdisciplinary and multi-accessible area of the ESRP shows a broad variety of actors within its research projects. But, in contradiction to Article 11 of the Lisbon Treaty[1], especially CSOs rarely participate as project partners. The following article provides an overview of the participation of CSOs in research projects in the ESRP during the period of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7). The data and research was obtained within the FP7 project SecurePART[2]. We have found differences along the lines of geographical regions, the quantity of project participations per country, and the quality of civil society representation of the various kinds of CSOs. These parameters should be taken into account when thinking of rules of representation for future CSO participation in security research on the European level.

Citation: Balzer, F. & Henseler, C. (2016). Civil Society Organisation (CSO) participation in the European Security Research Programme (ESRP). *Magdeburger Journal zur Sicherheitsforschung*, *11*, 691–698. Retrieved May 6, 2016, from http://www.sicherheitsforschung-magdeburg.de/publikationen/journal.html

1 http://www.lisbon-treaty.org/wcm/the-lisbon-treaty/treaty-on-european-union-and-comments/title-2-provisions-on-democratic-principles/75-article-11.html

2 The SecurePART project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 608039. The project's website can be found here: http://www.securepart.eu/

1 The data: sources and method

To gain an overview of all participants in the ESRP during FP7, we have created a new database containing all ESRP participants during that time. The data was obtained from the open-data repository of the European Union, and includes all ESRP projects which commenced between 2007 and 2013.[3]

The data set made use of all information available on the EU's Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) website[4]. It was compiled and analysed manually by all SecurePART partners in an xls/csv format. Therefore our data also had the shortcomings that are visible on the website, such as incomplete partner information, missing website links and misleading information on contacts.

From this data a subset containing all projects in the ESRP during the FP7 period has been derived, and the columns containing the coordinator's names and the participant's names were extracted.[5] The resulting two data sets (coordinators, participants) have been processed and transformed into a tabular format once more usable in Excel. Duplicates have been removed from these two lists. Finally we ended up with a total number of 1935 participants in the ESRP during the FP7 period. For the further mapping process only the participants list was used.

The overall method used for the mapping-process was a process of elimination. The first step in mapping involved a semi-automated approach. First of all, obvious companies (by filtering for »SARL«, »GmbH«, »LTD«, »NV«, »SPA«, »SAS«, »AB«, »AS«, »AG«, »BV« etc.) and Universities (by filtering for »Univers«) were removed. After this rough categorization, all left over participants were encoded by hand: based on their names and through online investigation for additional information.

Once this database was built, each SecurePART[6] project partner was responsible to complete specific mapping in order to seek CSOs country-wide.[7] A great difficulty during this part of data-production was the operationalization of the term »CSO«. As declared in D1.1 of the SecurePART project, we have orientated our operationalization of »CSO« on different existing definitions. We have used the definitions in a most meaningful way, depending on each context. It became clear that the definitions to use also very much depend on our research objective. As a matter of fact, it would have not been reasonable to count all organisations with the legal status of a registered association as CSOs. Some of them belong to the public sector or private enterprises at the same time, therefore could still fit as a CSO (because of their legal status), but wouldn't be useful for our research, as we are looking for CSOs as representatives of civil society. As a result of this process, it was not always 100% clear finding the border between CSO and non-CSO. This border very much depended on the different contexts, e.g. differences in the country's policies of their legal status and also our own research objective. It was necessary to have a »buffer-term« for those cases. Already at an early stage it was clear that we have either apparent cases of CSOs (e.g. from the classical Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) and Non Profit Organisation (NPO) sector), or cases of CSOs in a broader sense (e.g. organisations with the legal status of a registered association, working as a NPO, but at the same time working as secondary education institutes).[8] The weak point of this method is patently the objectivity of the obtained data, as each »mapping-partner« had a specific understanding and comprehension of the used definitions. The two groups we've found were:

1. Apparent cases of CSOs: 70 cases
2. CSOs in a broader sense: 73 cases

This part of the mapping was completed by all project partners (in different shares). Later, a review session of the cases we've found led to a new classification of the different CSOs, and some deletions. We classified the CSOs in: core CSOs, hybrid CSOs and undefined CSOs.[9] In the end we perceived the following picture of participants and CSOs in the ESRP during the FP7 period:

3. Core CSOs: 39
4. Hybrid CSOs: 26
5. Undefined CSOs: 28
6. Other participants: 1842

2 Overview on CSO involvement in European Security Research during FP7

After mapping all 53 countries with participants in the ESRP, we have found all of the 28 EU-member states, plus 25 non-EU-member states engaged in the ESRP during FP7. A total number of 95,2% of all participants in the ESRP during the FP7 period were not CSOs. Core CSOs made up for 2%, hybrid CSOs 1,3%, and undefined CSOs made up 1,5% of all parti-

3 https://open-data.europa.eu/en/data/dataset/cordisfp7projects r. 2014-03-11

4 http://cordis.europa.eu/ r. 2014-03-11

5 This was done by copying the columns in text files and processing this text data with a PERL script.

6 »SecurePART – Increasing the Engagement of Civil Society in Security Research« is a research project funded under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research. [URL: http://www.securepart.eu/]

7 In total the raw material comprised 1935 participants from 53 countries, which all were mapped.

8 For a closer operationalization of the multiplicity of the term CSO see D3.2 of the SecurePART project.

9 Core CSOs: e.g. NGOs or grass roots organizations; hybrid CSOs: e.g. stakeholder associations or umbrella organizations); undefined CSOs: e.g. professional organizations or research focused associations. For a closer operationalization of the three classifications see D1.2 of the SecurePART project.

cipants.[10]

2.1 Geographical contribution:

More than half (55%) of all countries engaged in the ESRP during FP7 had no CSOs at all amongst their participants. Countries from eastern- and south-eastern European regions especially often had many less or no CSOs participating.

Scope of ESRP participation during FP7:

24 of the 53 participating countries were »very small players« in the ESRP. Those countries had only 10 or less participants in total in the ESRP. We have found only one CSO participating the FP7 period within the »very small players« countries' participants, which is far below the average CSO participation rate of 4,8%.

This first insight made clear, that there are differences between the respective balance of participants in different regions and countries engaged in the ESRP; plus differences depending on the generally limited extent of ESRP participation of specific countries.

The map in Fig. 1 shows four different clusters of countries with participants in the ESRP funded under the European Unions' Seventh Framework Programme. The clusters are arranged in order of the rate of CSOs amongst the participant countries:

The green cluster in Fig. 2 is the smallest cluster. It has the highest participation rate (10%, or more) of CSOs amongst their participants in the ESRP. Except Belgium, there are only »small players« and one »very small player« within this cluster: Bulgaria, Denmark, Luxembourg, Tunisia and Turkey.

The yellow cluster in Fig. 3, with an average of 7,9% of CSOs amongst their ESRP participants per country, has the second highest CSO participant rate. The countries in this cluster are Austria, France, Hungary, Israel and the Netherlands. The total number of participants in this cluster is 407 out of 1935. Therefore it is the second biggest cluster in terms of total participants.

The orange cluster in Fig. 4 is the largest cluster in terms of participants. 898 out of 1935 participants in the ESRP during FP7 belong to the 9 countries of this cluster. These countries are: Switzerland, Germany, Greece, Spain, Finland, Italy Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. This high rate of participants comes from the »big players« Germany, Spain, Italy and Great Britain, which provide together 702 of the 898 participants in this cluster.[11] Besides these »big players«, we find the Scandinavian countries (except Denmark), Greece and Switzerland in this cluster. The average percentage of participating CSOs within the ESRP participants is, at 2,9%, lower than the overall average percentage of 4,8% of our sample.

Within the red cluster are all countries with no CSO participating in FP7 Security research at all. These countries are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Czech-Republic, Algeria, Estonia, Egypt, Croatia, Ireland, India, Iceland, Jordan, Japan, Lithuania, Latvia, Morocco, Moldavia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Malta, Poland, Palestine, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Russia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Taiwan, Ukraine, United States and South Africa. From the EU 28 states, almost all states – with the exception of Ireland and Portugal – in this cluster are located in eastern- and south-eastern Europe.[12] It is important to say that even though this cluster consists of 33 out of 53 countries, it still makes up only a small quantity of participants in FP7 Security research. Exceptions are again Poland with 62 and Portugal with 42 participants. In total this country-cluster with no CSO participation is compiled of 334 of 1935 participants in FP7 Security research.

2.2 Exemplary Country Profiles

The four clusters found and explained above are sorted by countries and depend on the rate of participating CSOs within all of their participants.

Three countries have been selected for further analysis to illustrate the different clusters through examples.[13] The analysis is based on country reports from the Bertelsmann Stiftung and Freedom House,[14] as well as on the interviews conducted for the SecurePART project and the results of present database mapping.

2.2.1 Poland

Poland had 62 participants in FP7 Security research. None of them were rated as CSOs. Public institutions compile the biggest sector of Polish participants, which differs strongly from the other country profiles below.

To explain this deviation, it is important to have a look at political-historical development in the more recent history of Poland. As part of the Solidarnosc movement, the intensive fight for democratic rights from 1980 onwards led to the foundation of the democratic state of Poland in 1989. It was the first free democracy within the Eastern Bloc. Today the »[...]

10 For the overall analysis we summed together all CSOs types (4,8% of the ESRP participants) and simply speak of CSOs, as all of these types consist of representatives of civil society.

11 Next to these four, there is only one more »big player« with more than 150 participants amongst our sample, which can be found in cluster 2: France, with 9% of CSOs amongst its participants.

12 When all 53 countries with participants in FP7 Security research are included, this trend is even more visible, because Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldavia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia, Russia and the Ukraine are also within this cluster.

13 It was important to compare the extreme examples of the green and red clusters, with ordinary examples from the yellow and orange clusters. Therefore only one country (United Kingdom) from the orange cluster was chosen as an exemplary country profile from the ordinary examples from the yellow and orange clusters.

14 The data from the different country reports can be found on the websites of the above-mentioned organizations. https://freedomhouse.org/ http://www.bti-project.de/bti-home



Figure 1: Map of Europe with CSO participation rate in FP7-SEC

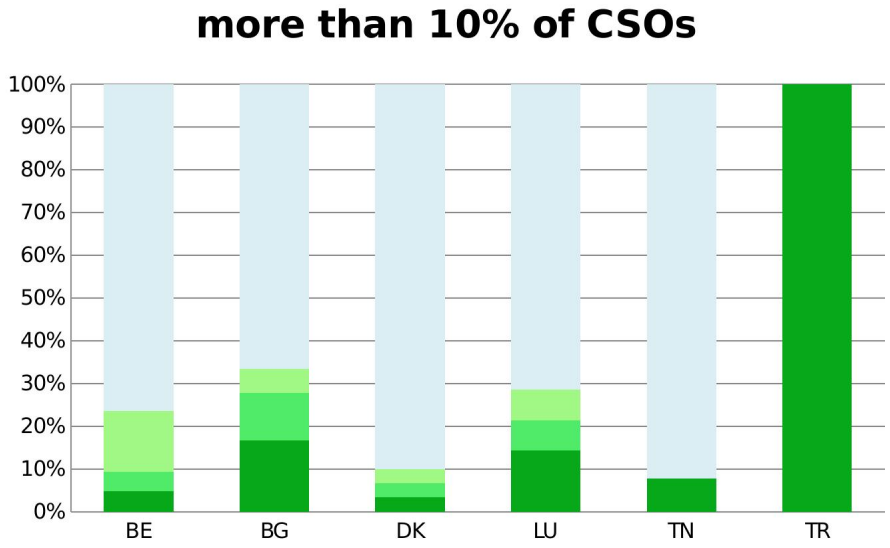


Figure 2: Countries with more than 10% of CSOs amongst their participants

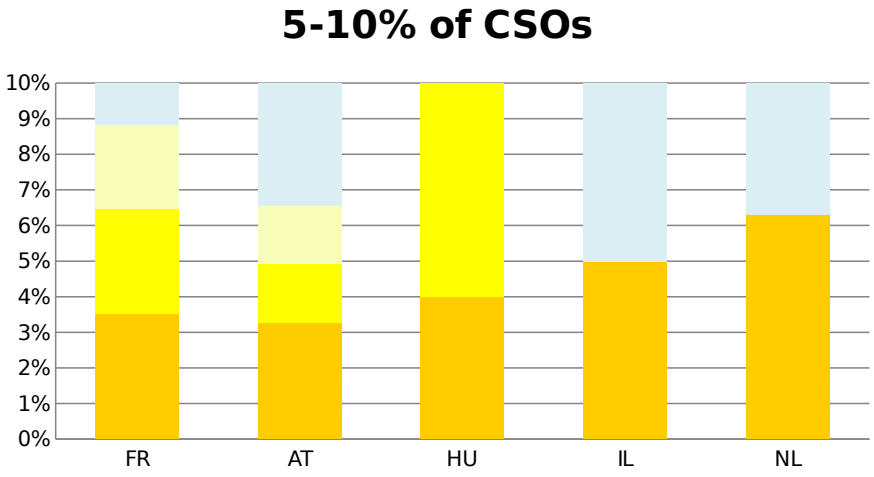


Figure 3: Countries with 5 – 10% of CSOs amongst their participants

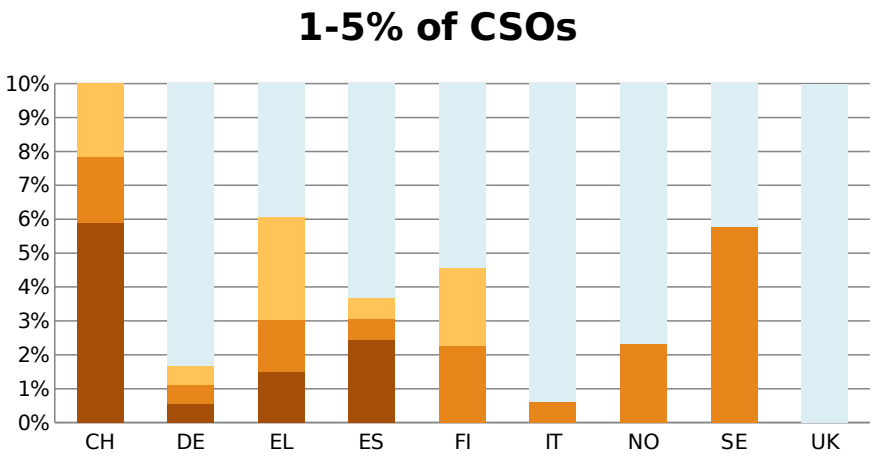


Figure 4: Countries with 1-5% of CSOs amongst their participants

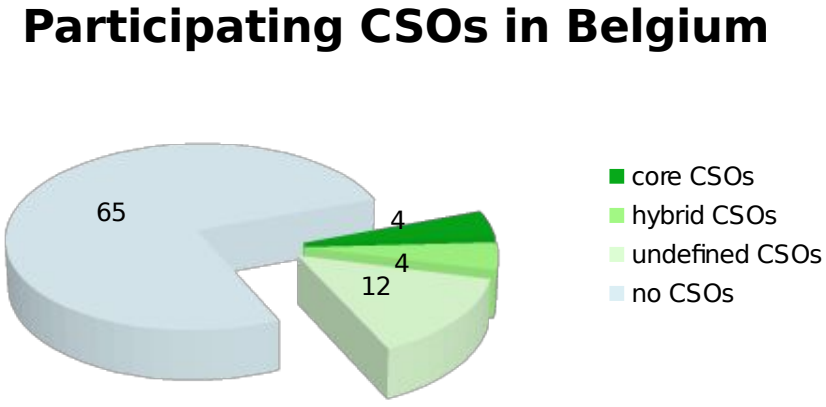


Figure 5: Participating CSOs in Belgium

level of organized social and political participation remains moderate in Poland compared to Western Europe, despite the revolutionary past of the underground movement. In addition, many people feel alienated from politics, [...] at least on the local level, people feel they can exert an influence on politics and that their civic engagement makes a difference.«[15] We found our only interview-partner from Poland with the same attitude, representing the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (HFHR) in Warsaw, which is a CSO active in FP7, but not in the security sector. The interviewee expressed HFHR as passive in FP7, but more active at a national level.

Political corruption is still an issue and is responsible for a large deficit in the quality of democracy in Poland, which seems to also negatively affect the participation rate of CSOs. „There is a web of over 83,000 autonomous, self-organized non-governmental organizations in Poland, but only 60% of them are active. Thus, civil society is developed but social capital is comparatively weak, and a rather high level of mistrust toward the political class is expressed.»[16]

Why do we find so many CSOs inactive in Poland? During the time that Poland was applying to become an EU-member-state (1989-2004), civil rights were implemented quite well, and organized networks in non-institutionalized civil society could operate more effectively in Poland. But as the operational fields of CSOs in Poland were developing very fast within that time, only a few organisations became key partners and influential in certain issues.[17] Trade Unions, charity organisations, sport associations and religious groups are the most popular CSOs in Poland. Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) and State institutions for education and Research & Development (R&D) became very advanced in Poland at the same time. This can also be found in our mapping of the 62 participants in FP7-SEC from Poland, including 15 RTOs and 18 state institutions plus 18 universities. In addition, another interviewee from the UK pointed out that there is a lack of support for CSOs from government bodies in Eastern Europe, while funding from central Europe is extremely important for such CSOs.

2.2.2 Belgium

In Belgium (Fig. 5) we found the highest rate of CSOs within all of their participants in FP7 Security research. In total 20 (23,5%) of the 85 participants from Belgium were CSOs. From those 20 CSOs, most CSOs are on an international level, which indicates the high importance of the presence of the European Union and other international political bodies in Brussels. 60% of the Belgian CSOs were categorized as undefined CSOs. This indicates a low level of civil society representation within Belgian CSOs, because civil society representation can mostly be found within core CSOs (as core CSOs have features such as: grass roots origin, high involvement of non-professional staff, political and economic independence, common and/or public purpose, nonprofit etc.).

The remaining non-CSOs in Belgium draw a different picture than in the previous example of Poland: Private corporations are the larger sector in FP7 Security research participation in Belgium. Public institutions are less represented than in Poland.

In our qualitative data analysis there was one interviewee from Belgium (representing a private company/stakeholder in security research), who perceived that the European Commission has done a lot to increase the involvement of CSOs in security research. But in terms of the quality of participation, the interviewee mentioned that it would most likely be better to have the CSOs as advisors than as active partners. Both statements basically point towards regular experiences with CSOs within the ESRP.

2.2.3 United Kingdom

The UK (Fig. 6) represents the cluster of countries with CSO participation between 1-5%; furthermore the UK also represents the »big players« in the ESRP during FP7. The participation rate of CSOs is at 3,8%, which is below the average of 4,8%. Regarding the classification of CSOs, half of the CSOs in the UK are core CSOs, which indicates a higher quality of civil society representation amongst the UKs CSOs than for instance in Belgium.

Amongst the other 202 participants (95,7% of the UK's participants) - similarly to Belgium - the biggest sector of participants is the private corporations sector, with mainly enterprises and RTOs. Universities play the biggest role within the public sector, with 48 participating universities.

The dominant role of the private sector can also be found in the statement of one of the nine interviewees from the UK, who states that the representatives of CSOs should have the abilities to influence not specifically security research but the private sector as a whole.

For our interviewees representing CSOs in the UK, the most common way to become involved in FP7 Security research was by invitation, either from governmental- or private spheres. Four of the nine interviewees from the UK said that this was the case. Other common reasons that hinder CSOs in the UK from participating in FP7 Security research are the difficulties of EU administration, difficulties to enter already existing lobbies as new organisations, and that certain CSOs are strongly focused on regional and/or national outreach.

15 See BTI 2014 Poland Country Report http://www.bti-project.de/reports/laenderberichte/ecse/pol

16 See BTI 2014 Poland Country Report at http://www.bti-project.de/reports/laenderberichte/ecse/pol

17 Only 4% of the NGOs are responsible for 80% of the sector's income. See BTI 2014 Poland Country Report [URL: http://www.bti-project.de/reports/laenderberichte/ecse/pol]

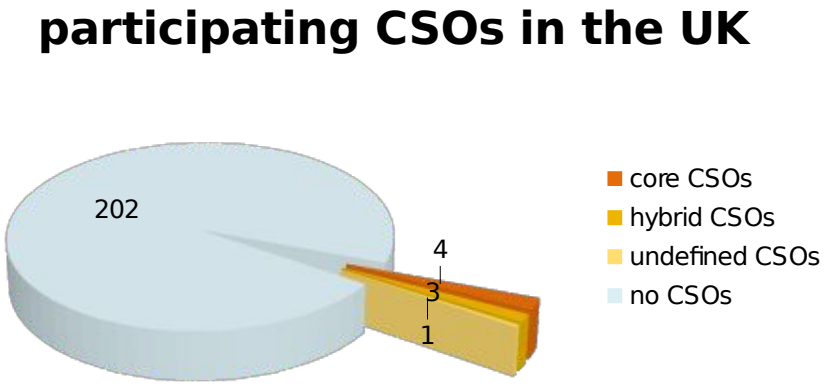


Figure 6: Participating CSOs in the UK

3 Conclusion

The ESRP shows low overall CSO participation during its FP7 period, which can be seen as a slight discrepancy from Article 11 of the Lisbon Treaty. Only 4,8% of all ESRP participants are CSOs. One can divide these 4,8% by: geographical region, quantity per country, and through a quality classification of CSOs.

Geographically most of the European countries with no CSOs at all amongst their ESRP participants are in the eastern- and south-eastern European regions. Exceptions from south-eastern Europe are Bulgaria and Hungary with a rather high rate of CSOs. From Western Europe only Portugal and Ireland had no CSOs at all amongst their ESRP participants.

Regarding the quantity of participants per country it became evident that amongst the »very small players« in the ESRP (those countries with only 10 or less participants in total in the ESRP during FP7) almost all of them had no CSOs within their participants. The only exception is Tunisia. The countries with a very high quantity of ESRP participants have participant rates close to the average of 4,8%.

There have been differences in the classification of CSOs, too. We have classified the CSOs into core CSOs (e.g. NGOs or grass roots organisations), hybrid CSOs (e.g. stakeholder associations or umbrella organisations) and undefined CSOs (e.g. professional organisations or research focused associations).Of all ESRP participants 2% were core CSOs, 1,3% hybrid CSOs, and 1,5% undefined CSOs. This classification is very important, as it also indicates the quality of civil society representation, which is highest for core CSOs and lowest for undefined CSOs. There are also differences between the various countries regarding this classification. The biggest difference is between Belgium, with only 20% of core CSOs within their CSOs, and the Netherlands with 70% core CSOs within their CSOs.

If the EU wants to fulfill the goals of Article 11 of the Lisbon Treaty within the ESRP, we need to formulate new rules of representation for CSOs, to actively involve them in the security research programme under Horizon 2020.[18] Such rules should take into account that the encountered participation of CSOs in the FP7 security research programme differed between geographical regions, the quantity of total participants per country, and also in the quality of civil society representation of CSOs.

4 About the Authors

Frank Balzer, Dipl.-Soz., studied sociology with cultural studies and psychology as minors at Philipps-Universität Marburg, and works as a research assistant in the department Nets, Grids and Society at the nexus Institute for Cooperation Management and Interdisciplinary Research in Berlin. His research interests lie in the areas of civil security, participation, and civil society from a cultural-sociological perspective. He is working in the FP7 security research projects SecurePART and FORCE and has recently started to work in the EIT Digital activity RAMSES. Previously he was also involved in the BMBF project InnoGeSi, which was focused on the resilience of critical infrastructures. Since October 2015 he is a PhD candidate at Technische Universität Berlin doing research on the topic: «Participatory research and development of social security.«

Christoph Henseler, M.A., Dipl.-Inform., studied computer science and history at TU Berlin and heads the department Nets, Grids and Society at the nexus Institute. His main interests lie in the interaction between societal and new technologies in the fields of participation, civil security, and critical infrastructures. He is a member of the advisory group of KKI

18 https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/area/security r. 2014-03-11

(Kompetenzzentrum kritische Infrastrukturen – Competence Centre for Critical Infrastructures). In recent years he initiated a German-Israeli Exchange on resilience in the ESR project (funded by BMBF and MOST), contributed to the foresight activities in FESTOS and led a WP on collaborations among infrastructure providers in InnoGeSi.net (funded by the BMBF) and coordinated the EIT Digital activity FlashPoll, which developed a mobile participation solution. Currently he is developing a foresight model to map and access European security foresight in FORCE (Foresight Coordination for Europe) and contributes his expertise in participation in SecurePART.