



Skills for Digital Autonomy

Empowering a Resilient Society



Under the Auspices of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU 2026
Under the Auspices of the President of the Republic of Cyprus

Friday, 5 June, Nicosia, Cyprus



Organiser:



Co-organiser:



Platinum sponsor:



MORNING SESSION

THEME: STRATEGIC DIALOGUE & POLICY PERSPECTIVES

PROGRAM (EUC Cultural Center)

EVENT MODERATOR

Mr Manolis Kyriacou, Press Officer of the Office of the Commissioner of Communications

08:30 - 09:00

REGISTRATIONS

09:00 - 09:35

WELCOMING SPEECH

- Prof Andreas Efstathiou, Rector, European University Cyprus

Introducing the European University Cyprus (short video)

OPENING REMARKS

- Dr Nicodemos Damianou, Deputy Minister Ministry of Research, Innovation & Digital Policy

- Mr Charalampos Efstratiou, Director General, Human Resource Development Authority (HRDA)

- Ms Christiane Kirketerp de Viron, Acting Director for Cybersecurity and Trust in DG CONNECT

09:40 - 10:30

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: BUILDING DIGITAL AUTONOMY IN EUROPE

Moderators:

- Mrs Argyro Chatzopoulou, Co-founder of Apiroplus Solutions
- Dr Yianna Danidou, Assistant Professor in Cybersecurity, EUC

Panelists:

- Dr Evangelos Ouzounis, European Network Information Security (ENISA), Head of Capacity Building Unit, Leading services or products (ECSF), Awareness raising in a Box, Cyber Europe Exercise, European Cybersecurity Challenge (ECSC)

- Mr George Michaelides, Commissioner of Communications, Republic of Cyprus, Computer Engineering & Communication Systems, led the Cyprus' National Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communication

- Mr Demetris Skourides, Chief Scientist of the Republic of Cyprus, Chief AI Strategist, Technology & Innovation Diplomat

- Mr Michail Bletsas, Governor, National Cybersecurity Authority of Greece

- Mrs Kyriaki Pantziarou, Director, Directorate of Digital Policy and Communications, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation & Digital Policy, Government of the Republic of Cyprus

10:30 - 11:00

COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

11:00 - 11:45

INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION: SKILLS FOR SOVEREIGNTY & RESILIENCE

Moderators:

Dr Evangelos Ouzounis, European Network Information Security (ENISA), Head of Capacity Building Unit

Contributors:

- Mr Gerd Müller, Co-Founder and Member of the board of ECSO and Sales Director EU Institutions at secunet International

- Ms Rehana Schwinninger-Ladak (ONLINE), Deputy Director for the Data, and Head of the Unit "Interactive technologies, Digital for Culture and Education", European Commission

- Mr Manos Iatrelis, Chief of Marketing & Communication, Sphynx

- Mrs Georgia Solomou, Founder & President Women4Cyber (W4C) Cyprus, Managing Partner OSPHERA

- Mrs Ingrid Camilleri, Chief Digital Officer at Cablenet Communication Systems PLC

Key Topics:

- Cybersecurity skills for resilience
- AI skills as enablers of sovereignty
- Digital autonomy skills in public administrations, nationally, regionally and EU

11:45 - 12:30

PRESENTATIONS: LOCAL BEST PRACTICES & EU-BACKED INITIATIVES

Moderators:

Dr Yianna Danidou, Assistant Professor in Cybersecurity, EUC

Contributors:

- Mr Gerd Müller, Co-Founder and Member of the board of ECSO and Sales Director EU Institutions at secunet International

- Dr Luigi Rebuffi, Secretary General, VP & founder at Women4Cyber (W4C) Foundation, Founder & former Secretary General of European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), Member of the Board of Directors of Yes We Hack

- Mr Polyvios Hadjiyangou, Head of Unit Operations, European Cybersecurity competence center (ECCC)

- Mr Davide Iaccarino, Project Manager on Cybersecurity at DIGITAL SME (European DIGITAL SME Alliance), Enabling SMEs through digital transition

- Mr Polis Peratikos, Head of the National Coordination Center (NCC-CY), Digital Security Authority (DSA)

12:30 - 13:00

EU-FUNDED ACTIONS SHOWCASE

CADMUS: Mr Tomislav Dominković, University Algebra Bernays

CONVERT: Mr Emiliano Mungiovino, CESIE ETS

CURIUM: Mrs Argyro Chatzopoulou, Apiroplus Solutions

GIRLS2CYBER: Dr Marina Appiou Nikiforou, European University Cyprus

IQ DEFENCE: Mr Tomislav Dominković, University Algebra Bernays

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH BREAK

AFTERNOON PRACTICE SESSION

THEME: APPLIED PRACTICES – BUILDING RESILIENCE ON THE GROUND

PROGRAM (EUC Cultural Center)

14:00 - 14:45

AUDIENCE FORUM: AI & CYBER AWARENESS FOR SMES

Moderator:

Mr Theodoros Loukaidis, Director General at Research & Innovation Foundation

Contributors:

- Mr Marios Ioannides, EU AI act and obligations for SMEs, AI Team Coordinator, Commissioner of Communications, National Competent Authority for the EU AI Act (7' presentation)
- Mr Davide Iaccarino, Project Manager on Cybersecurity at DIGITAL SME, European DIGITAL SME Alliance, Co-Founder Kairos Protocol
- Mr Kyriacos Nicolaou, Managing Director, QSecure
- Mr Christoforos Christofi, CEO of ChannellIT Group
- Mr Christis Christoforou, Director and Co-founder of Finalogic

14:45 - 15:45

FIRESIDE CHAT: INFORMED CITIZENSHIP IN PRACTICE

Moderator:

Mrs Stella Tsitsoula, President of the Hellenic Cybersecurity Institute, Vice President of Women4Cyber Greece, CEO of RED.comm

Contributors:

- Mrs Jodie Jackson (ONLINE), Informed, resilient & prepared citizens
- Mrs Constantia Michaelidou, Officer of the Radio, Television & Digital Services Authority

15:45 - 16:30

AUDIENCE FORUM: DIGITAL LITERACY & CRITICAL THINKING IN YOUTH

Moderator:

Dr Charis Xinari, Associate Professor in Critical and Cultural Theory

Contributors:

- Mr Gerd Müller, Co-Founder and Member of the board of ECSO and Sales Director EU Institutions at secunet International
- Dr Michal Boni, Former Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Former Minister of Administration & Digitisation of Poland, Former Head of Strategic Advisors to Prime Minister Donald Tusk
- Dr Celia Hadjichristodoulou, Founder/Managing Director of GrantXpert Consulting & Administrative Director of EUC Future Skills Hub
- Dr Antigoni Themistokleous, Officer of the Radio, Television & Digital Services Authority
- Mrs Maria Miltiadou, Deputy Executive Director, Cyprus Youth Board
- Mrs Anna Tsiarta, Educational Officer, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute

16:30 - 17:15

PANEL DISCUSSION: DIGITAL GENDER INCLUSION

Moderators:

Mrs Georgia Solomou, Founder & President Women4Cyber (W4C) Cyprus, Managing Partner OSPHERA

Contributors:

- Mrs Josie Christodoulou, Republic of Cyprus, Commissioner for Gender Equality, Chairs the National Machinery for Women's Rights (NMWR)
- Dr Luigi Rebuffi, Secretary General, VP & founder at Women4Cyber (W4C) Foundation, Founder & former Secretary General of European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), Member of the Board of Directors of Yes We Hack
- Dr Charis Xinari, Associate Professor in Critical & Cultural Theory, Head of the EUC Language Centre, Board of Directors of the Centre of Excellence & Innovation in the Social Sciences, the Arts, the Humanities (Soscieath)

17:15 - 18:00

PANEL DISCUSSION: SECURE & RESILIENT E-GOVERNANCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Moderators:

Dr Luigi Rebuffi, Secretary General, VP & founder at Women4Cyber (W4C) Foundation, Founder & former Secretary General of European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), Member of the Board of Directors of Yes We Hack

Contributors:

- Mr George Michaelides, Commissioner of Communications, Republic of Cyprus, Computer Engineering & Communication Systems, led the Cyprus' National Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communication
- Mr Paraskevas Panayi, Senior Officer - Directorate of Cybersecurity at Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy - Government of the Republic of Cyprus
- Prof. Abdelmadjid Bouabdallah, leads the Networking & Cybersecurity research group at the University of Technology of Compiègne (UTC), France

18:00 - 18:15

INTERACTIVE REFLECTION & WRAP-UP SESSION

Moderated by Dr Yianna Danidou Assistant Professor in Cybersecurity, European University Cyprus

18:15 - 20:30

CLOSED NETWORKING RECEPTION (SPONSORS & INVITED STAKEHOLDERS)

PARALLEL STRAND – WORKSHOP

FROM REGULATION TO CAPABILITY: OPERATIONALISING NIS2 AND THE CYBER RESILIENCE ACT THROUGH SKILLS MAPPING

IQ DEFENCE coordination meeting – Algebra Bernays University, Croatia

PROGRAM (The Summit Meeting Room)

14:30 - 14:45

WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION & CONCEPTUAL FRAMING, FOCUS AREAS:

- Distinguishing regulatory compliance from operational readiness
- Structural capability gaps across organisations and sectors
- The role of skills frameworks, competencies, and professional profiles in resilience-building
- Common implementation challenges observed across Member States

14:45 - 15:15

INTERACTIVE GROUP EXERCISE: MAPPING REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS TO ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITIES

Participants will work in facilitated groups analysing selected regulatory obligations within different organisational environments, including:

- SMEs
- Public authorities
- Operators of Essential Services
- Supervisory and regulatory bodies

Example thematic areas:

- Incident response readiness
- Cyber risk management
- Supply chain security
- Governance and accountability mechanisms

Participants will identify:

- Required competencies and professional roles
- Existing organisational capability gaps
- Training and workforce development needs

15:15 - 15:45

PLENARY DISCUSSION & CROSS-SECTOR SYNTHESIS MODERATED DISCUSSION BRINGING TOGETHER INSIGHTS FROM ALL WORKSHOP GROUPS

Key Discussion Themes:

- Recurring implementation barriers
- Differences in interpretation of regulatory requirements
- Cross-sector capability challenges
- Coordination needs between policy, academia, industry, & public administration

15:45 - 16:00

WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS & SKILLS ALIGNMENT BRIEF

FINAL SYNTHESIS AND CONSOLIDATION OF WORKSHOP OUTCOMES INTO A STRUCTURED CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Expected Outcomes:

- Identification of core competence and workforce gaps
- Recommendations for future skills-development initiatives
- Input for policy coordination and training frameworks
- Foundations for a “Conference Skills Alignment Brief” to support future resilience and capability-building actions

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