



# 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)

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)
  - Dr Despina Spanou, European Commission, Deputy Director-General, DG CNECT, Principal Adviser for Cybersecurity & cross cutting issues, Head of Cabinet for the Vice-President of the European Commission for Promoting the European Way of Life (RECORDED SPEECH)
- 

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, Planning Officer A, Coordinator for the Digital Policy & Communications Directorate, 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:

- Prof. George Spanoudakis, Founder & CEO Sphynx
- Dr Alexander Schellong, European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), Executive Vice President at Schwarz Digits (Schwarz Group) | Trusted cyber ecosystems
- Mrs Georgia Solomou, Founder & President Women4Cyber (ECSO), 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:

- Dr Alexander Schellong, Member of the Board of Directors, European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), Executive Vice President at Schwarz Digits (Schwarz Group)
  - Mr Luigi Rebuffi, Secretary General, VP and founder at Women4Cyber (W4C), Founder and former Secretary General of European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), Member of the Board of Directors of Yes We Hack, Leading digital upskilling
  - 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:** Dr 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

---

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:**

Theodoros Loukaidis, Director General @ 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
- Mr Rik Viergever, Partnerships, Public Affairs & Fair Tech Lead at Murena, Social Entrepreneur
- Mr Demetris Skourides, Chief Scientist of the Republic of Cyprus, Chief AI Strategist, Technology & Innovation Diplomat
- 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:**

- Dr Alexander Schellong, European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), Executive Vice President at Schwarz Digits (Schwarz Group), Trusted cyber ecosystems
- 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 DISSION: DIGITAL GENDER INCLUSION**

**Moderators:**

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

**Contributors:**

- Mrs Josie Christodoulou, Republic of Cyprus, Commissioner for Gender Equality, Chairs the National Machinery for Women's Rights (NMWR)
- Mr Luigi Rebuffi, Secretary General, VP & founder at Women4Cyber (W4C), 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:**

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

**Contributors:**

- Dr Nicodemos Damianou, Ministry of Research, Innovation & Digital Policy, Deputy Minister, IT and Information Security professional
- Mr Demetris Skourides, Chief Scientist of the Republic of Cyprus, Chief AI Strategist, Technology & Innovation Diplomat
- 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

Gold sponsors:



Silver sponsors :



Supporters:

