

Interinstitutional Kick-off Event 2025 for the European Cybersecurity Month



Building cybersecurity
capacity through
behavioural change:

GAME ON!



1 OCTOBER 2025



EUROPEAN
CYBER
SECURITY
MONTH

ABOUT

Since 2018, EU institutions, bodies and agencies gather to officially kick-off the European Cybersecurity Month (ECSM). They alternate in organising and hosting the event.

The European Commission, through the CyberAware programme is organising the interinstitutional kick-off event for the ECSM on 1 October 2025.

This year's campaign marks the 13th anniversary of the ECSM and will focus on the human factor in cybersecurity, particularly the challenges related to skilled resources in cybersecurity, the importance of behavioural change for a safe online experience, and gaming as an effective way of achieving it. Let's shift the mindset, grow the talent, and game our way to a more cybersecure Europe.

The event will be held in the European Commission (MADOU building) and web streamed to the general public. Staff from European Union entities are welcome to attend in person.



09:30-09:40 Welcome & Opening remarks

By Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy

09:40-10:40 High level management on implementing the cybersecurity regulation

This panel will focus on the strategic importance of establishing a common level of cybersecurity maturity across all Union entities. It will look into the achievements to date and challenges and opportunities for the years ahead.

Moderator: Saâd Kadhi, Director of CERT-EU.

Speakers: Veronica Gaffey, Director-General of DIGIT, European Commission; Lorenzo Mannelli, Director-General ITEC, European Parliament; Sven Egyedy, Director-General DITEC, Council of the EU; Raluca Lavinia Peica, Director-General for Information, Court of Justice of the EU; Wojciech Wiewiórowski, European Data Protection Supervisor.

10:40-11:35 High level management on challenges and opportunities related to cybersecurity resources required to implement the regulation

This panel will address cybersecurity resources gaps identified, and efforts needed to achieve the successful implementation of the regulation. The discussion will explore collaborative approaches and new ways of working among Union entities to share capabilities and knowledge and to foster innovative solutions in overcoming challenges.

Moderator: Grzegorz Minczakiewicz, Director of Cybersecurity, European Commission.

Speakers: Dolores Seoane, Director for Innovation and Information Technology (DIIT), EESC-ECR; Luca Tagliaretti, Executive Director ECCC; Evangelos Ouzounis, Head of Capacity Building Unit, ENISA; Philipp Amann, Head of Digital Security (Cybersecurity) Division ECB.

11:35-12:15 Crisis management in the EU : cultivating effective collaboration for enhanced shared situational awareness

In the rapidly evolving landscape of digital threats, the European Union strengthens its approach to cyber crisis management. As part of the recent EU Blueprint on Cyber Crisis Management, this session delves into the critical need for bolstering shared awareness information across the European Union Institutions, Bodies and Agencies (EUIBAs), Member States, and diverse sectors.

Moderator: Christian D'Cunha, Head of Unit Cyber Coordination, DG CNECT, European Commission.

Speakers: Manon Le Blanc, Coordinator for Cyber Issues, EEAS; Pawel Pawlinski, Polish CERT, Chair of the CSIRTs network; Joanna Swiatkowska, ECSO Secretary-General; Jo De Muynck, Head of the Operational Cooperation Unit, ENISA.

12:15-13:30 Lunch break + Cybersecurity information stands

During the lunch break attendees will have the opportunity to engage with interactive exhibits and demonstrations showcasing the latest cybersecurity awareness raising tools and methodologies from Union entities and specialised organisations.

13:30-14:20

Capacity building and addressing the skills gap and gender balance in cybersecurity

This session on building cybersecurity capacity and addressing the skills gap will delve into educational strategies and workforce development initiatives aimed at cultivating a skilled, gender balanced cybersecurity workforce to meet increasing demands.

Moderator: Liliana Musetan, Head of Unit Cybersecurity Governance and Compliance (DITEC.3.A), Council of the European Union.

Speakers: Radu-Bogdan Arcuş, Cybersecurity expert, ENISA; Ann Mennens, CyberAware Programme Manager, European Commission; Krassimira Bogdanova, Head of Cybersecurity Governance Unit, European Parliament; Anne-Sophie Diehl, DG CNECT Cybersecurity Skills Academy Supervisor, European Commission.

14:20-15:10

Achieving behavioural change

Experts will expand on the psychology behind cybersecurity behaviours and discuss mechanisms to promote a cybersecurity-first mindset among individuals and organisations.

Moderator: Ann Mennens, CyberAware Programme Manager, European Commission.

Speakers: Anastasiya Tretyak, People Security Offering Lead, EY Belgium; Enrico Frumento, Cybersecurity Research Lead, Cefriel - Politecnico di Milano; Steven Debruyne, Cybersecurity Leader & Awareness Expert - NMBS/SNCB.

15:10-15:30

Break

15:30-16:20

Gaming to enhance the human factor

This panel will highlight how gamification techniques can be effectively employed to enhance user engagement and reinforce cybersecurity awareness and best practices across diverse audiences.

Moderator: Roberto Barcellan, Head of Unit DIGIT S.1, European Commission.

Speakers: Sónia Martins, EC3 Europol; Monica Pellegrino, European Central Bank; Denislava Simeonova, European Parliament; Noémie Honoré, Wavestone; Márton Szabó, CERT-EU.

16:20-17:15

Women in IT

This panel will officially launch the interinstitutional 'Women in IT Network'. Despite the rapid growth of IT, women remain underrepresented in this sector at EU Institutions level. DIGIT is leading this initiative that empowers women in IT roles by fostering connections, sharing knowledge, and supporting career growth and mobility.

Moderator: Natalia Aristimuño-Perez, Director Change Management and Resources DG DIGIT, European Commission.

Speakers: Dolores Seoane, Director for Innovation and Information Technology (DIIT), EESC-ECR; Raluca Lavinia Peica, Director-General for Information, Court of Justice of the EU; Natalia Przylepa, Head of Cloud Engineering and Operations Platforms Unit, European Investment Bank.

17:15-17:25

Closing remarks

17:25

Networking cocktail