

The IV edition of the ASSETs+ European Defence Challenge is open. Register now!

11 April 2023

The **ASSETs+ European Defence Challenge (EDC)** is a competition open to undergraduate and graduate students from all over Europe on Defence emerging technologies and skills with the aim of increasing awareness on Defence issues among young generation, to reinforce the EU identity and to engage students in active learning experiences.

442 students from **24 different countries** and **116 different institutions** have already participated in the three previous editions of the Challenge.

The Launch Event of the IV edition took place last April 11 on streaming. The video is available on the ASSETs+ YouTube Channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMYTHnstpbC>

The organizer of this edition is [University of Pisa](https://www.dici.unipi.it/) and the event is hosted by the Department of Civil and Industrial Engineering (<https://www.dici.unipi.it/>).

In this edition, titled **"Leading through Complexity: Effective Management in Defence Environment"**, we aim at exploring the use of management methods in Defence sector as key to navigate complexity in the defence project and achieve mission success.

Participants are invited to write a proposal that will address strategies and approaches to deal with complexity and uncertainty in projects or operations related to Defence Industry, focusing on the following operative areas:

- Technology Management
- Data Management
- Decision-Making Process
- Risk Management
- Quality Management
- Cost Management
- Battlefield Management
- Dual-Use Management

In the proposal, a new method, strategy or approach, a new combination of existing ones, a new use of an existing ones, or a proposed research line, can be presented. Also, ideas about how to best exploit existing methods, strategies or approaches are welcome. Students in the proposal will address not only the technological aspect, but also the economic, political, regulatory, ethical and/or social implications. The operative contexts addressed in the proposal can be the defence dimensions: land, sea, air, space and cyberspace. Students are strongly encouraged to team up in pairs, finding a partner in a different country or institution.

The EDC is structured in two phases. In the first phase participants will develop a one-page proposal on their idea. The deadline for submission of one-page proposals is **May 31, 2023**. If the proposal is selected for the second phase, the participants will be asked

to expand and develop their idea to 10 pages proposal (5000-6000 words) and submit it before midnight CET October 31, 2023.

Participants will be welcome to attend several short webinars for supporting the preparation of good essays.

More information and registration on the ASSETs+ website: <https://assets-plus.eu/challenge/>

The ASSETs+ project

The Alliance for Strategic Skills addressing Emerging Technologies in Defence (ASSETs+) is a four year **Erasmus+ project**, built on close collaboration between Defence Industry, Sectoral Organisations, Higher Education Institutions, Vocational Educational & Training providers and Research Centres, with 30 partners from 8 countries and a broader ecosystem of stakeholders.

ASSETs+ aims to build a sustainable human resources supply chain for the European Defence Industry, that boosts innovation by both attracting highly-skilled young workers and upskilling its employees. Complementary education & training programmes are addressing the following main technologies: Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, C4ISTAR* and Cybersecurity.

(*) C4ISTAR is an acronym for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Information/Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting Acquisition and Reconnaissance

ASSETs+ Consortium partners



Contact for more information:

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