



CyberSouth+

Enhanced Co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence in the Southern Neighbourhood region

CyberSouth+ “Enhanced co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence in the Southern Neighbourhood region”

Launching event

17-18 April 2024

Lisbon, Portugal
Ismaili Centre
(Av. Lusíada 1, 1600-001)

supported under the CyberSouth+ project

Outline

Background and justification

Cybercrime is a complex and rapidly evolving transnational phenomenon that poses a significant threat to human rights, democracy and the rule of law as well as to national and international security. Moreover, with the increasing use of information and communication technologies, any type of crime may entail evidence on computer systems. Such electronic evidence is often stored in foreign, multiple, shifting or unknown jurisdictions; obtaining e-evidence poses major challenges to criminal justice authorities worldwide.

This is equally true for countries of the Southern Neighbourhood region, and addressing the challenges of cybercrime and electronic evidence, while upholding human rights and the rule of law, has become a priority for many MENA (Middle East and North Africa) countries that have adopted domestic legislation and taken steps towards adhering to agreements such as the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (“Budapest Convention”), the Malabo Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection or the Arab Convention on Combating Information Technology Offences, to better address this threat.

The implementation of the joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Union “CyberSouth”, from 2017 to 2023 – in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia – confirmed that addressing cyber threats requires a strategic and systematic approach, and that enhancing co-operation at national, regional and international level and with the private sector can bring significant results in the fight against cybercrime.

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The establishment of an effective criminal justice system to counter cybercrime and the need to adapt such systems to the ever-evolving cyber threats require constant investments and to sustain capacity building efforts. The Council of Europe pursues a coordinated approach in the MENA region also with related initiatives, such as the South Programme V, to strengthen capacities and to reinforce co-operation and dialogue to address the current global challenges. Moreover, the Council of Europe North-South Centre contributes to the implementation of the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy, by working with youth on many important aspects such as rule of law, human rights or corruption.

A follow up joint Council of Europe and the European Union project "CyberSouth+", which includes three new partners Egypt, Libya and, Palestine*, was proposed and agreed to continue building capacities and facilitate international co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence.

The CyberSouth+ project aims at strengthening criminal justice capacities for enhanced co-operation on cybercrime and disclosure of electronic evidence through a combination of regional and country-specific actions that will be tailored to the needs and capacities of each project country.

It will not only build upon or further consolidate achievements of the CyberSouth project, but the following themes will be added or receive stronger emphasis:

1. Legal frameworks: Support legislative revisions not only in line with the Convention on Cybercrime but also its Second Additional Protocol on electronic evidence, including its rule of law and data protection standards.
2. Capacities for investigation, prosecution and adjudication of criminal offences: Support to sustainable training programmes on cybercrime and electronic evidence and specialised training courses, including on digital forensics.
3. International co-operation: Support the development of practical guides, procedures and templates, and domestic and regional training activities for government-to-government and government-to-private co-operation across borders based on the tools of the Second Additional Protocol.
4. Synergies between criminal justice and cybersecurity responses to cyberthreats: Mechanisms for trusted co-operation and reporting between cybersecurity institutions and criminal justice authorities. This component will focus on the links between measures on cybercrime and cybersecurity.

Objective

Organised with the support of the Council of Europe North-South Centre, the launching event of the CyberSouth+ project will provide the opportunity: i) to present the results of the assessment of the progresses in the fight against cybercrime during the implementation period of the CyberSouth project (2017-2023); ii) to present the CyberSouth+ objectives, modalities of implementation and work plans (2024-2026); iii) to give an overview of current threats and trends and to exchange with partners and international organization on tools to strengthen the co-operation in the MENA region and beyond; iv) to introduce the Council of Europe legal instruments and standards on cybercrime; v) to present and discuss topics identified as priorities by all project partners.

Expected outcome

- Agreement on the results of the final evaluation of the CyberSouth project.
- Endorsement of objectives, modalities of implementation and work plans under CyberSouth+.
- Identification of main current threats and trends at global and regional level, and tools to fight against cybercrime in the MENA region.

* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe and European Union member States on this issue.

- Increased knowledge of the Council of Europe legal instruments and standards.
- Increased knowledge of the topics identified as priorities by project partners.

Participants

- Representatives from: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine*, Tunisia
- European Union: DG NEAR
- Council of Europe: C-PROC Office in Bucharest, Council of Europe North-South Centre
- Project partners
- Experts

Administrative arrangements

The event will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, in person.
Interpretation English-French-Arabic will be provided.

Agenda

Wednesday, 17 April	
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nazim Ahmad, Ismaili Imamat's Representative in Portugal • Pilar Morales, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tunis, Coordinator of the Neighbourhood Policy with the Southern Mediterranean, Council of Europe • H.E Henry Khoury, Minister of Justice of Lebanon • Stefano Dotto, Head of Sector Good Governance and Security, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission • H.E Mohamed Ben Amor, Director General, Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization – League of Arab States (AICTO-LAS) • Pedro Verdelho, Chair of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) and Representative of Portugal to the T-CY • Morgane Buttiens, Project Officer, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission • Alexander Seger, Head of Cybercrime Division, Head of Cybercrime Programme Office, Council of Europe
10:30 – 11:45	<p>Session 1: Co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends and threats at global level, Mick Jameison, Expert, Council of Europe • Trends and threats in the MENA region, Mohamed Hamdi, Team Leader in charge of the preparation of "Arab Cybersecurity Strategy", AICTO-LAS • The Budapest Convention as a tool to cooperate on cybercrime while upholding human rights, Alexander Seger, Head of Cybercrime Division, Head of Cybercrime Programme Office, Council of Europe • How to enhance co-operation among criminal justice authorities, Pedro Verdelho, Chair of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) and Representative of Portugal to the T-CY <p>Q&A</p>
11:45 – 12:00	Coffee break

12:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 2: CyberSouth / Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denise Mazzolani, CyberSouth+ Programme Manager Mick Jameison, Expert, Council of Europe <p>Q&A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<p>Lunch break</p>
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 3: CyberSouth+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CyberSouth+ objectives and implementation modalities, Denise Mazzolani, CyberSouth+ Programme Manager 2024-2026 work plan, presented by each Partner <p>Q&A</p>
15:30 – 16:15	<p>Session 4: Strengthening coordination and co-operation in the MENA region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mohamed Hamdi, Team Leader in charge of the preparation of "Arab Cybersecurity Strategy", AICTO-LAS Ourania Botsi, Project Coordinator, EuroMed Justice – presenting also on the EU SIRIUS project Francisco Manuel Trujillo, Senior Project Officer, CEPOL
16:15 – 16:30	<p>Coffee break</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Session 4: Strengthening coordination and co-operation in the MENA region (continuation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mustafa Erten, Chief, UNODC Regional Center for Combating Cybercrime in Doha Miriam Soliman, Project Manager, INTERPOL Project Momentum <p>Q&A</p>
17:00 – 17:30	<p>Conclusions</p>
<p>Thursday, 18 April</p>	
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Session 5: How to enhance public-private partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yahya Ouzen, Trust and Safety Consultant, MENA Region <p>Q&A</p>
10:30 – 11:30	<p>Session 6: Frauds, money-laundering and crypto currencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selma Batista De Sousa, Substitute, Cybercrime Department, Financial Intelligence Unit, Prosecutor General's Office, Luxembourg <p>Q&A</p>
11:30 – 11:45	<p>Coffee break</p>

11:45 – 12:45	<p>Session 7: Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julien Caumond, Head of Offences Against Person Department, National Cybercrime Centre, Operations Division - C3N, Gendarmerie Nationale, France • Sergiu Murgoci, Subcommissioner, Central Cybercrime Unit, Romanian National Police <p>Q&A</p>
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Session 8: Freedom of expression and cybercrime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Seger, Head of Cybercrime Division, Head of Cybercrime Programme Office, Council of Europe <p>Q&A</p>
15:00 – 15:30	Conclusions
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee - end of the event

Contacts

At the **Council of Europe**:

Denise MAZZOLANI
 Programme manager
 CyberSouth+ project
 Cybercrime Programme Office
 Council of Europe (C-PROC)
denise.mazzolani@coe.int
 Phone: +40 744 673 826

Rocio CERVERA
 Deputy Executive Director
 North-South Centre
 Council of Europe
rocio.cervera@coe.int

Larisa SERBAN
 Senior Project Officer
 CyberSouth+ project
 Cybercrime Programme Office
 Council of Europe (C-PROC)
larisa.serban@coe.int

Monica CIMPEANU
 Project Assistant
 CyberSouth+ project
 Cybercrime Programme Office
 Council of Europe (C-PROC)
monica.cimpeanu@coe.int

Ioana LAZAR
 Senior Project Officer
 CyberSouth+ project
 Cybercrime Programme Office
 Council of Europe (C-PROC)
ioana.lazar@coe.int