HUCAN

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Co-funded by the European Union

HUCAN project organised its final event on Advanced Automation certification at the European University Institute

The project proposes a novel and holistic approach for the certification and approval of advanced automated and AI-enabled ATM airborne and ground systems

[Rome, Italy, 3rd November 2025] – The HUCAN project, funded by the SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking, successfully hosted its final event at the **European University Institute (EUI), Villa Salviati, in Fiesole (Florence) on 20th and 21st October 2025**. Organized by the HUCAN Consortium at the EUI Department of Law, the two-day conference marked the culmination of the project's research journey, comprehensively disseminated its key outcomes to the scientific, industrial and institutional community, and discussed possible exploitation initiatives, looking ahead to the future of research.

The event focused on the critical challenge of **certifying advanced automation systems**, specifically those based on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in the aviation sector. It successfully shared the project's main results and solutions related to research, industry, and law. The agenda featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including representatives from **EASA, EUROCAE WG 114, THALES, the European University Institute, Collins Aerospace, NLR, CIRA, Airbus Protect, TXT** and **Deep Blue** and other European projects committed to innovation, certification and safety. The event brought together researchers, industry experts, standard-setters and policymakers to discuss the future of certification in advanced technology.

Paola Lanzi, project coordinator form Deep Blue, stated: *The HUCAN final event successfully convened key stakeholders engaged in the certification of AI-based systems in aviation. The project's findings demonstrated significant synergy and alignment with other ongoing continental initiatives, underscoring a critical strategic imperative: effective certification requires a systemic and diachronic approach that thoroughly encompasses the entire design, development, and deployment lifecycle of these emerging solutions. This is also key for addressing the SESAR's strategic approach highlighted in the ATM Masterplan released earlier*

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this year, as adopting a certification-aware design approach is crucial to trigger accelerated market uptake of SESAR Solutions.

Day 1: the evolving certification landscape and HUCAN's pathway

The first day, Monday, 20th October 2025, began with a welcome and project introduction by Giuseppe Contissa (EUI) and Paola Lanzi (Deep Blue).

- **Keynotes on certification and AI governance**

The morning session featured a keynote by **Giovanni Sartor** (EUI) on "AI Regulation: Setting the Ground Rules". This was followed by a presentation from **Andrew Kilner** (EASA - AI Roadmap Working Group) on the EASA AI Roadmap 2.0. Later in the afternoon, **Antonino Rotolo** (University of Bologna - EUSAIR Project) presented on "AI Sandboxes: Fast-Tracking Trust and Compliance in AI".

- **Introducing HUCAN's solutions**

Paola Lanzi (Deep Blue) outlined "The HUCAN pathway: from concept to solutions", highlighting the urgent need to anticipate the discussion about certification during the design of new solutions and the value this can bring for achieving the strategic objectives of the SESAR Master Plan 2025. **Sybert Stroeve** (NLR) then presented the first key deliverable: "Solution 1 - Certification-aware design".

The day concluded with a final discussion and wrap-up, followed by a social dinner.

Day 2: standardization, preliminary guidelines and future prospects

The second and last day opened with a welcome from Paola Lanzi (Deep Blue).

- **Standardization and preliminary guidelines**

Fateh Kaakai (Thales - EUROCAE WG-114) delivered a keynote on "WG-114 Standardization Initiative for AI in Aviation: Where Innovation Meets Safety". Following this, **Gabriella Gigante** and **Domenico Pascarella** (CIRA) presented the second major project outcome: "Solution 2 - Preliminary guidelines for certification".

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- **Roundtable on AI in air transport: an holistic perspective (technology, human factors and compliance)**

A dedicated roundtable discussion brought together experts from several European projects. **Thiziri Belkacem** (Airbus Protect - EASA-MLEP Project) presented the approach followed and the results achieved in the "Machine Learning Application Approval" (MLEP) project funded by EASA. **Veronika Takacs** (Deep Blue - Engage 2 Project) focused on "ATM Careers of Tomorrow: the Frontiers of Advanced Automation". Finally, **Mattia Calabresi** (TXT - Accomplish Project) presented the work planned in the European project Accomplished "AI Compliance Simplified: The Automation Imperative".

The event concluded with a summary and reflection session on the results achieved and the future development paths, fostering a continuous constructive dialogue between research, industry, and regulators.

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