



### ***New ambitious European project aimed at helping SMEs in fighting online threats***

The SWEPT consortium announced today that it has successfully launched the SWEPT project, with the first official kick-off meeting held the 18th and 19th of March 2014 in Bilbao, Spain. The SWEPT project will receive € 1.99 million funding from the European Union ICT Policy Support Programme as part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).

The project acronym "SWEPT" is short for "**Securing Websites through malware dEtection and attack prevention Technologies**". The main goal is to develop a new multifaceted approach to mitigating malicious attacks on websites by maximizing the security posture of websites with a minimum of intervention needed by website owners and administrators. In addition, the project aims to define a de facto standard and good practice for securing websites.

One of the most persistent challenges within IT-security is insecure websites being compromised by hackers for the purpose of distributing malware and other security threats such as phishing sites. Not only do ordinary consumers and users run the risk of having their personal computers and devices infected or information stolen when they visit these sites - the website owner risks losing goodwill and being blacklisted by various blacklist providers.

Statistics from the cyber intelligence company CyberDefcon indicate that approx. 85 % of all drive-by downloads of malicious code originate from infected websites. Presently, an estimated 2.5 million websites are involved in black SEO (Search Engine Optimization), 8.1 million domains host malicious content and as many as 1 billion IP-addresses are blacklisted.

Today, only organizations with the necessary resources and focus on security are likely to invest sufficient time and money in properly securing their websites. SWEPT will investigate the possibility for developing a cost-effective, automated and easy to implement solution to this challenge. The SWEPT solution addresses primarily SME website designers and developers as well as website administrators (webmasters), as the solution integrates both preventive design time mechanisms and reactive measures. The solution could also be integrated in security products of web security companies.

The SWEPT project will deliver two business showcases addressing different industrial applications where end-users will validate the SWEPT solution to improve the security of their websites, increasing protection against known threats and reducing vulnerabilities.

The SWEPT consortium is led by TECNALIA (Spain) and includes EUROHELP (Spain), MONTIMAGE (France), EVERIS (Spain), CYBERDEFCON (UK), Emaze Networks S.p.A. (Italy), S21sec Labs (Spain), Amis d.o.o. (Slovenia), CSIS Security Group (Denmark), ARSYS (Spain) and ARIMA (Spain).

*Contact:*

*Erkuden Rios ([erkuden.rios@tecnalia.com](mailto:erkuden.rios@tecnalia.com))*

*Project Manager*

# SWEPT



Figure. SWEPT participants at Kick-off meeting in Bilbao.