



BIECO

Building Trust in Ecosystems
and Ecosystem Components

Call: H2020-SU-ICT-2018-2020 (Cybersecurity)

septembrie 2020 – august 2023

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Consortium



Challenges

Fragmentation of Supply Chain Components



Unverifiable Trust in Third-party Solutions



Increased Risk of Cyberattacks



Impact on Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)



Need for Mindset Shift to "Untrusted by Default"



Necessity for Verifiable Security Guarantees



BIECO's Concept



BIECO helps build trust in complex ICT systems by:

- Focusing on reliability and security;
- Providing a framework to manage risks and ensure trust across the system's lifecycle.

This helps companies to:

- Handle ICT supply chain complexity;
- Reduce cybersecurity risks;
- Keep their systems safe and reliable.



BIECO's Concept



Vulnerability Assessment
and Management



DESIGN



Risk Assessment and
Mitigation

Predictive Simulation and
Resilience Mechanisms



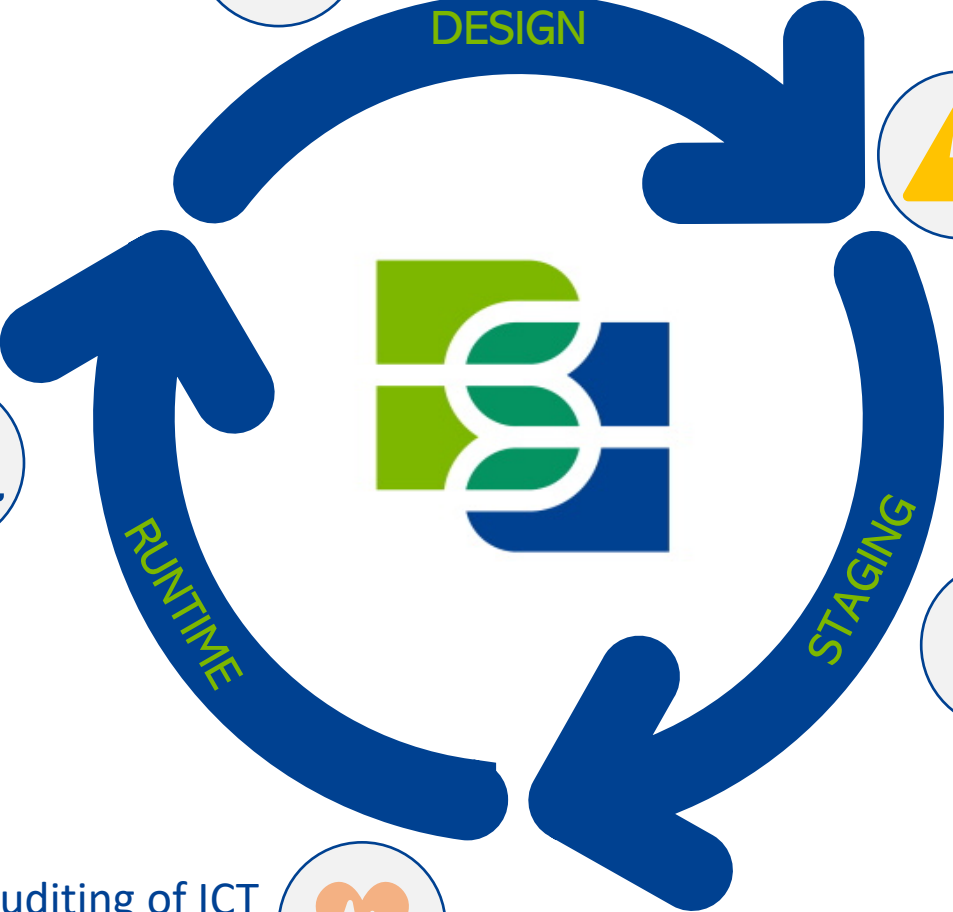
RUNTIME

STAGING



Security Certification and
Testing

Runtime Auditing of ICT
Ecosystems



BIECO's Lifecycle



Design Methodology

BIECO detects vulnerabilities early and guides effective risk mitigation.



Staging Methodology

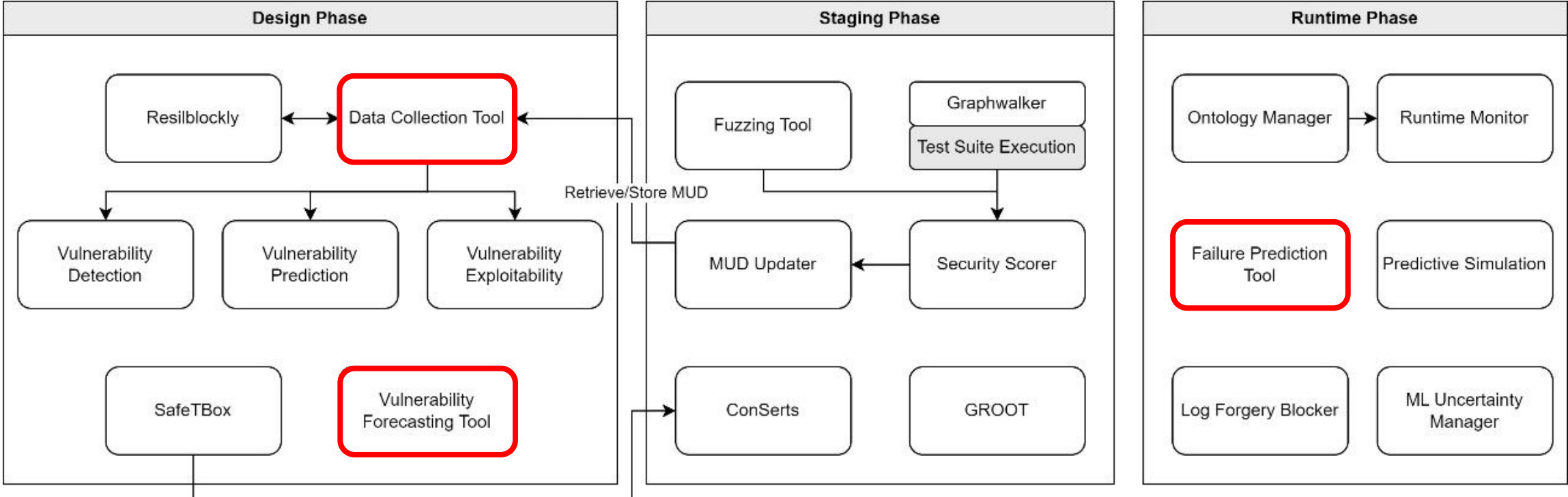
BIECO certifies components with a security label and key assurances.



Runtime Methodology

BIECO ensures a trusted and secure behavior the system, verifying security claims

BIECO Ecosystem



BIECO Orchestration Platform

BIECO's Use Cases



BIECO's validation takes place across three distinct business cases spanning different activity sectors:

- Manufacturing and Electric Mobility (Smart Microfactory from IFEVS, Turin, Italy)
- Finance (AI Investment Platform from 7Bulls, Warszawa, Poland)
- Energy (ICT Gateway from Resiltech, Pisa, Italy)



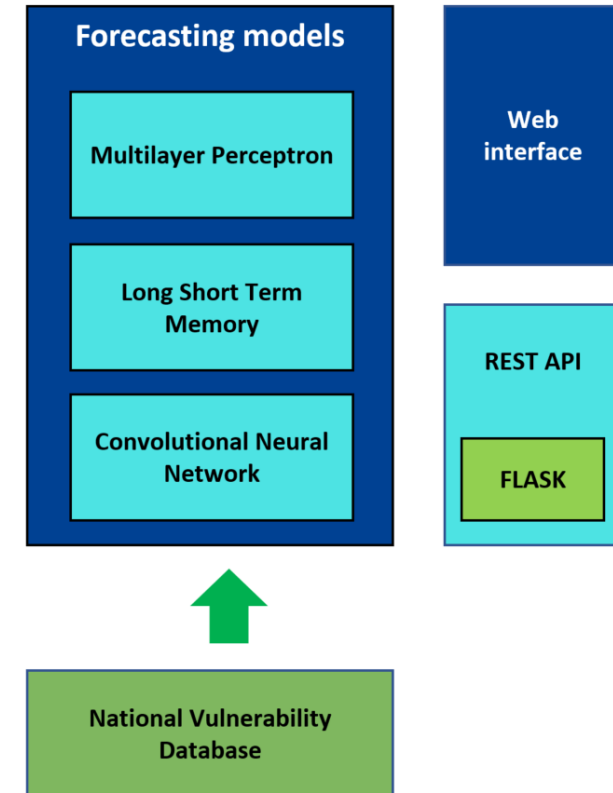
T3.3 (M18 - M30)

Vulnerability Forecasting Tool (VFT)



Provides an **estimation** of the number of **vulnerabilities** to be expected for the main **software components** used within complex ICT systems

- **Developing prediction models** for five different software products: Debian, Linux Kernel, Maria DB, MySQL, and Tomcat.
- **Adding prediction models** specifically designed for **one-year forecasts**.
- **Developing the Application Programming Interface**
- **Updating and improving the web interface**
- **Testing the VFT**



<http://vf.biéco.org>

Select the desired

Number of vulnerabilities forecasts

Monthly

2 Months average

3 Months average

6 Months average

12 Months average

Version history

top menu.

Vulnerabilities Forecasting Tool



ubuntu



debian



Linux Kernel



MariaDB



MySQL

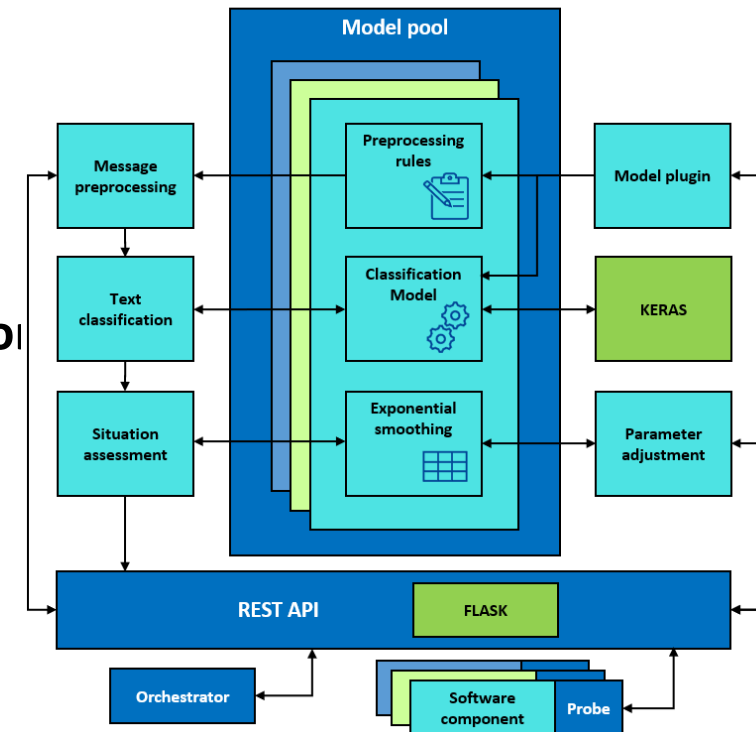


Tomcat

ROS

T4.2 Output (1/4)

- Failure Prediction Tool is a **real-time monitoring solution** designed to anticipate potential system failures.
- Versatile tool, supporting plugin models and parameter modifications, ensuring adaptability to various system requirements.
- FPT enhances system reliability by identifying potential failures in advance, ultimately reducing downtime and improving overall system performance.
- Enables a **constant watch** over system health.
- Incoming log messages are **classified** using a neural network model.
- **Alert** level calculation for each log message.
- Proactive Notifications followed by transmission of a specific **failure prediction**



Executing Connected

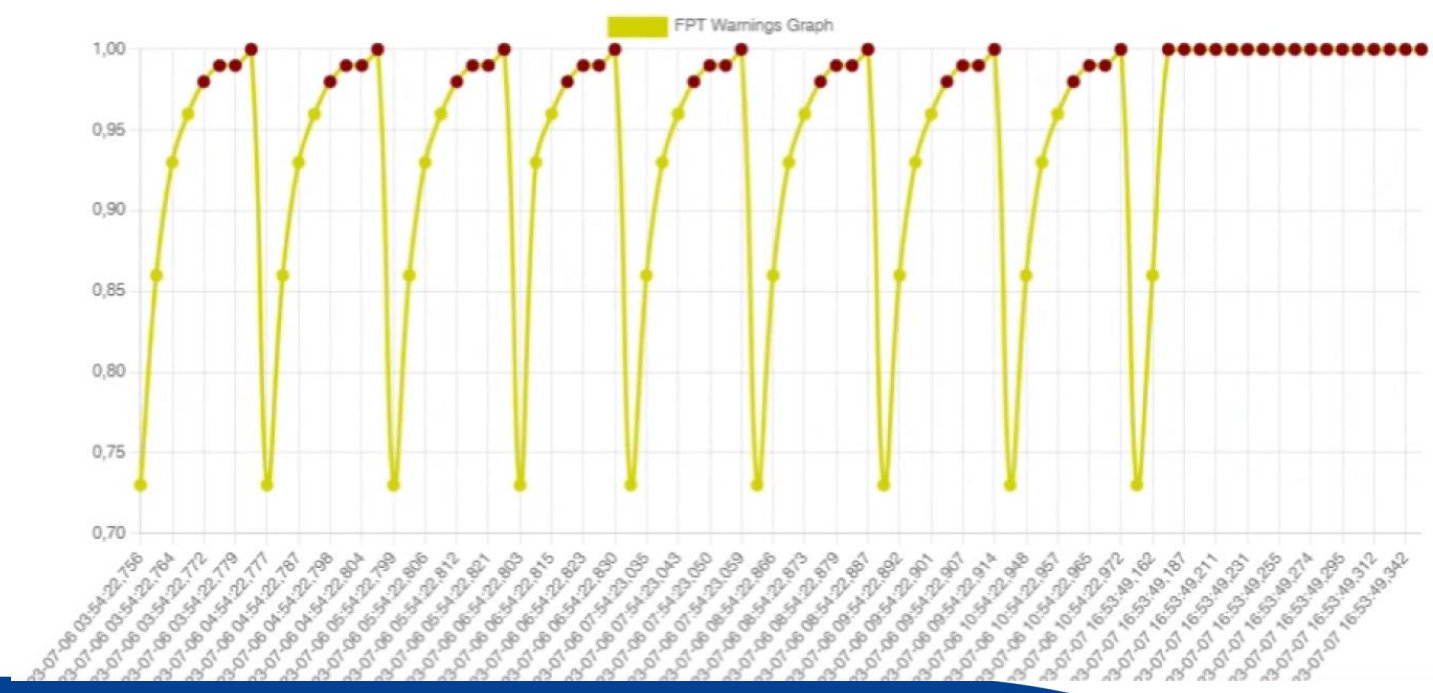
Created: 15-09-2023 08:06 Updated: 18-09-2023 10:32 Started: 18-09-2023 10:22 Finished:

Current Project Progress

Methodology Default Runtime Methodology Runtime

Last Update Step (current/first/last): 1 / 1 / 1

Failure Prediction History



Overall Cybersecurity Label



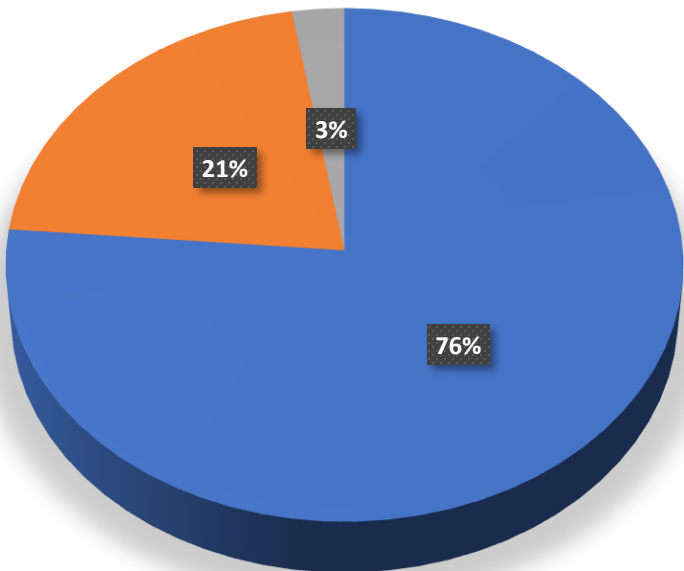
Link for the published results (manufacturer official website):

Publications

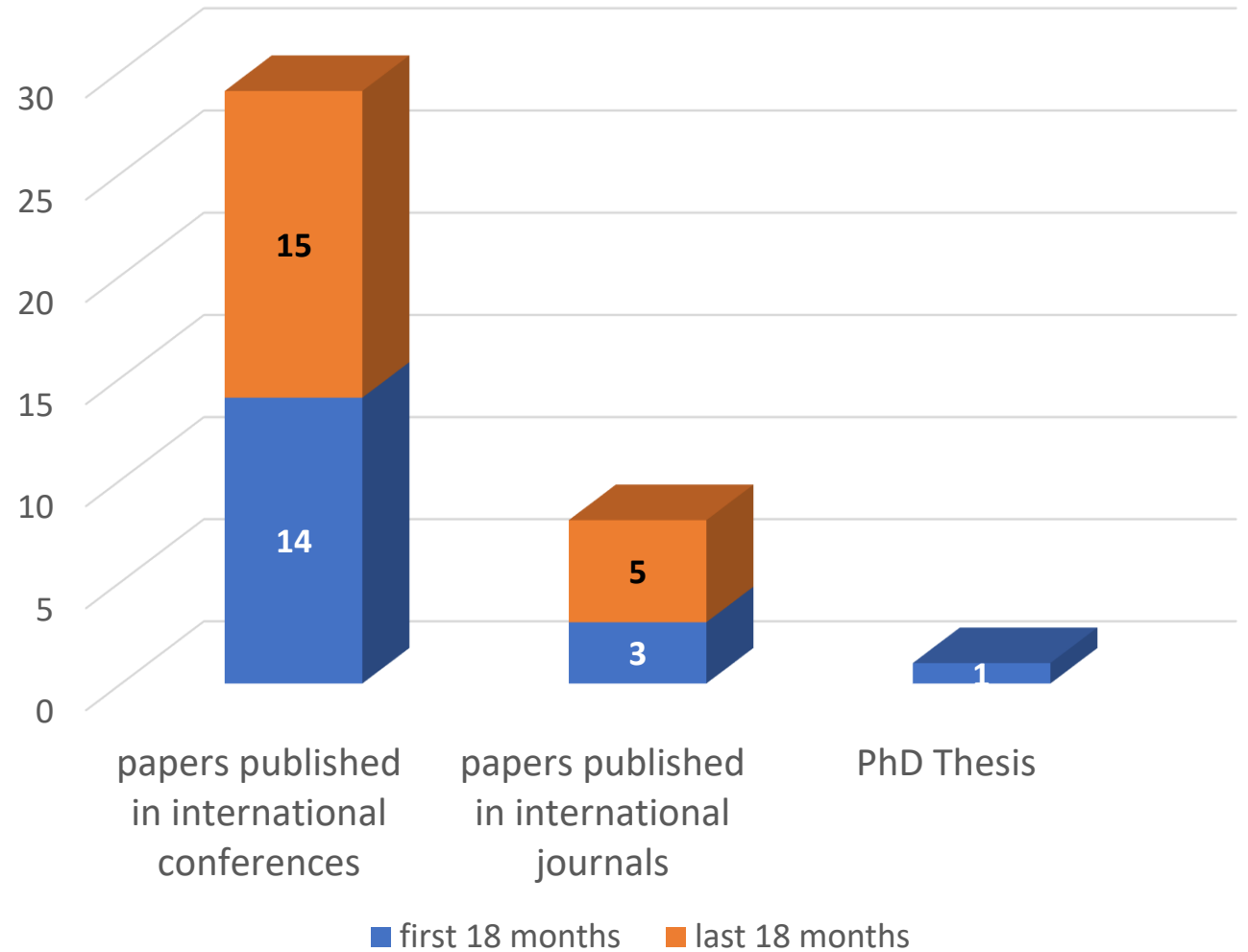
KPI

- Journal Publications (International, research) ≥ 4
- Publications and Presentations in Conferences (International, research) ≥ 4

38 scientific papers



- 29 papers published in international conferences
- 8 papers published in international journals
- 1 PhD Thesis completed



Impact Factor

KPI

- Journal Publications (International, research) **>= 4**

Q	Title	Authors	Journal	Year	Impact Factor
Q1	On Autonomous Dynamic Software Ecosystems	Rafael Capilla, Emilia Cioroai, Barbora Buhnova, and Jan Bosch	IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, vol. 69, no. 6, pp. 3633-3647	2022	5.8
Q1	Integrating the manufacturer usage description standard in the modelling of cyber-physical systems	Sara Nieves Matheu García, Adrián Sánchez-Cabrera, Enrico Schiavone, Antonio Skarmeta	Computer Standards & Interfaces, Vol. 84, 103777	2023	5
Q2	LPWAN and Embedded Machine Learning as Enablers for the Next Generation of Wearable Devices	Ramon Sanchez-Iborra	Sensors, Vol. 21(15), 5218	2021	3.9
Q2	Defining the Behavior of IoT Devices Through the MUD Standard: Review, Challenges, and Research Directions	José Luis Hernández-Ramos, Sara Nieves Matheu-García, Angelo Feraudo, Gianmarco Baldini, Jorge Bernal-Bernabe, Poonam Yadav, Antonio Skarmeta Paolo Bellavista	IEEE Access, vol. 9, pp. 126265-126285	2021	3.9
Q2	A Formal Validation Approach for XACML 3.0 Access Control Policy.	Carmine Caserio, Francesca Lonetti, Eda Marchetti:	Sensors, Vol. 22(8), 2984	2022	3.9
Q2	Guide in Designing an Asynchronous Performance-Centric Framework for Heterogeneous Microservices in Time-Critical Cybersecurity Applications. The BIECO Use Case	Rudolf Erdei, Emil Marian Paşca, Daniela Delinschi, Iulia Băraian, Oliviu Matei	Expert Systems (Wiley Open Research)	2023	3.3
Q3	The Challenges of Software Cybersecurity Certification	José Luis Hernández-Ramos, Sara Nieves Matheu-García, Antonio Skarmeta	IEEE Security & Privacy, vol. 19, no. 1, pp. 99-102	2021	1.9
Q3	Federated Cyberattack Detection for Internet of Things-Enabled Smart Cities	Matheu Garcia, Sara Nieves, Mármol, Enrique, Hernández Ramos, José Luis, Skarmeta, Antonio, & Baldini, Gianmarco	IEEE Computer, Vol. 55(12), pp. 65-73	2022	2.2
				TOTAL	29.9

Workshops

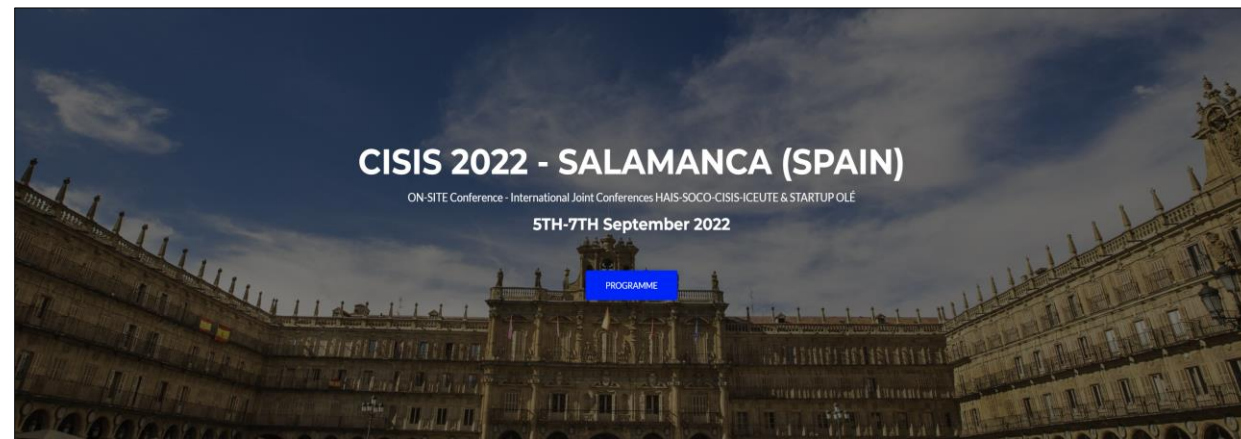


KPI

- Workshop at EU level: **1**

We organized

1. The special session ***Building Trust in Ecosystems and Ecosystem Components*** within the 14th International Conference on Computational Intelligence in Security for Information Systems (CISIS) 22 - 24 September 2021.
2. The special session ***Cybersecurity and Trusted Supply Chains of ICT*** within the 15th International Conference on Computational Intelligence in Security for Information Systems (CISIS) 5 – 7 September 2022.



Final Conference



KPI

- Final conference: 1

The final conference *Cybersecurity and Future Europe* was organized on July 20, 2023, in a hybrid format in Lisbon, Portugal, and online. It actively involved 16 projects.



Software Development ToolKit for Energy Optimization and Technical Debt Elimination



Clustering events

- Participation in the *Future Proofing and Certifying Supply Chains Clustering Workshop*, December 13, 2021.
- Participation in the virtual roundtable *The need for IoT Security Standardization & Certification*, April 8, 2022.
- We established **connections with 14 EU projects**.



IOT DAY VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE
THE NEED FOR IOT SECURITY STANDARDIZATION & CERTIFICATION
8. APRIL 2022

Logos: European Commission, ENISA, ETSI, ECS, GLOBALPLATFORM, Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation, EY, CONCORDIA, ASSURE, IOT@, CYRENE, FISHY, BIECO, EU IOT



Clustering Workshop
Co-organized by ASSURE and CYRENE

FUTURE PROOFING AND CERTIFYING SUPPLY CHAINS

13 December 2021 | 09:00 - 16:30 CET

Illustration of IoT devices and security icons connected by lines.

Dissemination outside the research community

- Participation in the **Barcelona Cybersecurity Congress**, 31 January - 2 February 2023, within the European Research Innovation for Cybersecurity (ERICyB) cluster, together with the following 6 related projects: ASSURE, FiSHy, CYRENE, IoTAC, Sanctus, and SIFIS-Home.
- 14 **podcasts and interviews** focusing on various aspects of IoT cybersecurity, including discussions on cybersecurity evaluation methodologies developed in BIECO
- 2 **press articles**.



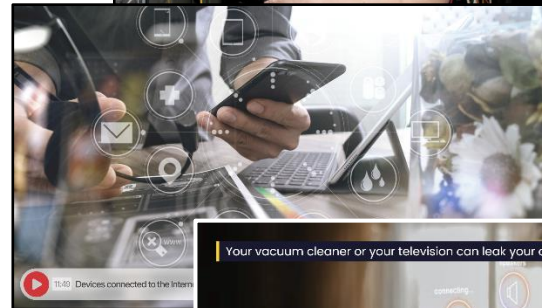
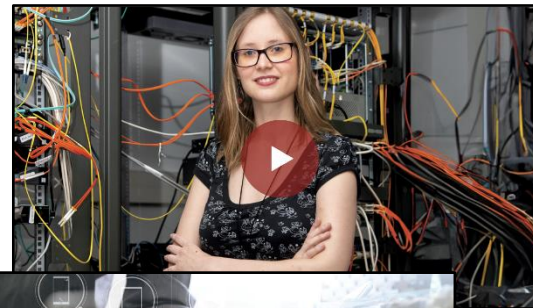
ERICyB
European Research Innovation for Cybersecurity

BARCELONA CYBERSECURITY CONGRESS
JAN 31 - FEB 2, 2023

ASSURE, CYRENE, SANCUS, BIECO, FiSHY, IoTAC, SIFIS-Home

Visit us at stand C350

The projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the call SU-ICT-02-2020.



Finalizarea cu succes se apropie: Proiectul BIECO în ultima lună de desfășurare

CNR ISTI / Un proiect ce coinvolge 11 excelențe europene pentru a ajuta la dezvoltarea...

BIECO, un approccio olistico
Le soluzioni proposte intervengono sia in fase di progettazione che in fase di implementazione.

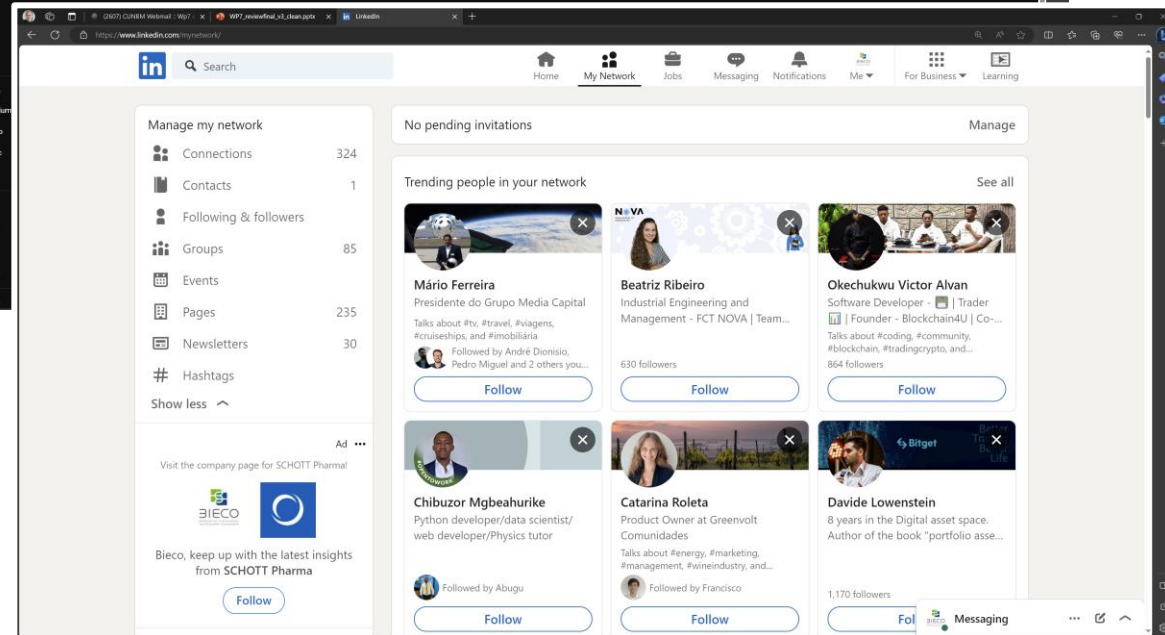
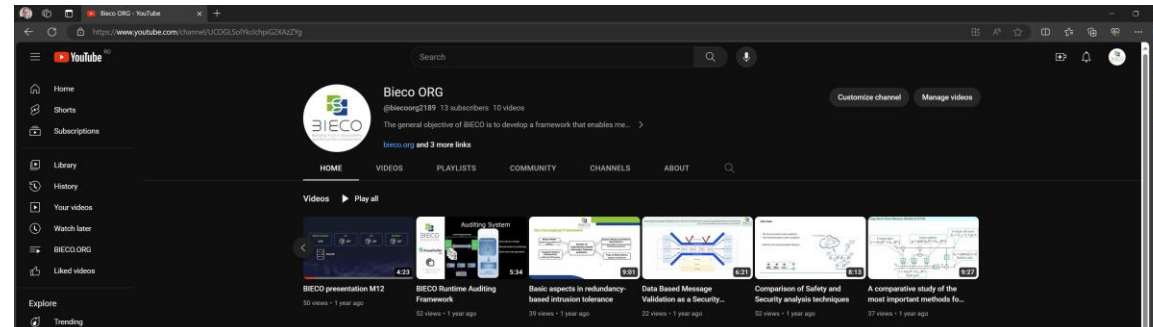
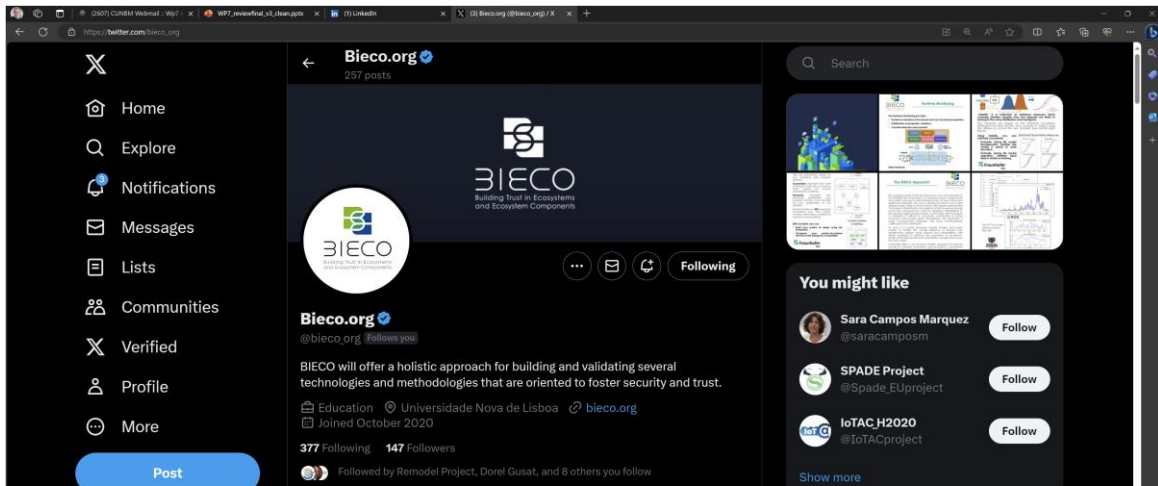
Il progetto BIECO (Building Trust in Ecosystems and Ecosystem Components) GA. Nr. 952702 finanziato dall'UE nell'ambito dell'iniziativa H2020-SU-ICT-2018-2020, propone un approccio olistico per rendere le imprese consapevoli dei rischi di sicurezza informatica e aiutarle ad aumentare la fiducia nelle loro componenti, sistemi di sistemi ed ecosistemi.

Oggi, lo sviluppo delle Tecnologie dell'Informazione e della Comunicazione (ICT) richiede integrazione o la collaborazione con altre componenti solitamente sviluppate da terze parti. La frammentazione della catena di valore può rappresentare un rischio elevato la sicurezza, la privacy e l'affidabilità.

In quest'ambito, il progetto BIECO offre un'abordage olistico per affrontare le sfide delle tecnologie complesse e componenti...

web oficială a proiectului: www.bieco.org

Social Networks



- 1. Twitter 154 followers
- 2. Facebook 317 followers
- 3. YouTube 26 subscribers
- 4. LinkedIn 328 connections

Newsletters



- 3 newsletters produced
- 9 newsletters generated from the web site
- 1 final newsletter will be released after the review meeting



Since the beginning of our project, we have worked on detailed descriptions of relevant scenarios and the cybersecurity risks and threats encountered in a software supply chain, along with a list of expected improvements, detailed definition and specification of the use cases, and the design of the overall system architecture based on smart production components that is able to support the identification of risks and threats in the software supply chain according to functional requirements.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and invite you to check our website regularly, follow us on social media or contact us directly for more information.

Sincerely yours,
Prof. dr. Jose Barata

Project description

The BIECO project in September 2020 with the aim to develop a risk-based trust while developing, managing, and operating complex interconnected ICT systems. We aim to achieve and trust aspects of ecosystem participants (ICT systems and actors) within the supply chain. The set of tools and methodologies, will address the ability management, resilience, auditing of complex strategies and security certification harmonization, achieved through the application of the tools and methods (energy, finance, and industry), which include:

BIECO will offer a holistic approach for building and validating several technologies and methodologies that are specifically oriented to foster security and trust within ICT ecosystems.

To better illustrate how BIECO intends to address these challenges along the entire lifecycle of the ICT supply chain, the above figure shows broadly the interaction flow between the different phases of the lifecycle, as well as the core functionalities involved.

work iteratively in order to ensure the ultimate trustworthy execution of systems and system components. In order to open the path towards future development and for enabling the possibility to keep up to agile technological progress supported by routine updates of systems (including safety-critical systems), we further on design the BIECO architecture with expandability in mind.

One possibility in this direction will be that based on detected deviations, runtime updates of systems can be accommodated through a natural extension of the BIECO framework, including the feedback of information to the design time for continuous improvement.

Newsletter 2 - September 2022

The second newsletter dedicated to the BIECO project made great progresses in terms of milestones, and key outcomes, framework that enables measurable, interconnected ICT systems.

In this newsletter, we present the project status, highlight our important achievements within all our work packages, and the list of publications.

I hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter and invite you to check our website regularly, follow us on social media or contact us directly for more information.

Sincerely yours,
Prof. dr. Jose Barata

AS A SECURITY SOFTWARE

on Computational Intelligence in International Conference on European Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing, vol. 1440, pp. 234-242, 2021.
Authors: Duvidu Cosma, Maria Hajdu-Macelaru, Petrica Pop-Sitar, Cosmin Sabo, Isabela Zelina

COMPARISON OF SAFETY AND SECURITY ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES

Publication info : 14th International Conference on Computational Intelligence in Security for Information Systems and 12th International Conference on European Transnational Educational, CISIS - ICEUTE 2021, Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing, vol. 1440, pp. 234-242, 2021.
Authors: Emilia Cioroanca, Simriti Ranjan Kar, and Ioannis Sorokos

ON AUTONOMOUS DYNAMIC SOFTWARE ECOSYSTEMS

Publication info : IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, pp. 1-15, 2021.
Authors: Rafael Capilla, Emilia Cioroanca, Barbara Buhova, Jan Bosch, Göteborg Sweden



Newsletter 3 - July 2023

The BIECO project, exclusively dedicated powerful tools.

comprehensively span the software lifecycle, ranging from initial design to real-time operation. Notably, the majority of these tools have been integrated into a unified platform, that facilitates their interoperability and orchestration in easy deployable toolchains tailored to meet specific business needs.

We trust that the content presented in this newsletter will captivate your interest and offer valuable insights. For more comprehensive information, we encourage you to visit our project website, stay connected with us through social media channels, or contact us directly.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm.

Warm regards,
Prof. dr. Jose Barata

Vulnerability Propagation Tool

The main goal of the Vulnerability Propagation Tool is to find and indicate the components or elements a single vulnerability can affect and, therefore, its path within the source code.

Sometimes, the most obvious way to reach a vulnerability is by knowing its location. But vulnerabilities can propagate through the source code, offering open doors to cyber attackers to exploit them. Calculating the path affected by a vulnerability helps the cyber security expert to prioritize its mitigation not only directly, but their possible alternative access in the source code.

Vulnerability Exploitability Forecasting Tool

The Vulnerability Exploitability Forecasting Tool provides the probability of a known published vulnerability to be exploited in a time window.

Once a known vulnerability is detected within the source code, it is necessary to focus the efforts to mitigate its possible attacks. From BIECO, we are conscious that experts needs to prioritize possible attacks for a more effective results. Thus, the exploitability forecasting tool offers an assessment of a given vulnerability, by indicating if it can be exploited in the next 3, 6 or 12 months from the date of publication.



Leaflets



BIECO
Building Trust in Ecosystems
and Ecosystem Components

The research consortium is composed of 11 partners, from 7 European countries (Portugal, Italy, Romania, Austria, Spain, Poland, Germany).

Contact us:

www: bieco.org

Facebook: facebook.com/bieco.org

Twitter: twitter.com/bieco_org

Instagram: instagram.com/bieco_org/

BIECO
Building Trust in Ecosystems
and Ecosystem Components

In the light of fast development of cyber threats, the complexity of heterogenous ICT ecosystems raise major security concerns.

BIECO aims at developing methods and tools for building trust in ecosystems and ecosystem components with particular focus on safety and security aspects at design and runtime.

Month 12

As an End-User, I want to include a new 3rd party component into my system

Design Phase
BIECO helps me find vulnerabilities and exploits, and provides adequate mitigation strategies

Before Deployment
BIECO applies a certification methodology, to provide a security label and a set of claims

At runtime
BIECO helps me ensure a trusted and secure behaviour of my systems, verifying design claims

The Consortium

BIECO
Building Trust in Ecosystems
and Ecosystem Components

Improving security and trust at a supply chain level.

Project Coordinator 2020-2023
Prof. José Barata (UNINOVA)
jbar@uninova.pt

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under Grant agreement No. 952702.

bieco.org

Month 29

instrumented by an online framework that connects various methods and tools.

The public and internal information about the use cases is stored in a Data Collection Tool. The public information sources are vulnerability databases, exploits databases and MUD files repositories. The main consumers of the Data Collection Tool information, are the machine learning algorithms of BIECO, trained for detection and forecasting of software vulnerabilities, failure prediction and exploits forecasting.

of vulnerability detection, forecasting and propagation) for software components is also performed. Then, a security evaluation process combining security risk assessment and testing is executed to identify vulnerabilities and determine the security level achieved by the system. The evaluation is connected with the runtime by the creation of a MUD file, which integrates a set of security policies that the system should follow to reduce the attack surface.

During runtime phase, failure prediction is performed by the synergy of a predictive simulation environment, a runtime monitor mechanism and a controlled environment. These three components enable complex auditing and triggering of fail-over behavior for assuring functional and non-functional properties including security and safety. Specifically, the predictive simulation executes in a simulated environment (the digital twins), which are abstractions of software component's behavior instrumented with probes created according to a Domain Specific Language.

The execution of the Digital Twins provides to the Runtime Monitor the predicted trusted behavior. In turn, the Runtime Monitor continuously checks that functional and non-functional established properties remain within established boundaries and compares the parallel execution of the software in the controlled environment against the behavior signature offered by the predictive simulation. In case of deviations, a fail-over behavior is triggered in order to keep the system in a safe and trusted state.

The public and internal information about the use cases is stored in a Data Collection Tool. The public information sources are vulnerability databases, exploits databases and MUD files repositories. The main consumers of the Data Collection Tool information, are the machine learning algorithms of BIECO, trained for detection and forecasting of software vulnerabilities, failure prediction and exploits forecasting.

The ongoing events of this decade have once more brought to the limelight the importance of ensuring proper cybersecurity and safety of Europe's critical infrastructure.

The large majority of these tools is integrated into a common platform to facilitate their interoperability and orchestration in easily-deployed tool chains tailored to address specific business needs.

BIECO leverages a combination of state-of-the-art artificial intelligence, digital twins, simulation and static analysis to address the following key areas:

- ✓ Vulnerability Assessment and Management
- ✓ Risk Assessment and Mitigation
- ✓ Resilience Mechanisms
- ✓ Security Certification and Testing
- ✓ Runtime Auditing of ICT Ecosystems

As one of the more significant examples, the war in Ukraine has led to one of the largest energy crises in recent history, with experts warning that if sustained cyberattacks are targeted at the European energy sector the consequences could be disastrous.

Interruptions to the already fragile energy markets could further raise fuel prices to hundreds of millions of consumers, contributing to further economic and human issues. This represents a major cross-sectorial challenge, with many interdisciplinary challenges to be addressed.

As such, it is crucial European industry leaders and policy makers to bolster the overall resilience of Europe's key infrastructure against cyber attacks and vulnerabilities, with efforts including for instance the promotion of security-by-design and improved risk and vulnerability management across the value chain.

BIECO provides a holistic approach to improve security in complex ecosystems and ecosystem components along their lifecycle, improving trust at a supply chain level.

BIECO's validation takes place across three distinct business cases spanning different activity sectors: namely Energy, Manufacturing and Electric Mobility, and Finance.

Month 29

approach for building
ating technologies
ologies that are
specifically oriented towards
fostering security and trust
within ICT ecosystems.

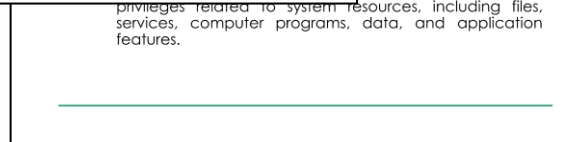
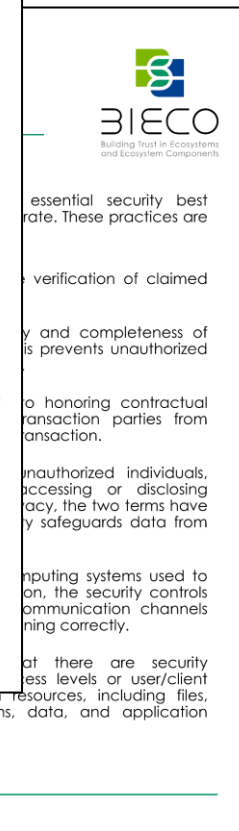
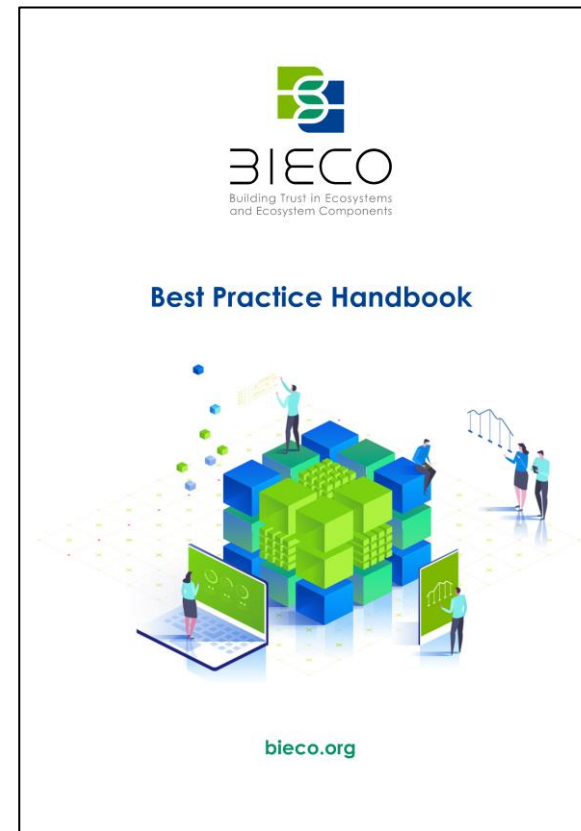
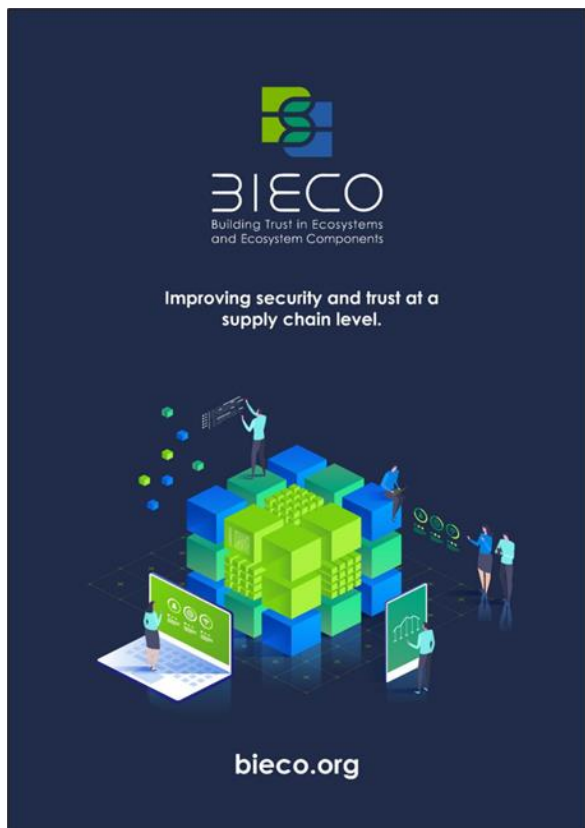
Brochure and Best Practice Handbook



BIECO

Building Trust in Ecosystems and Ecosystem Components

22 pages inside



14 pages inside



Presentation Videos

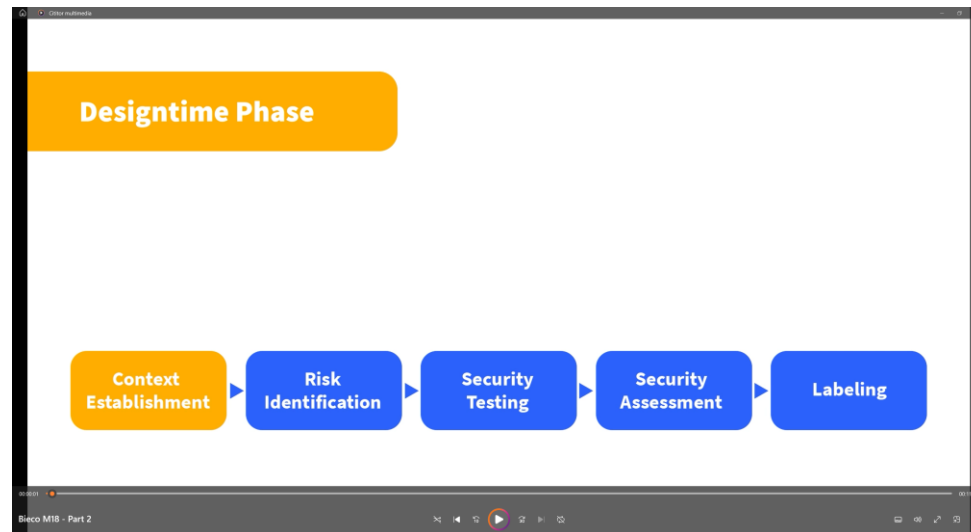
M 12



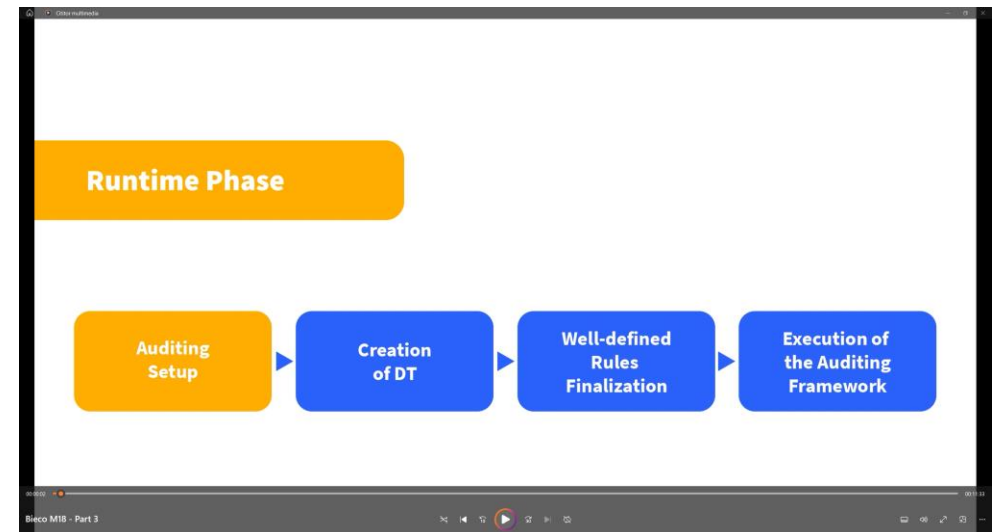
M 18



M 18




M 18



Pen and Poster







BIECO

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and Ecosystem Components


As an End-User, I want to include a new 3rd party component into my system



Design Phase



Before Deployment




At runtime

BIECO helps me find vulnerabilities and exploits, and provides adequate mitigation strategies


By applying a certification methodology, BIECO provides a security label and a set of claims


BIECO helps me ensure a trusted and secure behaviour of my system, verifying design claims




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The Consortium







This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under Grant agreement No. 952702.



Project Coordinator 2020-2023
Prof. José Barata (UNINOVA)
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Thank You For Your Attention!

