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ARIEN NEWS LETTER

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TWO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

1ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PALERMO, ITALY



On the 15th and 16th of February 2024, representatives from the partner organisations came together in Palermo, italy to ignite the journey of ARIEN – paving the way for an impactful collaboration towards a common goal.

2ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THESSALONIKI, GREECE

On June 13th and 14th, 2024, the vibrant city of Thessaloniki, Greece, played host to the 2nd General Assembly of the ARIEN Project.

The assembly was an extraordinary opportunity for all involved partners to exchange ideas, share progress, and collaborate on future strategies.



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SHOWCASING THE ARIEN PROJECT: KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND NEXT STEPS

FIRST TECHNICAL MEETING ON INNOVATION OF THE EU PORTS ALLIANCE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

On 24 January 2024, the European Commission, in collaboration with the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, launched the European Ports Alliance and its Public-Private Partnership, designed to intensify the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime. This initiative aimed to unite key stakeholders in developing strategies to protect EU ports, which have become prime targets for the smuggling of illegal goods, including drugs.

During this high-profile launch event, ARIEN was honoured to be invited to present its project as a key player in the fight against drug trafficking. The opportunity to showcase ARIEN's innovative solutions and discuss their role in protecting ports alongside such distinguished stakeholders was truly significant. This recognition affirms the importance of ARIEN's contributions to enhancing port security and reinforces our commitment to supporting the EU's security goals.



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CERIS WORKSHOP ON THE ILLICIT DRUGS

On 21 February 2024, the CERIS workshop on illicit drugs, organized by the Security Research and Innovation Unit (HOME.F2) of DG HOME, brought together over 100 participants, including representatives from police forces, customs, forensic institutes, policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, and civil society. The event, held under the CERIS banner (Community for European Research and Innovation for Security), aimed to tackle the growing challenges of illicit drugs from a variety of perspectives.

During the workshop, experts emphasized the critical role of cutting-edge technologies in improving the detection of drugs and other illicit materials. With advancements in scanning systems and artificial intelligence, the tools now available to authorities are faster, more accurate, and capable of scanning both cargo and individuals. This technological leap greatly enhances the capacity of border control agencies to prevent the smuggling of narcotics and other illegal items.



The ARIEN project team was honored to participate in the CERIS workshop. It was a fantastic opportunity to present the project and engage with the broader security community. The event underscored the importance of collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and security practitioners in the fight against drug trafficking and other cross-border threats.

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15TH EDITION OF THE "DAYS OF CORPORATE SECURITY"

Our partner, the Institute for Corporative Security Studies (ICS) had the opportunity to present our work on the ARIEN Project during the III Course on Cybercrime and Artificial Intelligence. This event forms part of the 2024 training program organized by the Postgraduate School for Police Forces. We were able to participate thanks to the kind invitation from Piergiorgio Marini, whose initiative brought us into this important collaboration. We are confident that this is just the beginning of a long-lasting and productive partnership, showcasing how collaboration between the public and private sectors can yield tangible results and create valuable synergies.



The International Conference "Days of Corporate Security 2024" will serve as a vital scientific and professional platform for those involved in managing security risks in today's complex environment.

A key highlight of the event will be the presentation of the prestigious "Slovenian Grand Security Award," which recognizes significant contributions to the field. This annual conference remains the central gathering for corporate security professionals in the region, with a particular focus on addressing corporate and information security risks.

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EUROPEAN PORTS ALLIANCE CLUSTER IV WORKSHOP



On July 12, 2024, Brussels hosted the European Ports Alliance Cluster IV workshop, a significant event designed to foster collaboration between diverse stakeholders in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. The workshop served as a platform to connect innovators offering cutting-edge technical solutions with public authorities such as police, customs officials, and coast guards, as well as private sector stakeholders like shipping companies, terminal operators, and other entities involved in port security.

The primary goal of the workshop was to bridge the gap between those developing innovative tools and technologies for countering these criminal activities and the organizations that require such solutions to enhance security measures in European ports. By facilitating direct interaction between solution providers and end-users, the event aimed to strengthen cooperation and improve the effectiveness of crime prevention and intervention efforts in the maritime sector.

A wide range of EU-funded projects were presented during the workshop, each showcasing new approaches to tackling organized crime. Among these projects was our own ARIEN Project, which demonstrated its innovative contributions to this vital area.

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