Ciberimaginario

Open Educational Resources
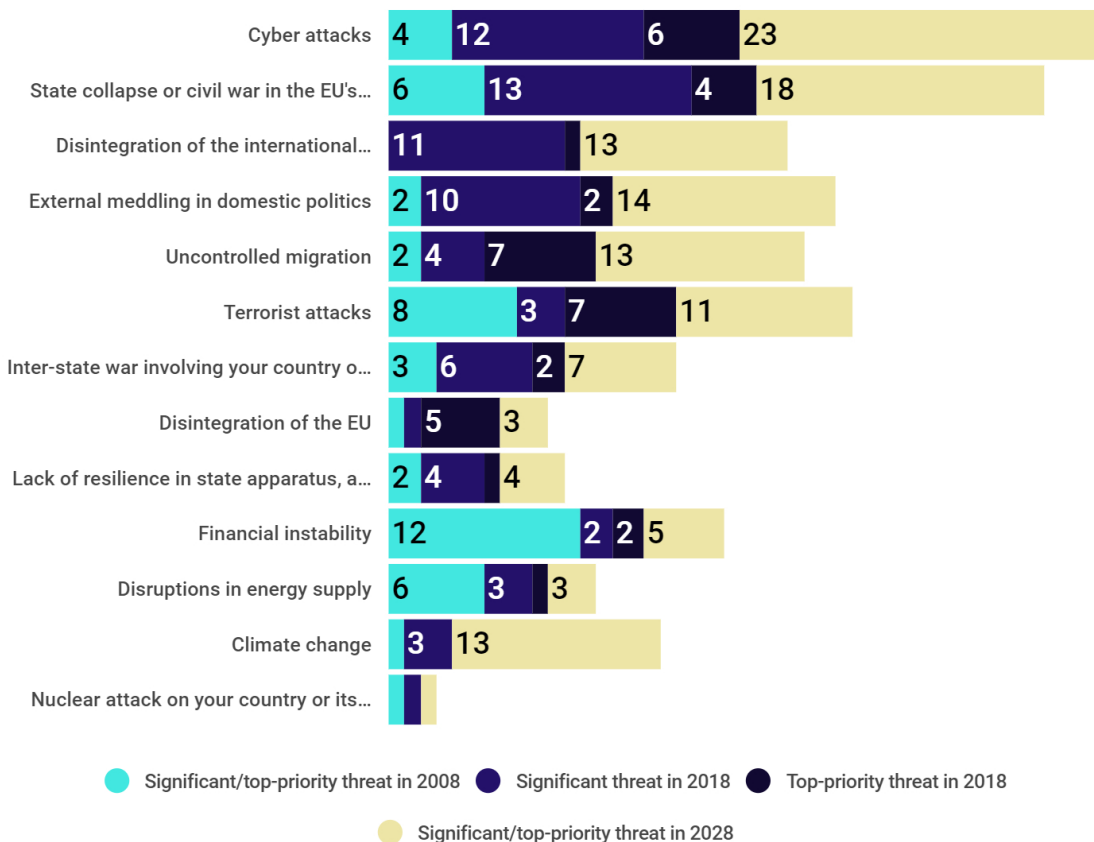
Current perceptions of threats

What are the main security threats affecting European liberal democracies in the digital era?

In 2018, cyber-attacks were perceived by Europeans as the top security priority for Europe, above state collapse or civil wars in EU's neighborhood, external meddling in domestic politics, uncontrolled migration into the country, and the deterioration of the international institutional order. More precisely, as Infographic 1 shows, 18 EU member states perceived cyber-attacks as a significant threat, with 6 of them considering cyber-attacks the top-priority threat to their security.
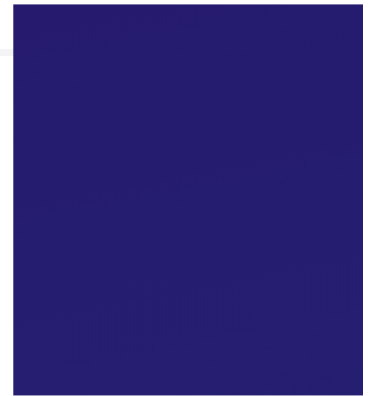
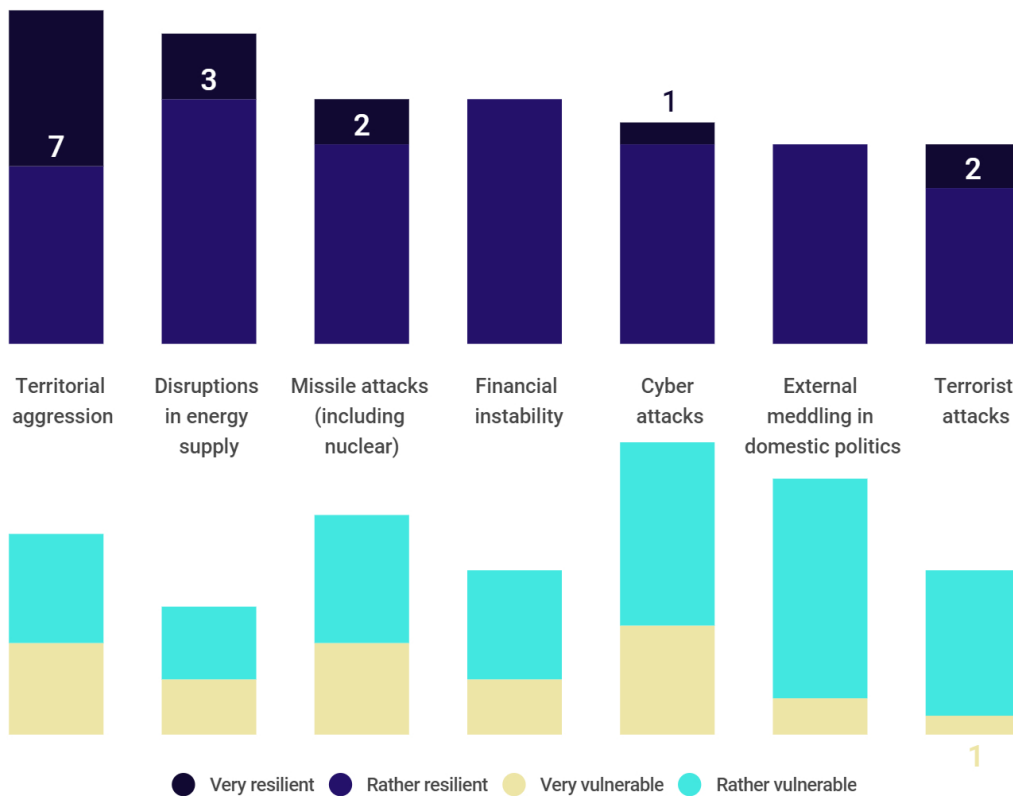# Current perceptions of threats (number of EU countries)

Threat	2008	Significant 2018	Top-priority 2018	2028
Cyber attacks	4	12	6	23
State collapse or civil war in the EU's...	6	13	4	18
Disintegration of the international...		11		13
External meddling in domestic politics	2	10	2	14
Uncontrolled migration	2	4	7	13
Terrorist attacks	8	3	7	11
Inter-state war involving your country o...	3	6	2	7
Disintegration of the EU		5		3
Lack of resilience in state apparatus, a...	2	4		4
Financial instability	12	2	2	5
Disruptions in energy supply	6	3		3
Climate change		3		13
Nuclear attack on your country or its...				

● Significant/top-priority threat in 2008 ● Significant threat in 2018 ● Top-priority threat in 2018

● Significant/top-priority threat in 2028

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1.2.3.(1)Current perceptions of threats (number of EU countries)
Infogram

Large and/or wealthy member states (such as Denmark, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, and the UK) appear to be most concerned about cyber-attacks – either in terms of their likelihood, impact, or manageability. This preoccupation must stem from an awareness of their societies' reliance on digitized systems, since these countries are widely seen as "leaders" on cyber issues within the EU. In fact, as Infographic 2 shows, 16 countries feel vulnerable to cyber-attacks, with 6 of them perceiving themselves as very vulnerable. On the contrary, 10 others feel resilient to cyber-attacks, with only one of them feeling very resilient to this kind of attacks.

Perceptions of vulnerability and resilience against security threats (number of EU countries)

Bars labeled: Territorial aggression (7), Disruptions in energy supply (3), Missile attacks (including nuclear) (2), Financial instability, Cyber attacks (1), External meddling in domestic politics, Terrorist attacks (2), (1)

Legend: Very resilient · Rather resilient · Very vulnerable · Rather vulnerable

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1.2.4(2)Perceptions of vulnerability and resilience against security threats (number of EU countries)
Infogram

Methodology and Resources

- Source: ECFR

OER from MOOC: Strategic Communication to Counter Security Threats in the Disinformation Era