Research and Innovation Symposium for European Security and Defense 2026

Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy
73 Vasil Drumev street, Varna, Bulgaria 9002

15-16 April 2026

Program

Day 01 (15 Apr 2026)

Start	End	Title / Presenter / Organization
08:30	**09:30**	**Registration** *AFCEA / NVNA*
09:30	**09:45**	**Opening remarks** *President AFCEA Sofia Chapter*
09:45	**10:00**	**Welcome address** *Flotilla admiral, Professor Kalin Kalinov* *Rector of NVNA*
10:00	**10:15**	**Welcome address** *Mr. Yordan Bozhilov* *Deputy minister of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria*
10:15	**10:30**	**Welcome address** *Dr. Borislav Bankov* *Deputy minister of Ministry of Innovation and Growth of the Republic of Bulgaria*

Session 01

Start	End	Title / Presenter / Organization
10:30	**10:50**	**FARADAI: Frugal And Robust AI for Defence Advanced Intelligence** *Natalia Giogiou* *(CERTH)*
10:50	**11:10**	**PRESERVE: A European Shield Against Emerging Drone Threats** *Eduardo Villamor* *(ETRA)*
11:10	**11:30**	**TESTUDO Project Presentation** *Konstantinos Gkountakos* *(CERTH)*
11:30	**11:50**	**Coffee break / AFCEA**
11:50	**12:10**	**ACTING – A holistic view of the project** *Nikolai Stoianov* *(BDI)*
12:10	**12:30**	**CASSATA: Covert and Advanced multi-modal Sensor Systems for tArget acquisiTion and reconnaissance**
12:30	**12:50**	**TRITON – Generative Automation of Security** *Gergana Vacheva* *(TUS)*
12:50	**14:00**	**Lunch break / AFCEA**
14:00	**14:20**	**Enhancing Copernicus Security Services – EU governmental crisis management hub for forced population displacement** *Elissavet Panagiotopoulou* *(GEOSYSTEMS HELLAS)*
14:20	**14:40**	**BorderForce – Flexible system extending automated border surveillance by increased situational awareness adaptable to uncertain times with unforeseen events** *Ines Burgstaller* *(AIT)*
14:40	**15:00**	**CROSSMARE: Advanced Cross-Border and Multi Domain Interoperability Framework for Improved Collaborative Operational Efficiency for Secure Maritime Borders**
15:00	**15:30**	**Coffee break / AFCEA**
15:30	**15:50**	**Hidden Threat Detection – Organizational of a Technical Challenge** *Maria Andersson* *(FOI)*

Start	End	Title / Presenter / Organization
15:50	**16:10**	**Identaria: enhancing the peace-building potential of European nationalism** *Nikolay Pavlov* *(Identaria)*
16:10	**17:00**	**Demonstrations / Networking** *Exhibition area*
19:00	**21:30**	**Gala dinner / AFCEA**

Day 02 (16 Apr 2026)

Start	End	Title / Presenter / Organization
08:30	**09:30**	**Registration** *AFCEA / NVNA*
09:30	**09:45**	**Recap from Day 01** *President AFCEA Sofia Chapter*
09:45	**10:30**	**Key-note "Digital sovereignty – a shared foundation for governance and defense"** *Mr. Yavor Papazov* *Advisor to the Minister of Electronic Governance*
10:30	**11:00**	**Coffee break / AFCEA**

Session 03 – Thematic Pitch Presentations

Start	End	Title / Presenter / Organization
11:00	**11:10**	**FOI – Thematic Pitch Presentations** *Hans Önnerud* *(FOI)*
11:10	**11:20**	**Transfortec – Thematic Pitch Presentations** *Kees Janssen* *(Transfortec)*
11:20	**11:30**	**CERTH – Thematic Pitch Presentation** *Konstantinos Gkountakos* *(CERTH)*
11:30	**11:40**	**K3Y – Thematic Pitch Presentation** *Panagiotis Radoglou-Grammatikis* *(K3Y)*
11:40	**11:50**	**CERTH – Thematic Pitch Presentation** *Natalia Giogiou* *(CERTH)*

Start	End	Title / Presenter / Organization
11:50	**12:00**	**Identaria – Thematic Pitch Presentation** *Nikolay Pavlov* *(Identaria)*
12:00	**12:30**	**NVNA – Thematic Pitch Presentation** *Yordan Sivkov* *(NVNA)*
12:30	**13:30**	**Lunch break / AFCEA**
13:30	**13:40**	**WISER – Thematic Pitch Presentation** *Georgi Damyanov* *(WISER)*
13:40	**13:50**	**Thematic Pitch Presentation**
13:50	**14:00**	**TechnoLogica – Thematic Pitch Presentation** *Mario Mandjukov* *(TechnoLogica)*
14:00	**15:00**	**Demonstrations / Networking** *Exhibition area*
15:00	**15:30**	**Coffee break / AFCEA**
15:30	**17:00**	**NVAN Technical tour** *NVNA*
17:00	**17:15**	**Closing remarks / RISE-SD 2027 announcement** *AFCEA*

Organized by

AFCEA Sofia Chapter

Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy

Information Technologies Institute

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