ITU Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS

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ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on enhancing trust and confidence in the use of ICTs

ITU Regional Initiative for CIS on the development and regulation of infocommunication infrastructure to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, and resilient
Regional Cybersecurity Cooperation in Western Balkans - Challenges and opportunities

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Sofia, 28th February, 2020
Who are we?

- Regional Cooperation Council - supports economies from South East Europe on their path towards the EU

- Two main strategic documents which guide our work
  - SEE 2020 Strategy (2013-2020)
  - Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP REA)
Multy-annual Action Plan

- Digital Transformation of WB (one pillar of MAP)
  - Cyber security, trust services and data protection
    - Developing (harmonising) cyber-security, data protection and privacy legal framework
    - Identifying and ensuring protection of critical infrastructure
    - Initiating a regional dialogue among CSIRTs, advancing their capacities
    - Establishing a regional dialogue among national competent authorities
What we did so far?

- Supported WB in participation at Cyber Drill trainings (in cooperation with ITU and DCAF)
- Organization of cybersecurity conferences/meetings
- Capacity building events for CSIRTs.

- Western Balkans Digital Summit
  - Skopje 2018, Belgrade 2019 and Tirana - 2\textsuperscript{nd}/3\textsuperscript{rd} April 2020

- Study on cybersecurity and online radicalization - „A New Virtual Battlefield“

- National consultations in September 2019
Challenges experienced

• Lack of human capacities (understaffed CSIRTs)

• Lack of technical capacity (a need for continuous capacity development)

• Fluctuation of labour force

• Uneven development across the region (Strategies, CSIRTs, SPoC, Designated National Competent Authorities)

• A room for improvement of cooperation with relevant organizations and EU CSIRTs.
Needs for regional cooperation

• More efficient reactions in terms of time, financial and human resources
• Learning from others experience and increasing of knowledge base
• Increasing of resilience, preparedness for reaction
• Agreed categorization of threats, vulnerabilities and incidents, as well as level of sensitivity of shared information
• Agreement on a tool to be used for information exchange among CSIRTs
• A requirement of NIS Directive - to participate in networks and to share information (Article 9, 12, Annex 1)
Planned activities in 2020

- Support WB to participate at Cyber Drill, Skopje, June 2020
- A training for CSIRTs to be organized in the second half of the year.
- A big regional cybersecurity conference in October/November 2020
- Technical assistance for e-IDAS and GDPR