



# 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)**

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

## Session 01

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

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

### Day 02 (16 Apr 2026)

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

### Session 03 – Thematic Pitch Presentations

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

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

### Organized by



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