

Competition: Youth and Cybercrime

Terms of Reference (ToR):

1. Background and Objectives

Young people play a significant role in the digital ecosystem, both as key actors and as vulnerable groups facing cyber threats. The [Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe \(C-PROC\)](#) is launching a *Youth and Cybercrime Competition* to engage youth and youth organisations in discussions on cybercrime, digital rights, and cyber resilience. This competition aims to gather innovative ideas, perspectives, and solutions from young people worldwide to better inform policy discussions at the [Octopus Conference 2025](#).

2. Eligibility and participation

- The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates **aged 18-30** irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, religion, belief or sexual orientation.
- Participants shall submit on behalf of their youth organisations / associations where they are members.
- By submitting an entry on behalf of a youth organisation / association, the participant confirms that they have obtained the organisation's / association's consent for the submission and for the licensing of the entry as described below. Letter of support from the respective youth organisation shall be attached.
- Submissions must be original and unpublished.
- Submissions that may in any form or manner undermine the values of the CoE will be disqualified.
- The competition organisers reserve the right to withdraw a submission if there is any reason to believe that a participant has violated the competition rules.
- Entries must be in English, French or Spanish.

3. Competition topics

Participants are invited to submit an **essay** (maximum 1000 words) or **video presentation** (maximum 2 minutes long) addressing one or both of the following questions:

- **Youth perspective on cybercrime** – How do young people perceive cybercrime, and what challenges do they face in the digital world?
- **What expectations for law enforcement agencies (LEA)?** – How can law enforcement better engage with youth to prevent and address cybercrime?

4. Submission guidelines

- Deadline for submission: **5 May 2025, at 23h59 Strasbourg time (CEST)**.
- Each submission should include a brief description of the youth organisation, including its country/region of operation, thematic focus, size, and target communities it serves.
- All submissions must also include a brief personal statement explaining the motivation behind their entry. Please also mention whether you are fluent in one of the following languages: English / French / Spanish.
- Submissions should be sent to **cybercrime.events@coe.int** with the subject line: "Youth and cybercrime competition submission". For video presentations, you may post it on your social networks and provide a link to it.

5. Rights and usage

- Participants retain full copyright of their submitted essays or video presentations.
- Winners agree to grant the Council of Europe a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use, publish, and display the winning entries - whether in whole or in part - in any format and through any medium. This includes use in Council of Europe publications, websites, exhibitions, social media, and other materials, for the purposes of promoting the competition, supporting awareness-raising activities, and highlighting the work of the Council of Europe.
- Whenever a winning essay or video is used, credit will be given to both the individual author and the youth organization / association they represent, unless otherwise requested.
- Winners agree to enter into a licence agreement with the Council of Europe to formalise the above-mentioned usage rights. The Council of Europe may request written confirmation from the represented youth organisation to ensure authorisation of the submission and licensing.
- By submitting an entry, participants are deemed to have accepted these terms and agreed to abide by the rules of the competition.

6. Assessment criteria

- **Relevance to the topic:** the essay or video submission must clearly address one or both of the given questions. Off-topic essays (e.g., general internet safety, social media addiction without cybercrime focus) will score lower.
- **Diversity of perspectives:** we seek to ensure diverse perspectives are included into the competition. Preference will be given to insights from underrepresented communities.
The selection of participants will be carried by ensuring a geographical and gender balance.

- **Originality:** submissions must be the participant's original work. While AI tools may be used for research or grammar checks, fully AI-generated content will not be accepted. The jury reserves the right to conduct checks for AI-generated content and may disqualify entries that lack human originality.
- **Clarity and structure**

7. Awards and recognition

- Up to 10 winners will be selected.
- Winning essays / video presentations will be showcased at the Octopus Conference 2025 website and the C-PROC social media.
- Winners will be invited to participate in the [Octopus Conference](#) on 4-6 June 2025, attending the [Youth and cybercrime workshop](#) (travel, per diems and accommodation covered).

Take a stand against cybercrime – submit your ideas today!