

C-PROC 2014 - 2024

Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe:
Ten years of capacity building on cybercrime and electronic evidence

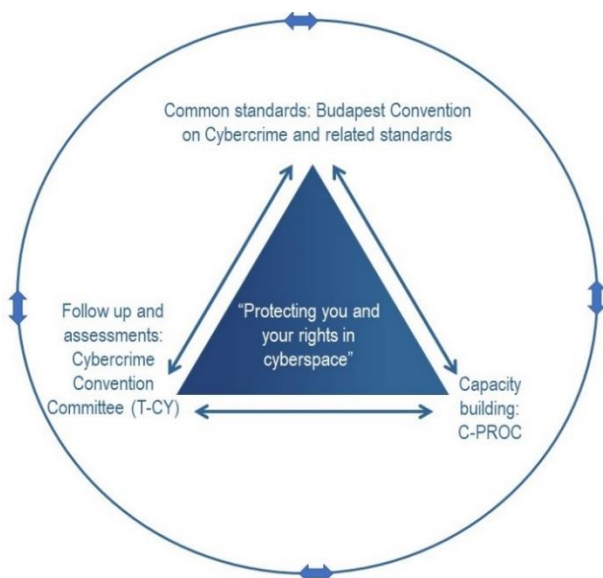
About C-PROC

In October 2013, the Council of Europe decided to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Romania to establish a dedicated Cybercrime Programme Office ([C-PROC](#)) in Bucharest with one specific task: to support countries all over the world in the strengthening of their criminal justice capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence.

C-PROC became operational in April 2014 and has since supported well over [2100 activities](#) for more than 130 countries in all regions of the world.

C-PROC capacity building: rationale

The approach of the Council of Europe on cybercrime consists of the triad of (a) common standards ([Convention on Cybercrime](#) (Budapest Convention) and related standards), (b) follow up by the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) and (c) capacity building by C-PROC. This clearly is a “unique selling point”.



Countries committed to join and implement the Convention may draw on the full range of support by C-PROC, including for example:

- Strengthening legal frameworks;

- Training and specialisation of investigators, prosecutors or judges;
- Improving interagency, public/private and international cooperation.

In line with this logic, C-PROC has not only been cooperating intensively with countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, but also with countries in Africa, the Americas or Asia-Pacific. Over time, some of these have become hubs for capacity building in their respective region, such as the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Mauritius, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka or Tonga.

Projects

Capacity building is carried out through projects that define objectives, expected outcomes and the budget to achieve these, as well as roles and responsibilities. Numerous projects have been completed since 2014.

By April 2024, projects with a volume of over EUR 32 million were in operation with a national, regional or global scope, that is, the [Octopus Project](#), [GLACY-e](#), [CyberSEE](#), [CyberEast+](#), [CyberUA](#), [CyberSouth+](#) and [CyberSPEX](#).

In the course of these ten years, C-PROC had to adapt its focus to new challenges. For example, to provide tools and enhance capacities to address ransomware offences, financial investigations related to virtual currencies, electronic evidence related to war crime and gross violations of human rights within the context of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, or to ensure that cybercrime laws do not restrict the freedom of expression beyond what is necessary and proportionate.

New standards have become available. In May 2022, the [Second Protocol](#) to the Budapest Convention on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence was opened for signature. Supporting the



implementation of this Protocol is now built into all C-PROC projects.

Impact

C-PROC has produced impact at multiple levels, starting with those thousands of criminal justice officials who are more skilled and better equipped to meet the challenges of cybercrime and e-evidence. Developing capacities by training academies to deliver training for investigators, prosecutors and judges in a sustainable manner has been a priority.

Successful investigations and prosecutions, including international operations, are being carried out all over the world, often because of the legal basis, and the skills and tools as well as the platforms for cooperation provided by C-PROC.

At the meta-level, indicators of impact by C-PROC include, for example:

- ▶ [Domestic legislation on cybercrime and e-evidence in line with the Convention:](#)
 - By 2013, some 70 States had defined offences against and by means of computers in line with the Convention.
 - By December 2023 about 130 States had done so.
- ▶ [Membership of States in the Budapest Convention:](#)
 - By 2013, 53 States were Parties (41) or had signed it (2) or been invited to accede (10).
 - By March 2024, 93 States were Parties (70), or had signed it (2) or been invited to accede (21).

In 2022 and 2023, C-PROC also facilitated signature of the new Second Protocol. By March 2024, 43 States had [signed \(of which 2 had also ratified\)](#) this Protocol.

C-PROC has been strengthening a criminal justice response to cybercrime that is not only effective but also meets human rights and rule of law, including data protection, requirements. At the policy level, C-PROC thus contributed to a free, open and global cyberspace and to the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance.

With C-PROC, the Council of Europe is a global leader on capacity building on cybercrime.

Partners

Project activities by C-PROC have been carried out in partnership with a very large number of national, regional, international, public and private sector organisations. Incredible synergies have been created.

As C-PROC depends on extra-budgetary resources, support by donors has been crucial. More than EUR 60 million have been mobilized during these first ten years. Funding by the European Union (through joint projects) and voluntary contributions by the USA, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, Estonia and others have permitted C-PROC to deliver results. And with the UN House in Bucharest, the Government of Romania provided C-PROC with office space.

The future

After ten years, C-PROC is a well-established and effective global centre of expertise for capacity building on cybercrime and e-evidence.

The interplay between the common standards of the Convention and its Protocol, the Cybercrime Convention Committee and C-PROC constantly creates innovation. This approach is unique and comprehensive. C-PROC will remain closely linked to the Budapest Convention and the T-CY as part of the “dynamic triad”. Therefore, assisting countries in the implementation of the Second Protocol – with its tools for direct cooperation with service providers, for cooperation in emergency situations, or for joint investigation teams but also its data protection safeguards to facilitate cooperation – will be a priority.

Overall, C-PROC will continue to support human rights, democracy and the rule of law in cyberspace. It will permit more people to cooperate more and better in order to make a difference.

Contact

C-PROC
Bulevardul Primaverii 48A
Bucharest, Romania
Tel +40 21 201 78 87
cybercrime@coe.int