

# DIGITAL GROWTH AND CYBER RESILIENCE: WHAT ROLE FOR CYBER DIPLOMACY?



## Cyber Consultations with the Western Balkans Partners

27-29 June 2022,

Hotel Europe, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

This event is organised in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme

### Context

The Western Balkans continue to take active steps towards strengthening the resilience of their national cybersecurity ecosystems in response to a growing threat landscape. Regional economies have developed relevant legislation, established new institutions, and built up technical and operational capacities to respond to crisis in Cyberspace, often with support from the international community. Western Balkan economies have also forged bilateral and multilateral partnerships, often moving towards EU and NATO approaches.

For the European Union, cybersecurity investment remains a priority in the region, with the EU cybersecurity strategy expressly stating that in the Western Balkans, "efforts should support the development of legislation and policies of partner countries in line with relevant EU cyber diplomacy policies and standards". While there are already many successful investments and capacity building projects coming from EU Member States, institutions and other international actors, meaningful and long-term results will require a move to a more holistic approach to the internal and external dimensions of cybersecurity policy in the region.

To feed into this reflection, the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme will host a series of activities aimed to better understand the security environment across the region, identify common interests and opportunities for cooperation in strengthening cyber resilience at the national, regional and global levels.

The programme is designed to maximise interaction between the participants and provide concrete tools and knowledge that can be further explored after the conference. Since this meeting comes at the tail end of a series of engagements with the Western Balkans region, we will use this event as an opportunity to draw conclusions and concrete actions beyond June 2022.

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# Agenda

27 June 2022

09:30-10:00 Registration and coffee

10:00-10:15 **Welcome and opening remarks**

**Patryk PAWLAK**

Brussels Executive Officer and Project Director, EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct

**Krassimir NIKOLOV**

Head of the European Integration, Political, Press and Information Section, Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Georges VAN MONTFORT (video message)**

Deputy Director, UNDP Representation Office in Brussels

10:15-11:30 **Session I: Digital transformation in crisis: reconciling growth, security, and (geo)politics**

Cybercrime and malicious activities by state and non-state actors continue to pose a fundamental challenge for the digital transition of our economies and societies. Their mitigation has been a primary focus of the EU's engagement with partner countries in the Western Balkans. However, digital transformation is not just about new technologies, but also requires concrete political decision and commitments regarding the overhaul of organizational structures, work processes, skills, culture and mindset, as well as effective cooperation between public and private sectors. What lessons from the ongoing reforms and transformation processes can we identify across the region and the EU? How do we ensure a broad and sustainable digital transition that is effective and human-centric? How do we accelerate growth that is also underpinned by priorities around sustainability and security?

*Chair* **Tobias TSCHAPPE**

Portfolio Advisor for Digital Transformation, GIZ, Germany

*Speakers* **Edin SEREZLIC**

Justice and Security Sector Leader, United Nations Development Programme

**Maja LAKUSIC**

Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Serbia

**Argena PRENDI**

Head of Cyber Incidents Monitoring Unit - National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security, Albania

11:30-11:45 Coffee/tea break

## 11:45-13:00 Session II: Confidence-building measures at the service of digital transformation

In the context of the war in Ukraine, building trust and confidence while preventing conflict in cyberspace has taken on a new level of significance in this multilateral setting. Although the issue has been discussed in international venues for quite some time, the commitment to voluntary norms of responsible state behaviour and the application of international law is still questionable in certain parts of the world. The EU and several other like-minded countries have put in place their own mechanisms to counter malicious use of cyberspace, including mechanisms to support allies and partners. In this context, how can the EU work together to strengthening the positions of the Western Balkans countries as contributors to regional stability, as well as the overall integrity of multilateral cybersecurity governance in the face of armed conflict?

*Chair* **Aude GÉRY**

Post-doctoral researcher, GEODE, Paris 8 University, France

*Speakers* **John REYELS**

Head of Staff, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

**Szilvia TOTH**

Cyber Security Officer, Transnational Threats Department, OSCE

**Nebojša JOKIĆ**

Executive Director, Cybersecurity Network Foundation, Serbia

13:00 – 14:15 Lunch

## 14:15-15:30 Session III: Strengthening state and societal cyber resilience: what role for cyber diplomacy?

From energy grids and public utility networks to healthcare facilities and hospitals, critical infrastructure is increasingly targeted by cyber-attacks. As a result, building cyber resilience has become a priority for national, regional and global cyber capacity building cooperation, and the EU increasingly seeks to protect its critical information infrastructure by also strengthening resilience globally. In the Eastern Partnership countries, building collective resilience will require integrating cybersecurity into broader national and regional development strategies, and investing in institutional, political, regulatory and technical capacity. How can the EU and the Western Balkans partners work together to make critical infrastructures in Europe more resilient to cyber-attacks? What do different European CII-related threat perceptions look like, what best practices have been developed, and how effective are these in crisis situations? Finally, what is the role of cyber diplomacy in strengthening cyber resilience?

*Chair* **Patryk PAWLAK**

Project Director, EU Cyber Direct; Brussels Executive Officer, EU Institute for Security Studies

*Speakers* **Tamara TAFRA**  
Counsellor, Cyber Issues, Hybrid Threats and Disinformation,  
Permanent Representation of Croatia to the EU, Belgium

**Caroline TIMON**  
Deputy Head of Cyber Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France

**Denisa KURTAGIC**  
Ministry of Defence, Montenegro

15:30-16:00 Coffee/tea break  
16:00-17:30 **Workshop I: Building a Robust Cyber Ecosystem –  
Lessons from the EU**

*Organised in cooperation with CONCORDIA Project*

Building cyber resilience that can underpin digital development necessitates a comprehensive whole-of-society approach to strengthening regional cybersecurity. This session seeks to explore, how we build cyber ecosystems and strengthen cooperation between different stakeholder groups? How can agencies and stakeholders in the Western Balkans participate in the EU cyber ecosystem?

*Speakers* **Aljosa PASIC**  
ATOS, CYBERSEC4Europe and Concordia Projects, Spain

19:30-21:30 **Dinner**

*Basca Kod Ene, Prvi bataljon Sedrenika 22  
Transportation will be organised from the hotel to the restaurant.  
Departure at 19:00 from the hotel.*

28 June 2022

09:00-09:30 Welcome and coffee

09:30-12:00 **Workshop II: Critical infrastructure protection**

*Organised in cooperation with PRECINCT Project*

The purpose of this workshop will be to give participants practical insights into the challenges of critical infrastructure protection based on the experience of selected EU-funded initiatives and member states. The workshop will provide an overview of some key elements such as situational awareness, coordinated response and approaches to cyber-physical security management. It will also present the opportunities for partners from the Western Balkans to benefit from the ongoing EU-led initiatives and projects.

*Speakers* **Stefan SCHAUER**  
Innovation Manager, PRECINCT Project, Austrian Institute of  
Technology, Austria

10:45-11:00 Coffee/tea break

12:00-13:00 Lunch

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### 13:00-14:30 Workshop II: Open tools and instruments: cybercrime

Closing the gap in operational capacities of individual states in the fight against cybercrime is one of the key priorities for the international community. While some of the challenges require a structured approach through cybercrime capacity building projects, there are already several ongoing initiatives that can assist law enforcement in pursuing cyber criminals. During this session we will discuss a range of opensource tools, paying particular attention to the FREETOOL project and the INSPECTr platform. In particular, the following FREETOOL tools will be presented: FiRST (a tool designed to assist decision making for non-technical first responders and collect evidence during a live data forensic search) and FoBro (a tool designed to make OSINT investigations as easy as possible for Law Enforcement). We will also provide an overview of the European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association and give an overview of the CYCLOPES project.

*Speaker* **Michael O'CALLAGHAN**

Senior Cybercrime/Cybersecurity Analyst, Centre for Cybersecurity & Cybercrime Investigation, University College Dublin, Ireland

### 14:30-15:00 Coffee/tea break

### 15:00-16:30 Session IV: Countering cybercrime: strengthening criminal justice through cyber diplomacy

Cybercrime continues to pose a fundamental transnational challenge with major implications for economies and societies, and its mitigation has been a primary target for the EU's investment in the Western Balkans. Nevertheless phishing, ransomware, defacement, distributed denial of service and mail spoofing incidents are prevalent in the region, where both commercial entities and state agencies are being increasingly targeted by cybercrime. How can we strengthen the international cooperation and coordination between law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities, and other stakeholders at the regional level? In the context of the new UN ad-hoc committee process, how do we ensure effective international cooperation on cybercrime?

*Chair* **Nayia BARMPALIOU**

Project Lead on Cybercrime, EU Cyber Direct

*Speakers* **Engelbert THEUERMANN**

Ambassador for Cyber Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria

**Predrag PUHARIC**

Professor, Faculty for Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Security Studies, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Blagoje GLEDOVIĆ**

Senior Advisor, Directorate for International Cooperation, Ministry of Justice, Montenegro

### 16:30-17:00 Conclusions

18:00-19:30 Reception hosted by the Embassy of Slovenia and the Embassy of France in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
*Embassy of Slovenia, Maglajska 4 71000 Sarajevo*

## 29 June 2022 EU-Western Balkans Workshop on Priorities for Cyber Cooperation

09:00-09:30 Welcome and coffee

09:30-12:30 **After the dust settles: what priorities and actions beyond June 2022?**  
Building on the series of meetings focused on the Western Balkans as a region that were organised by different stakeholders between May and June 2022 as well as taking note of the most recent political developments, the purpose of this session will be to design an agenda for action to ensure a proper follow up to the commitments made. This meeting is organised in cooperation with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*Chair* **Patryk PAWLAK**  
Brussels Executive Officer, EU Institute for Security Studies

*Speakers* **Cedric GROUSSET**  
Embassy of France in Serbia

**Matic BURKELJC**  
Directorate for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

10:30-11:00 Coffee/tea break

12:30-13:30 Lunch

## 29 June 2022 Cyber Diplomacy Retreat

13:30-13:40 Welcome and opening remarks

13:40-14:00 What is at stake for global cyber diplomacy?

14:00-15:00 EU bilateral and regional cyber diplomacy cooperation with the Western Balkans partners

15:00-15:30 Coffee/tea break

15:30-16:30 EU cyber diplomacy cooperation with the Western Balkans partners in international fora

16:30 Conclusions

19:30-21:30 Dinner

*Restoran Toplik, Vuka Karadžića 250, 71123 Istočno, Novo Sarajevo*  
*Transportation will be organised from the hotel to the restaurant.*  
*Departure at 19:00 from the hotel.*