The five phases of GEIGER

1. Defining requirements (06-11/2020)

The goal of the first phase was to understand the environments and needs of micro and small enterprises (MSEs). We worked with MSEs with different levels of digital dependencies and skills (digital enablers, digitally based, digitally dependent, and start-ups), and successfully defined the two key value propositions:

- GEIGER Indicator: Dynamic, personalised tool for assessing digital security risks, and for motivating the small business owners and employees to improve their cybersecurity with practical tools and education.

- Digital Security Defenders: Easy-to-follow guidance and assistance of the MSEs by "Digital Security Defenders" – trusted employees, apprentices, or service providers (e.g. accountants) who have acquired digital security skills by following the GEIGER training programme.

2. Aligning with partners (12/2020 – 05/2021)

The second phase aims to build partnerships with professional associations, start-up ecosystems, accountancy service providers, and other stakeholders. For partners, GEIGER is a tool for raising awareness around evolving cyber threats, and for helping the small businesses within their membership and follower base to improve their digital security level.

The partners interested in testing GEIGER and bringing cybersecurity to their members will be made visible on the GEIGER homepage. The project consortium members are also happy to share their expertise in partner events and through their publications, and to investigate other forms of collaboration. Partners receive timely updates about the progress of the GEIGER project, and be invited to surveys for raising awareness about relevant cybersecurity themes among their members.

3. Testing the concept with small businesses (06-11/2021)

In the third phase, the first prototypes of the GEIGER Indicator framework and the Digital Security Defenders education will be ready, and the concept will be tested with MSEs. We will also explore constraints and business models targeting sustainability of the partnerships.

Together with the partners, we will conduct surveys, webinars, and physical workshops to raise awareness of cyber threats and gather feedback on the GEIGER concept.

4. Limited trials with MSEs (12/2021 – 05/2022)

The fourth phase will offer the partners and selected MSEs the chance for the very first trials of the end-to-end implementation of the GEIGER Indicator and Security Defenders certification.

Together with our partners, we will organise webinars and physical workshops to help the selected MSEs to try out the GEIGER solution, with the objective of gathering feedback to further improve it.

5. Open trials with all interested MSEs (06-11/2022)

The last phase of the project will allow the partners and all their members to try out the minimally viable product version of the GEIGER Indicator and the Digital Security Defenders education and certification.

With the support of our partners, we will boost the visibility of GEIGER in mass media, targeted media, and partner publications. We will also organise local conferences together with the partners, to let up to 100 000 MSEs try out GEIGER. In this phase, we will gather the final round of feedback to bring the GEIGER solution to its perfection before the Europe-wide launch.

Post-project: GEIGER spin-off (12/2022 →)

After the end of the project, our objective is to enter into partnership agreements with a mutually agreed business model and governance for the GEIGER platform, and to transition into a sustainable startup.