

C-PROC 2014 - 2026

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

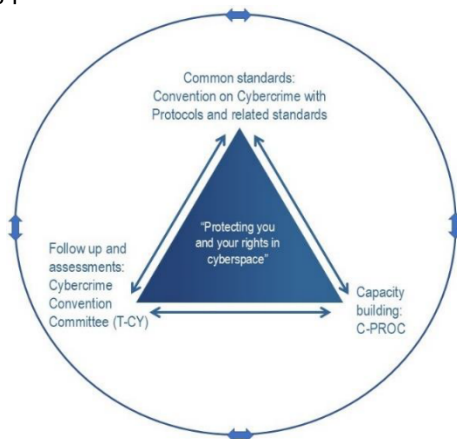
About C-PROC

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 [2700 activities](#) for more than 140 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 criminal justice professionals;
- 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, sharing from their experience with countries interested to follow and develop their capacities and capabilities to fight against cybercrime.

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 2026, projects with a volume of over EUR 40,8 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 twelve years, C-PROC had to adapt its focus to new challenges. For example, to provide tools and enhance capacities to address ransomware offences, illegal use of virtual currencies, online fraud, disinformation and foreign manipulation, 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.



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.

C-PROC maintains close cooperation with its partners to identify operational and policy synergies, promote consistent international standards, and ensure coherent implementation of cybercrime and electronic evidence frameworks grounded in the rule of law and human rights.

Functioning

Given that C-PROC operates primarily on extra-budgetary resources, Romania's support has been instrumental, notably through the provision of office space within the UN House in Bucharest, thereby contributing directly to the effective functioning and sustainability of the Office alongside major financial contributions from international donors (European Union through joint projects, and voluntary contributions from USA, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Estonia and others).

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 co-operation 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 2025 about 134 States had done so.

▶ [Membership of States in the Convention:](#)

- By 2013, 53 States were Parties (41) or had signed it (2) or been invited to accede (10).
- By March 2026, 97 States were Parties (81), or had signed it (2) or been invited to accede (14).

In 2022 and 2023, C-PROC also facilitated signature of the new Second Protocol. By March 2026, 52 States had [signed \(of which 3 had also ratified\)](#) it.

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.

The future

C-PROC's future priorities include reinforcing the dynamic triad of the Budapest Convention, the T-CY and C-PROC; mobilising additional resources to sustain the Octopus Project; supporting ratification and implementation of the Second Protocol; expanding global capacity building on online child protection, virtual assets and AI; strengthening partnerships and regional outreach; and engaging constructively with the new UN Convention against Cybercrime to promote synergies and uphold strong conditions and safeguards in line with broader Council of Europe standards.

Building on more than a decade of relevant achievements and impact, C-PROC is well positioned to consolidate and expand its role as the Council of Europe's global engine for translating cybercrime standards into effective, rights-based responses, ensuring the continued relevance of the Budapest Convention framework and strengthening human rights, democracy and the rule of law in cyberspace worldwide.

Contact

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