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Regional Cybersecurity Cooperation in Western Balkans – Challenges and opportunities

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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 - 2nd/3rd 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

Thank you!

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