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CESICE

Call for Papers

**The EU and Hybrid Threats:
Coping Strategies and Multilevel Responses**

A workshop organised by

Prof. Fabien TERPAN

Jean Monnet Chair, Sciences Po Grenoble-UGA, CESICE

Dr. Delphine DESCHAUX-DUTARD

University Grenoble Alpes (UGA), CESICE

Location: Sciences Po Grenoble – UGA, Amphi F

Date: Friday 20 November 2026, morning and afternoon

At the intersection of peace and war, the twenty-first century has seen traditional diplomatic, military and informational instruments of power blend with newer, more sophisticated tools of influence. Financial pressure, disinformation, intelligence operations, cyber-attacks, or strategic use of law and economy have all contributed to the multiplication of hybrid threats — actions combining coercion and subversion that occur below the threshold of open conflict.

Following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, electoral interference in Western democracies and sabotage operations linked to the war in Ukraine, these threats have intensified, making a coherent European response framework increasingly urgent. How is the EU, in coordination with its member states and partner organizations, coping with such multifaceted risks? Which doctrines,

instruments, and partnerships are being developed to address the evolving hybrid landscape? What factors determine the nature and intensity of responses to hybrid threats? Are these responses consistent and effective?

Drawing on perspectives from security studies, international relations, law and political science, this workshop aims to explore the European Union's multilevel approach to hybrid threats, focusing both on internal coordination and external collaboration. We invite proposals addressing two main axes:

Axis 1 – Internal dimension (EU and its Member States): Institutional and national policy responses; mechanisms of coordination; resilience building; development of hybrid threat doctrines; interaction among EU institutions and national authorities. The contribution of this axis may propose comparative papers.

Axis 2 – External dimension (EU and other actors): Cooperation with NATO and other international organizations; interaction with third countries; strategic partnerships and capacity-building; the EU's role in global hybrid threat governance.

The workshop is part of [DemoCIS](#) (Democracies, Citizenship, and Institutions in the Face of Transformations in Public Spaces), a large-scale research project aimed at rethinking the foundations of democracy in an era of political, social, and informational crises, and brings together more than 330 researchers from 51 research units in France. This work received government funding administered by the French National Research Agency (ANR) under the France 2030 program, grant number "ANR-24-RSHS-0001".

Submission and selection of potential contributions

Researchers (at any stage of their careers) interested in presenting their research as part of this workshop should submit an abstract of around 500 words (approximately one page), written in English and addressing the conference theme to:

audrey.lecerf@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

no later than 20 May 2026.

Please include your name, email and affiliation along with your abstract.

As we are aiming at the publication of a book or a journal special issue, paper proposals will be subject to a rigorous selection process. The selection of the papers will be communicated to the speakers by 27 May 2026.

Confirmed participants will be expected to submit full drafts of their papers of approximately 7000 words by 13 November 2026.

20 May 2026: abstract submission deadline

27 May 2026: letter of acceptance deadline

13 November 2026: draft papers sent

20 November 2026: Workshop

Travel costs and accommodation

Accommodation costs for up to two nights and travel costs will be covered in accordance with the workshop's travel policy and within available budget.