

Drone Security Index

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has fundamentally changed the character of modern warfare. The large-scale employment of unmanned systems has demonstrated that relatively inexpensive technologies can generate dramatic effects against civilian people and infrastructure, military forces, critical infrastructure and national economies. While European governments increasingly recognise this transformation, they still lack a common methodology for translating operational lessons learned from Ukraine into national defence and security planning, military transformation and resilience policies.

To address this gap, [New Age Defence](#) together with [BRDO](#) are developing the **Drone Security Index**. The initiative is not intended to produce another analytical report on drone warfare. Its objective is to develop a practical and repeatable methodology that allows European countries to systematically translate Ukraine's operational experience into national security and defence adaptation strategies and evaluate their preparedness not only for warfare, but for modern technology-enabled hybrid threats, identify capability gaps and prioritise security and defence adaptation. The Drone Security Index is based on a thorough evaluation of a country's capacity to respond effectively at every stage and across different threat scenarios of countering drone threats. The model encompasses four interrelated groups of indicators: prevention; detection; response; and recovery. Each group has its own results, enabling disparities in capacity development to be identified and specific systemic gaps to be pinpointed. It will help identify whether a country is better prepared for limited incidents, sustained hybrid pressure or high-intensity military contingency, and which domains require urgent improvement. By translating preparedness gaps into identifiable capability needs, the Drone Security Index can also provide industry with a clearer understanding of where European governments need technological, industrial and operational solutions.

The final concept of the methodology is currently being verified by government and military experts. The executive summary of the methodology as a whole is scheduled for presentation in mid-September 2026, after which the final version will be published as an open European framework at the digital platform. It will enable governments, armed forces, think tanks and research institutions to conduct comparable national assessments and contribute them to a common European analytical Drone Security Index platform. These products will be openly available to governments, armed forces, think tanks and research institutions wishing to conduct comparable assessments of their own countries, contribute results to the Initiative's platform and monitor changes in the Drone Security Index over time. Partner organisations will be invited to contribute new country assessments to the common European platform, creating a continuously expanding evidence base for defence adaptation across Europe. For defence companies, this creates an opportunity to contribute Ukraine's battlefield-tested experience to the formation of European capability priorities, technological roadmaps and future industrial cooperation.

Germany has been selected as the pilot country to validate this methodology due to its central role within NATO's collective defence architecture. Using publicly available information and expert consultation with government representatives, military practitioners, think tanks, researchers, infrastructure experts and defence industry stakeholders will assess Germany's

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current level of preparedness and Drone Security Index. The findings of the Germany pilot assessment and the Drone Security Index will be translated into practical policy recommendations. The recommendations will be directly linked to the identified gaps. Recommendations will be structured by time horizon: short-term actions for 1–2 years, medium-term priorities for 3–5 years. Based on the results of the annual assessment - which involves a survey and an evaluation of the implementation of policy recommendations - the Drone Security Index will be reviewed once a year.

This stage translates the analytical findings of the Initiative into a public-facing digital platform (common European analytical Drone Security Index platform). The platform will present the general assessment methodology, Germany pilot assessment, Germany Drone Security Index and policy recommendations in an accessible and interactive format. A central element of the platform will be a scenario map visualising how different drone-enabled threats could affect military readiness, critical infrastructure, defence industry, defence governance and societal resilience across Germany (and other EU countries in the future). The purpose of the scenario map is not to predict specific future attacks. It is a visual stress-test tool that will help broker public and decision-makers better understand potential creates and existing preparedness gaps.