

Cluj Napoca, 18th September 2020

“Cyber security: Current practices and SME’s priorities”

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Demand for skills in emerging technologies such as AI, high-performance computing and whole-of-society cybersecurity are very acute, and the problem is growing as the offer lags behind market demand. Levels of preparedness and awareness are also unequal across the EU.

2020 Strategic Foresight Report – Charting the course towards a more resilient Europe

On Thursday 17th September 2020, a series of events on cyber security and SMEs priorities and practices in the context of the frequently and more aggressive incidents and attacks against European digital space, took place in Cluj Napoca, Romania. The events were organised by CLUJ IT Cluster, within GEIGER project financed by Horizon 2020 program, in partnership with BT Club and Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bistrița-Năsăud, under the umbrella of Digital Innovation Hub DIH4S.



New digital technologies offer us generous opportunities of growth and dynamic of business. However, these advantages of our digitalised society come with a cost – the vulnerability of cyberspace generated by the limitation of digital systems that are used, errors in their exploitation, and malicious attacks. Therefore, a robust cyber security is essential for establishing trust in digitalisation and digital transformation of businesses. Without it, digital society may not function. *It cannot be considered an optional supplement but an essential need of human society.*¹

The workshop was organised in two sections, an on-line section in which experts presented different materials and analysis, and a specialised support workshop for 15 companies in order

¹ ai Fovino I., Barry G., Chaudron S., Coisel I., Dewar M., Junklewitz H., Kambourakis G., Kounelis I., Mortara B., Nordvik J.p., Sanchez I. (eds.), Baldini G., Barrero J., Coisel I., Draper G., Duch-Brown N., Eulaerts O., Geneiatakis D., Joanny G., Kerckhof S., Lewis A., Martin T., Nativi S., Neisse R., Papameletiou D., Ramos J., Reina V., Ruzzante G., Sportiello L., Steri G., Tirendi S., Cybersecurity, our digital anchor – executive summary, EUR 30277 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-19959-5, doi:10.2760/33974, JRC121051

to identify cyber security scenarios for their companies. Mr. Stelian Brad, Prof. Dr. Eng., President of Cluj IT, GEIGER project Innovation Director and Mr. Samuel A. Fricker, Prof. Dr., FHNW, Switzerland, GEIGER project Manager, were always by participants side sharing with them an important volume of knowledge based on the debated topic. A body of experts in cybersecurity stood by the invited companies. Mr. Iulian Alecu, Deputy General Director of CERT-RO, President of the NIS Cooperation Grup during the Romania's Presidency of European Council, Mr. Cristian Priboi, CERT-RO projects Implementation Expert, Mr. Adrian Coleşa, conf. dr. ing., BitDefender Cyber Security Expert, Mr. Ciprian Oprea, Works Cheef Dr. Eng., BitDefender Cyber Security Team leader, Mr. Vlad Florian, Braintronix Robotic Engineer.

“The project intends to supply a more friendly solution in order to help the companies to achieve an evaluation of vulnerabilities related to cyber-attacks,” said Mr. Stelian Brad, Prof. Dr. Eng. and President of Cluj IT, at the opening speech.

“We do not wish that SMEs to become experts in cyber security, but that they gain an understanding of the risks,” said Mr. Prof. Dr. Samuel A. Fricker, Project Lead of the GEIGER project.

During this workshop, a wide range of valuable local experiences was gathered, and those experiences will contribute to building GEIGER, a viable cybersecurity solution which will, at the end of the project, be available for small and medium sized businesses around Europe.

