

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Launch of EU-funded project “ODYSSEUS”

Better protection, faster identity verification at the border  
with EU-funded project “ODYSSEUS”.

The newly launched **ODYSSEUS European project** is expected to improve border crossing experience for travelers and border authorities' staff, while maintaining security and monitoring of movements across land and sea EU external borders. The aim of this project is to support the safety and integrity of the European space, reducing illegal movements of people and goods across those borders, and protecting fundamental rights of travelers.

**ODYSSEUS** also aims to enhance customs and supply chain security through better prevention, detection, deterrence, and fight of illegal activities, involving flows of goods across EU external border crossing points and through the supply chain, minimising disruption to trade flows.

The new project will provide a holistic framework for improving border checks performed by the authorities and facilitate travelling for citizens. A combination of strong multi-behavioral and biometric continuous user identity verification mechanisms will ensure the identification of the citizens, allowing them to cross the border without any interruption or queue. In the meantime, a novel luggage and baggage check will allow citizens' vehicles and cargos to be remotely checked on the land border in terms of goods and thus **speed up the border check processes** in a secure and reliable manner. The **ODYSSEUS platform** will be applicable for both land and water scenarios including on the road, in a maritime port, and in the train.

The **ODYSSEUS solution** will be tested, validated, and demonstrated in three real operational scenarios selected for their high societal, economic and security impact on the EU citizens and the Border Authorities. The foreseen scenarios include seamless border crossing on Land, Sea, and Train. Pre-pilot activities will also take place, including ODYSSEUS technical verification, pilot planning and setup as well as end-user recruitment.

### WHAT ARE THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT?

- **DESIGN** and **DEVELOP** a unifying platform that enables seamless, fully non-stop border crossing in a highly secure manner, assisting Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) with automated, reliable, and accurate border checks, while improving the travelling experience for EU citizens in a privacy-preserving way.
- **ADVANCE** the identification and control capabilities of Border Authorities through robust and reliable identity verification mechanisms introducing an EU mobile (virtual) passport protected by continuous behavioral authentication.
- **IMPROVE** border control checks without stopping cargos and vehicles through safe, unobtrusive, and portable screening based on X-ray backscatter technology, UAV-assisted image processing and AI-based data analytics.
- **VALIDATE** the effectiveness of the proposed ODYSSEUS platform through its demonstration in real-life environments with the active engagement and training of security practitioners in two diverse landscapes and various operational environments (inside a train, on the road, onboard a ship in a port area).
- **SPEED UP** the rapid uptake by relevant security stakeholders of the ODYSSEUS innovations through wide communication, scientific dissemination and targeted commercial exploitation activities coupled with contributions to relevant standardisation bodies.

**ODYSSEUS** is a 3-year, Horizon funded project that began in January 2023 and will last until December 2025. It involves **14 partners** from Romania, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, France, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Moldova, and the United Kingdom. [SIMAVI](#), [VISB](#), [QBE](#), [TEL](#), [RAPI](#), [ACCELI](#), [SQD](#), [THALES](#), [ISIG](#), [IGPF](#), [CDBP](#), [BBA](#), [IGPF\\_MAI](#) and [UIC](#). SIMAVI will lead the consortium and the project activities, to successfully accomplish the project objectives and Key Performance Indicators.



## Unobtrusive Technologies for Secure and Seamless Border Crossing for Travel Facilitation

The **ODYSSEUS project** has received funding from European Union's Horizon Europe Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement N°101073910. The project has a duration of 36 months, with total budget of 4.59 million euro, of which 3.45 million euro are funded by the European Union.

The **project kick-off meeting** took place in Bucharest on January 26th and 27th, 2023, and welcomed over 20 attendees committed to working together to develop prototype technologies, illustrate use cases, and produce a valuable and deployable solution.

Further information can be found at: [www.odysseusproject.eu](http://www.odysseusproject.eu) which is currently under construction but will be online soon.

### **FOLLOW ODYSSEUS JOURNEY AND KEEP UP WITH NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND UPCOMING RESULTS.**

Join ODYSSEUS's community on Twitter ([@odysseus\\_heu](https://twitter.com/odysseus_heu)) & on LinkedIn ([@odysseusproject-heu](https://www.linkedin.com/company/odysseusproject-heu)).

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