

ATLAS NETWORK

2026 ANNUAL
ACTIVITY REPORT



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ATLAS NETWORK – 2026 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

My fellow ATLAS Commanders, Dear Operators, Dear Friends,

It has been more than a year since I took over the Chairmanship from our friends in LYNX, and I have enjoyed the journey every step of the way. I feel that we are moving the network to be more operational, more relevant, and a force to be reckoned with in Europe.

Together we are about 4 000 operators across Europe and we have, for the last 25 years, built trust, trained together, and worked together.

The fundamental principles of ATLAS activities are to train cross-border interoperability, share knowledge and experiences, and clear the path to a closer cooperation between Special Intervention Units (SIUs) in times of real operations.

Europe is facing a multifaceted threat: organised crime, terrorism, and a rising hybrid threat. All three threats form a nexus of violence and uncertainty, threatening the very principles for which the EU stands for.

Our ability to face these threats together has never been more important. Our opponents are technologically advanced, armed, and motivated. They are operating on land, in the air, and on water. ATLAS is prepared to face these threats and opponents in all arenas. Our motto “All Together to Protect You” has never been more relevant.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the network and in making all these activities and advancements in ATLAS happen.

I’m proud to present the ATLAS Annual Report, which provides a comprehensive overview of our activities and achievements for 2025. As we continue to tackle new challenges, we remain committed to making Europe safer with Europol.



Mårten Langer

Chairman ATLAS 2025-2027,
Commander Swedish Counter Terrorism Unit, NI

GREETINGS FROM EUROPOL

As we look forward to celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the ATLAS Network, Europol is delighted to continue to work side-by-side with ATLAS in supporting cooperation between Special Intervention Units throughout Europe. Time and time again these SIUs have shown their ability and resolve to adapt to evolving situations and security landscapes. This ability and readiness for cross-border assistance between European Union SIUs is of critical importance, especially in the current geopolitical situation with multiplying and evolving threats.

I had the pleasure of observing the quality, sophistication and effectiveness of the ATLAS Network in a multi-threat scenario at an ATLAS large-scale naval exercise Trident, held in Sweden, in October 2025. This is a testament to the professionalism and integrity of the public service provided by SIUs at such a high standard to protect our common European security. Europol is committed to support your work in utilising our expertise and analytical capabilities to develop bespoke assessments of the threat landscape specifically for the ATLAS Network. Europol will continue to act as an information hub connecting ATLAS to other EU law-enforcement networks and will also continue to provide support to the ATLAS Network in planning and implementing its activities.



Anna Sjöberg
Head of Department,
European Counter Terrorism Centre

ABOUT THE ATLAS NETWORK

ATLAS is a cooperation network made up of 38 Special Intervention Units (SIUs) of the EU Member States and associated countries (United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) consisting of approximately 4 000 operators. These units are highly specialised law enforcement tactical teams that have expertise in high-risk crises in urban, rural and maritime settings.

The Network was initially established in 2001, as an informal system of information exchange and training cooperation among units. It was subsequently formalised by a decision of the Council of the European Union in 2008, which also broadened its remit to include the provision of assistance upon request from one Member State to another. This formalisation was a pivotal step, transforming ATLAS from an informal professional network to a legally grounded mutual assistance framework with clear operational protocols.

Critically, ATLAS recognises that a Member State may not always have the means, resources, or expertise to handle all crisis situations, particularly large-scale ones, and provides a framework for requesting assistance from another Member State. This principle of mutual reinforcement is at the heart of ATLAS's value — no single country needs to face a devastating security event alone.

The Network supports its members with 24/7 cross-border cooperation through access to SIU personnel, equipment, and expertise. The fundamental principles of ATLAS activities are to train cross-border interoperability, share knowledge and experiences, and clear the path to closer cooperation between SIUs in times of real operations. It also organises a series of training exercises, workshops, and courses, based on the current threat assessment, to ensure that its members remain operationally ready at all times.

Since November 2018, the ATLAS Support Office is based at Europol's headquarters, hosted within the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC). This ensures that the ATLAS Network is both continuously supported internally and directly connected to other relevant law enforcement networks and EU agencies. Europol provides financial and material support to the dozens of exercises conducted annually by the network.

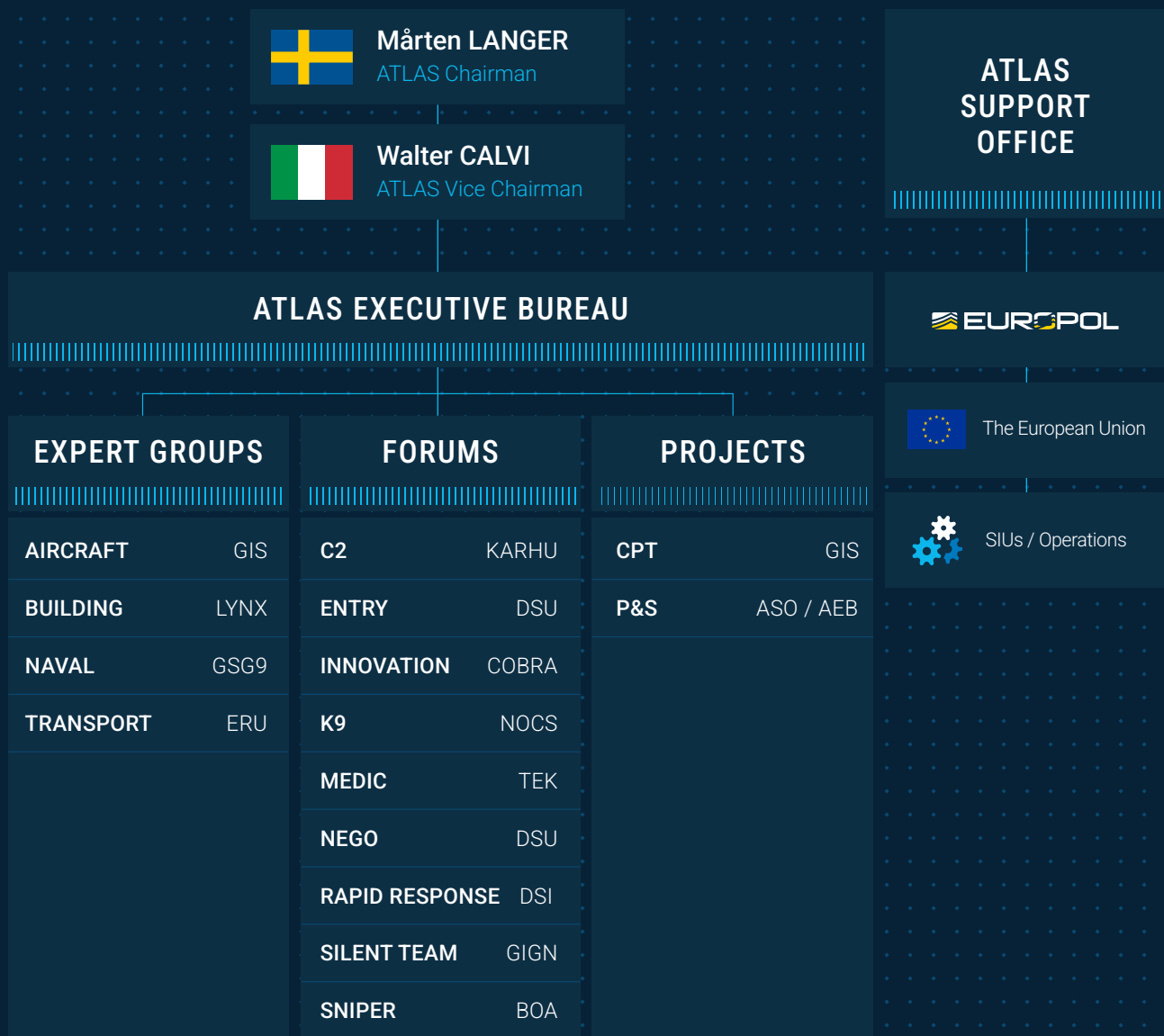
IN 2025 THE ATLAS NETWORK:

 **ORGANISED**
50
ACTIVITIES

 **ACROSS**
33
COUNTRIES

 **INVOLVING**
1 500
OPERATORS

ATLAS WORKING STRUCTURE 2025



The Network establishes the organisational framework for a multinational harmonisation of performance standards among counter-terrorism units in the Member States. This is achieved through the mutual exchange of experiences, the ongoing development of tactics and technologies, and the pooling of resources to combat serious and organised crime, and terrorism at both national and international levels.

The international working structure of ATLAS is organised as follows:

Chairman

The Chair is elected from among the ATLAS member SIU commanders and serves a two-year term. On taking office, the Chair establishes a strategic vision for the development of the network for the duration of their term, shaped by an assessment of the current and emerging threat landscape.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	
STRATEGIC VISION & DEVELOPMENT: Defines the Network’s strategic priorities for their term, informed by the established threat environment and steering the direction of capability development, training, and cooperation activities.	 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: Identifies and advances strategic partnerships to strengthen the network’s collective capacity, supported by the approval of the ATLAS Commanders Forum. 
INTERNAL COHESION: Fosters trust, knowledge exchange, and a constructive working environment across member Units through bilateral meetings and visits with ATLAS commanders to understand and address regional needs.	 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION: Acts as the principal representative of ATLAS before key stakeholders, including Europol, the European Commission, relevant EU agencies, and partner networks, advocating for the network’s interests and strategic direction. 
COOPERATION & LIAISON: Identifies opportunities to deepen ATLAS engagement with the Counter-Terrorism and Serious & Organised Crime communities, and maintains liaison with relevant operational and expert law enforcement networks supported by Europol.	



ATLAS Executive Bureau (AEB)

The elected Chairman is supported by the ATLAS Executive Bureau, a dedicated staff drawn primarily from within the national organisation. The AEB works in close coordination with the ATLAS Support Office to deliver its functions, ensuring coherent and effective support across the network.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	
CHAIRMANSHIP SUPPORT:  Provides comprehensive support to the ATLAS Chairmanship, including the organisation of bi-annual ATLAS Commanders Forums and ATLAS Management Board meetings. This encompasses drafting agendas, preparing presentations, and producing minutes.	GRANT MANAGEMENT:  Drafts and submits the ATLAS grant application, defining deliverables, timelines, and dissemination strategies in line with the finalised ATLAS Annual Work Programme (AWP).
REPORTING & EVALUATION:  Evaluates project results submitted by affiliated entities and consolidates findings into the final technical report, ensuring accurate and timely reporting to relevant stakeholders.	MEMBER UNIT SUPPORT:  Provides logistical and administrative support to member units for the organisation of network activities, working alongside the ATLAS Support Office. This includes travel and accommodation arrangements, drafting and distributing invitations, and managing participation. Support is extended to activities financed directly by Europol as well as those funded through other ATLAS mechanisms.

ATLAS Support Office (ASO)

The embedding of the ATLAS Support Office within Europol’s headquarters in November 2018 represented a strategic decision that fundamentally transformed how the ATLAS network operates, communicates, and shares intelligence. Rather than functioning as an external partner liaising with Europol from a distance, the Office sits at the heart of Europe’s counter-terrorism infrastructure, enabling a depth of integration that would otherwise be structurally impossible.

The Office explicitly functions as a bridge between ATLAS member units and the deep reservoir of expertise housed within Europol — particularly across terrorism and serious and organised crime. Working closely with the ATLAS Chairmanship, the Support Office ensures this bridge is not merely administrative but practically engaged with the evolving threat landscape. Strategic reports produced drawing on Europol’s tools and methodologies, help the network anticipate emerging challenges, identify capability gaps, and align training priorities with real-world operational demands.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	
INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE: Maintains a central repository that will serve as the single trustworthy source for all network documentation, including policy manuals, operational guidelines and meeting minutes — ensuring that critical institutional records are well-maintained, organised and readily accessible to authorised stakeholders. 	OPERATIONAL SUPPORT: Provides an operational support function, maintaining live, up-to-date information on ATLAS SIUs, including a dedicated Points-of-Contact list, for ATLAS SIUs currently deployed in countries and operational hotspots beyond European borders. 
CULTIVATING PARTNERSHIPS: Seeks to identify and cultivate additional networks and strategic partnerships that can be leveraged to the broader benefit of the ATLAS Network. 	ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS: Drafts the Annual Work Programme under the guidance of the Chairmanship, drawing on project and activity proposals from individual member units and supporting its implementation throughout the year. It also assists in producing strategic reports and identifying opportunities to deepen cooperation with the Counter Terrorism and Serious & Organised Crime communities, making full use of Europol’s tools and methodologies. 
OPERATIONAL COORDINATION: It facilitates communication between Europol and ATLAS member units, providing support to Member States upon request while respecting national remits and data exchange rules. To underpin this, the Office ensures the effective use of Europol’s IT and communication tools — including the Europol Platform for Experts — enabling the seamless flow of information across the network. It also works alongside Europol’s Communications team to promote ATLAS activities within the law enforcement community and among the wider public. 	

Expert Groups (EGs)

Expert groups focus on specific, high-priority topics within the Network. Through the exchange of experience and expertise among SIUs, they develop and standardise Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for consideration by the Network. It is these TTPs that form the basis for the ATLAS Manual of Guidance (MoG). These Working Groups maintain a permanent status within the Network. Their areas of concentration include:

▶ EXPERT GROUP AIRCRAFT Aircraft tactics	▶ EXPERT GROUP NAVAL Naval & maritime tactics
▶ EXPERT GROUP BUILDING Structural tactics	▶ EXPERT GROUP TRANSPORT Public transport tactics

Forums

Forums serve as an alternative working structure within ATLAS, focusing on areas that require comprehensive exploration but may not be immediate priorities. They provide a platform for in-depth research and discussion on these topics. The main emphasis of these forums is:

▶ FORUM C2 Command & control	▶ FORUM NEG Negotiation
▶ FORUM ENTRY Breaching techniques	▶ FORUM RAPID RESPONSE Rapid response
▶ FORUM INNOVATION Technologies for assault and reconnaissance	▶ FORUM SILENT TEAM Methods of soft entry
▶ FORUM K9 Special tactics for canine interventions	▶ FORUM SNIPER Sniping/Observer marksman
▶ FORUM MEDIC Tactical medicine	

Projects

▶ PROJECT CPT Close protection tactics for SIUs	▶ PROJECT POOLING & SHARING Sharing of network acquired items amongst ATLAS SIUs
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UNITS

The Network consists of 38 Special Intervention Units (SIUs) of the EU Member States and associated countries (United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland). The expert groups, forums and projects are made up of representatives of the following special intervention units:

COUNTRY	UNIT
 Austria	Einsatzkommando Cobra/DSE, EKO Cobra
 Belgium	Directie van de Speciale Eenheden, DSU
 Bulgaria	Specialised Counter Terrorism Unit, SOBT
 Croatia	Antiteroristička jedinica Lučko, ATJ LUCKO
 Cyprus	Special Antiterrorist Squad, EAO
 Czech Republic	Útvar Rychlého Nasazení, URNA
 Denmark	Politiets Aktionsstyrke, AKS
 Estonia	Counter Terrorism Unit, K-Komando
 Finland	Helsingin poliisilaitos Valmiusyksikkö, KARHU
 France	Groupe d'Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale, GIGN
 France	Police Nationale; Recherche, Assistance, Intervention, Dissuasion, RAID
 Germany	GSG 9 der Bundespolizei, GSG9
 Germany	Spezialeinsatzkommando der Polizei Baden-Württemberg, SEK BW
 Greece	Eidiki Katastaltiki Antitromokratiki Monada, EKAM
 Hungary	Terrorelhárítási Központ, TEK
 Iceland	Sérsvait ríkislögreglustjóra, VIKING
 Ireland	Garda Emergency Response Unit, ERU
 Italy	Carabinieri; Gruppo Intervento Speciale, GIS

COUNTRY	UNIT
 Italy	Polizia di Stato; Nucleo Operativo Centrale di Sicurezza, NOCS
 Latvia	Pretterorisma Vienība, OMEGA
 Lithuania	Antiteroristiniu Operacijų Rinktinė, ARAS
 Luxembourg	Police Grand-Ducale; Unité Spéciale, USP
 Malta	Pulizija; Special Intervention Unit, SIU
 Norway	Politiets Beredskapstropp, DELTA
 Poland	Centralny Pododdziału Kontrterrorystycznego Policji, BOA
 Portugal	Grupo de Intervenção de Operações Especiais da Guarda Nacional Republicana, GNR-GIOE
 Portugal	Grupo de Operações Especiais da Polícia de Segurança Pública, GOE
 Romania	Brigada Specială de Intervenție a Jandarmeriei, BSIJ
 Romania	Serviciul de Intervenții și Acțiuni Speciale, SIAS
 Slovak Republic	Slovak Special Counter Terrorism Police Unit, Lynx Commando
 Slovenia	Specialna Enota Policija, Red Panther
 Spain	Policía Nacional; Grupo Especial de Operaciones, GEO
 Spain	Guardia Civil; Unidad Especial de Intervención, UEI
 Sweden	Nationella Insatsstyrkan, NI
 Switzerland	Swiss Special Intervention Units, SWISS SIU
 The Netherlands	Dienst Speciale Interventies, DSI
 United Kingdom	Counter Terrorist Specialist Firearms Officer Network, UK-CTSFO
 United Kingdom	Police Service of Northern Ireland; Headquarters Mobile Support Unit, PSNI-HMSU

TRAINING EXERCISES

Every year, the ATLAS Network convenes its members for a wide range of training exercises. These exercises encompass all aspects of emergency response skills to ensure special intervention units are prepared for virtually any scenario. Additionally, large-scale training exercises are also organised to respond to crisis scenarios in real-time. These are multidisciplinary training exercises, often lasting several days and involving cross-border activities, to reflect the demanding work of special intervention units.



Cross-Border Training Exercises:
Members of the ATLAS Network in various training exercises simulating real-time crisis response and intervention tactics.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATLAS NETWORK

2026 marks the 25th anniversary of the ATLAS Network. For a quarter of a century, the Network has focused on collaboration and innovation. Founded to promote cooperation and bolster capabilities among elite law enforcement teams, the ATLAS Network has become an essential component of international security. This chapter explores the network's history, key operations, and the development of strong ties between member units.

CHAIRMANSHIP

YEARS	UNITS	COUNTRY	CHAIR
2001–2007	DSU	Belgium	Eric Lievin
2008–2012	DSI	Netherlands	Jan H van Heertum
2013–2017	GSG9	Germany	Olaf Linder / Jerome Fuchs
2017–2021	EKO COBRA	Austria	Bernhard Treibenreif
2021–2025	Lynx Commando	Slovakia	Stefan Hamran / Stanislav Krizan
2025–2027	NI	Sweden	Marten Langer
2027–2029	GIS	Italy	Walter Calvi

MILESTONES

September 1972



Munich Olympic Games Massacre

This led to the foundation of numerous special intervention units to fight terrorism and violent crime.

1999



First major meeting of explosives experts from various counter terrorism (CT) units in Brussels

The participants decided to create a special working group "Bélier". It did important preparatory work for a joint European platform for CT units.

11 September 2001



9/11 Attacks

The 9/11 attacks fundamentally altered the international security environment and accelerated European counter-terrorism cooperation.

20 September 2001



Europe's answer to terrorism

In the light of the 9/11 attacks, the European Commission and the European Council for Justice, Home Affairs and Civil Protection Council invited the commanders of several countries to devise a roadmap and individual measures to fight terrorism.

15 October 2001



The birth of network of CT units

In a follow-up meeting in Brussels, the commanders agreed that due to the new dimension of terrorism the future cooperation of CT units should be intensified within the EU and properly institutionalised. This would be ratified later this year by national police commanders in the Declaration of Intent to found a European network of counter-terrorism units.

Legend:  Key attacks/operations  ATLAS history & Europol  Expert groups/forums  Regulation

18 Jan 2002



Naming of the Network

During the second meeting of the commanders, priorities and future proceedings were discussed. Additionally, representatives from the Belgian DSU presented an idea for naming the network: ATLAS.

13 June 2002



Framework decision on definition of terrorism

The Council unanimously accepted framework decision (2002/475/JHA) about how to define acts of terror and terror groups in the future. This formed a basis for individual EU states to unify their national laws and legal regulations and decide on punishments for terrorist activities.

23 June 2003



Start of integration with Europol

Europol received the order to check the possibilities for an integration of ATLAS. Further meetings took place in The Hague throughout the year with representatives of Europol and the Network to discuss a possible integration.

2007



Integration of the Béliér group into the ATLAS Network

The Béliér group was formally integrated into the ATLAS Network and continued its work within the Breaching Techniques working group.

2007



Foundation of Expert Group “Building” and Forum “SNIPER”

2008



Foundation of Expert Group “Naval” and Forum’s “ENTRY” and “NEGO”

23 June 2008



EU Council decisions for better cross-border security and counter-terrorism partnerships

On this day, the EU Council made two key decisions to improve cooperation between countries. The first decision (2008/615/JHA) created rules for police to help each other during big events, disasters, and serious accidents. This includes specific ways police can assist each other, as explained in Article 18. The second decision (2008/617/JHA) set up a legal framework to enhance collaboration among counter-terrorism units.

2011



Foundation of Forum “C2 - Command & Control”

2014



Foundation of Forum “Medic” and Forum “Rapid Response”

2015



Foundation of Expert Group “Transport”

10 October 2018



Cooperation formalised between Europol and ATLAS

Europol's Executive Director and Minister of the Interior of Austria, acting on behalf of the ATLAS Network, signed an agreement about the future cooperation between ATLAS and Europol. The ATLAS Support Office, was established and has been based at Europol's headquarters, embedded within the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC).

2019



Development of the Centre of Excellence Aircraft by GIS in Livorno, Italy

2019



Foundation of Forum “Innovation”

July 2021



Establishment of the Pool & Sharing Project

Strategic agreement for cooperation between the ATLAS Network and the Singapore SIU, Special Tactics and Rescue (STAR).

March 2023



Operation FIRESTORM

This was a major to test the ability of elite police units to coordinate against terrorist threats and organised crime across multiple jurisdictions, coordinated by Europol involving the ATLAS Network and the European Surveillance Group.

2024



Establishment of the Close Protection Team Project by GIS

The main objective was to focus on CPT capabilities in national and international scenarios, with the aim of standardising tactical and technical procedures among SIUs.

2024



First exchange of ATLAS SIU operators with STAR Singapore

This exchange represented a crucial step in expanding the Networks' international cooperation and strengthening law enforcement capabilities on a global scale.

October 2025



Operation TRIDENT

This exercise was undertaken in the North Sea delivered as part of EG Naval to improve collaboration with SIUs that are in geographical proximity. It explored conditions for long-term planning, direct leading and provide several tools for the C2 elements.

2025 ACTIVITIES

ORGANISED
50
ACTIVITIES

ACROSS
33
COUNTRIES

INVOLVING
1 500
OPERATORS

Throughout 2025, the ATLAS Network organised a total of 50 activities, spanning 33 countries, with the participation of over 1 500 operators. This extensive engagement underscored the Network's commitment to fostering international cooperation and enhancing the capabilities of counter-terrorism units across Europe and beyond. The activities ranged from training exercises and workshops to joint operations and strategic planning sessions, all aimed at improving the collective response to terrorist threats. This overview provides a comprehensive look at the ATLAS Network's achievements and initiatives during the year.

EXPERT GROUPS

Aircraft

LEADER: **GIS Italy**



In 2025, the Expert Group Aircraft conducted several cross-border exercises aimed at enhancing the capabilities of SIUs in various aircraft environments.

In February, an exercise was held in Italy involving seven SIUs and the Italian Red Cross. The focus was on medical capabilities, with 28 ATLAS operators trained to standardise Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) among SIUs.

In March, a similar exercise took place in Spain, involving 12 SIUs and training 25 operators. This exercise concentrated on breaching capabilities, again with the goal of standardizing TTPs. The training ensured that SIUs are prepared to handle breaching situations in aircraft environments efficiently and safely.

In November, another exercise was conducted in Italy, this time involving 10 SIUs and the European In-flight Security Network (EIFS) and the European Explosive Ordnance Disposal Network (EEODN). The focus was on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNe) capabilities, with 43 operators trained.

Building

LEADER: **Lynx Slovakia**



The Expert Group Building organised a tactical workshop in Poland in September 2025, focusing on tactical training, Close Quarters Battle (CQB), and checking the interoperability of procedures. The workshop involved 6 SIUs and 1 operator from the US Special Forces, training a total of 35 operators. The activity took the form of a practical workshop aimed at exchanging experiences, verifying the interoperability of procedures, and assessing the readiness of ATLAS special units to act jointly in the event of a real terrorist threat.

Naval

LEADER: **GSG9 Germany**



The Expert Group Naval conducted several activities in 2025 to enhance the capabilities of SIUs in naval environments.

In August, a naval helicopters workshop was organised in Finland, involving seven SIUs and two observer SIUs. The workshop, organised with the Finnish Border Guard, trained over 50 crew members and technical staff. The focus was on training the joint aviation service of multinational helicopters and crews, implementing new tactics, and improving risk assessment and mission planning.

In September and October, Exercise Trident was held in Sweden, involving 10 participating SIUs and three observer SIUs. Over 200 officers from ten European countries gathered for a week-long naval exercise codenamed 'TRIDENT'. The exercise scenario focused on the deployment of special intervention units and naval assets during day- and night-time, simulating terrorist and hostage incidents on board cruise liners and ferries.

Transport

LEADER: **ERU Ireland**



The Expert Group Transport organised a cross-border exercise in the Czech Republic in July 2025, involving 12 SIUs and observers from the West Midlands Police. The exercise included the involvement of the Czech Police Air Service, Special Riot Unit, and Fire Brigade, training 30 operators. The exercise provided unique know-how on using motorcycles as flexible means of transport during assaults and as a means of entry while intervening on a bus with hostages.

FORUMS

C2

LEADER: **KARHU Finland**



The Forum C2 focused on the preparation of a cross-border exercise, involving several preparatory meetings. The forum emphasised cooperation with other specialised EU law enforcement networks, such as surveillance and air marshals. Cooperation as part of the exercise preparation is vital for ensuring coordinated and effective responses in cross-border operations. In particular, it is intended to enhance application of ATLAS C2 tools, use cross-border operational C2 information system and coordination as part of cross-border assistance between ATLAS units.

Entry

LEADER: **DSU Belgium**



The Forum Entry organised a workshop in Croatia in March 2025, allowing participants to gain insight into functioning of different tactical explosives. This knowledge is crucial for applying safety procedures more effectively and working in a safer manner. The workshop involved 18 SIUs and trained 25 operators, enhancing their capabilities in handling explosive devices.

Innovation

LEADER: **EKO Cobra Austria**



In 2025, Forum Innovation held two activities focused on unmanned aerial and ground vehicles. These activities, held in Denmark and Germany, gathered 11 and 15 ATLAS SIUs, respectively, along with representatives from the German BKA, Defence, and Ministry of Interior. The focus was on developing specific unmanned vehicle capabilities for reconnaissance and detection, non-lethal intervention techniques, and countering unfriendly Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).

K9

LEADER: NOCS Italy



The Forum K9 organised a workshop in Poland in May 2025, involving 19 SIUs and different specialised units from the Polish Police. The workshop trained 71 operators, including specialised police and military officers, technicians, and veterinarians. The focus was on guidelines for using dogs in operations involving different means of transportation and in various tactical scenarios.

Medic

LEADER: TEK Hungary



The Forum Medic organised two training sessions on tactical medicine in Hungary in May and October 2025. Each course involved 15 SIUs, training a total of 30 operators. The focus was on transportation, evacuation, tactical medicine, mass injuries and triage, Care Under Fire, Tactical Field Care, and planning and running Tactical Emergency Medical Systems. These training sessions were vital for ensuring that SIUs are prepared to provide effective medical care in high-stress situations.

NEGO

LEADER: DSU Belgium



Early in 2025, Forum Negotiation organised a counter-terrorism negotiation seminar in Portugal. The main goal was to discuss the implementation of new negotiation tactics in counter-terrorism and crisis situations. The seminar brought together over 30 operators from 16 ATLAS SIUs and involved negotiation experts from the UK and USA.

Rapid Response

LEADER: **DSI the Netherlands**



In 2025, Forum Rapid Response continued preparations for a large-scale cross-border exercise, building on a training week held in Finland in June 2024. The 2024 activity brought together 17 SIUs and 85 operators and focused on balancing operational speed and safety in line with mission priorities, as well as developing common approaches and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for joint action.

Silent Team

LEADER: **GIGN France**



The Forum Silent Team organised a workshop in France, dedicated to sharing tactics and skills, knowledge, and lessons learned relating to tactical urban climbing and methods of soft entry. The workshop involved eight ATLAS SIUs and hosted 26 participants. Earlier in 2025, a cross-border exercise focusing on silent approach capability with freefall parachuting techniques was organised in Italy. The exercise hosted 32 operators from eight ATLAS SIUs, aiming to standardise tactical and technical procedures among SIUs.

Sniper

LEADER: **BOA Poland**



The Forum Sniper organised a workshop in Poland in June/July 2025, focusing on the creation of workable SOPs and multi-unit coordination in urban and rural environments. The workshop involved 31 SIUs and the Polish Police Helicopter Unit, training 150 operators and 50 specialised officers.

PROJECTS

CPT

LEADER: **GIS Italy**



In March 2025, a cross-border exercise was organised in Italy as part of the ATLAS Close Protection Team (CPT) Project. The main objective was to focus on CPT capabilities in national and international scenarios, with the aim of standardising tactical and technical procedures among SIUs. The training involved 35 operators from 17 SIUs from EU Member States and the UK, ensuring that close protection teams are prepared to operate effectively in various environments.

P&S

While there have been no new acquisitions in 2025, the previously acquired items remain available for use by the SIUs to ensure their availability during operational deployments and contribution to EG workshops.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER EU NETWORKS

The extensive structure of the ATLAS Network facilitates broad cooperation with other relevant EU network partners. Currently, ATLAS maintains direct cooperation with the following networks: AIRPOL, EU-HRSN, ESG, EUNAT, EEODN, EIFS.

In 2025, ATLAS and the European Explosive Ordnance Disposal Network (EEODN) collaborated to bolster EU preparedness and capabilities in the domains of CBRN and explosives, with a particular focus on the context of the war in Ukraine. This joint effort culminated in two training workshops.

EXPLOSIVE THREAT EVOLUTION WORKSHOP

This session aimed to address the evolving nature of explosive threats.

RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DETECTION, MONITORING, AND IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

This workshop focused on enhancing skills in detecting, monitoring, and identifying radiological and nuclear materials.

Both workshops were funded by the European Commission and attracted a combined total of over 90 participants. The events were hosted respectively by the Estonia Rescue Board and the Public Security Police in Portugal.

