



## Action against cybercrime worldwide

### Cybercrime

Cybercrime – that is offences against and by means of computer systems – has evolved into a significant threat to **human rights, democracy** and the **rule of law** as well as to international peace and stability, and it has major social and economic impact. In addition, any crime may involve evidence on a computer system needed in criminal investigations and proceedings.



### The approach

The approach of the Council of Europe to address these challenges consists of the three inter-related elements of: the common standards of the **Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention)**, the **Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY)** and capacity building projects by the dedicated **Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC)**.

The Convention on Cybercrime with its Second Additional Protocol on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of e-evidence remains the leading international legal framework for combating cybercrime and ensuring effective access to electronic evidence. Its **Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY)** represents the State Parties to the Convention on Cybercrime and plays a critical role in facilitating the effective use and implementation of the Convention, the exchange of information and consideration of any future amendments.

As the Convention's membership expands (**81 Parties** and **16 Observers** as of 14 November 2025), so do the responsibilities of the T-CY. While it is funded by the Ordinary Budget of the Council of Europe, which is contributed by CoE Member States, this budget does not reflect the growing number of non-CoE countries that have acceded or are seeking accession. The sustainability of the T-CY's work and enhanced international cooperation under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Protocol therefore require voluntary contributions from other State Parties and international partners.



# About the Octopus Project



**Duration**  
2021 - 2027



**Target Budget**  
10 million EUR



**Funding**  
100% voluntary  
contributions

## Current donors

Canada, France, Iceland, Italy, Hungary, Japan, Malta, Netherlands, United Kingdom, USA.

Contributions are welcome from Parties to the Budapest Convention, Observers and other entities.

## Key objectives

Assistance to countries worldwide (**legislation, training, and other capacity building measures**) in the implementation of the Convention, its 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Protocols and related standards, including in terms of data protection and other rule of law safeguards.

Support to the **Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY)** which is representing the Parties to the Budapest Convention and is the primary body to ensure its implementation.

Organisation of **Octopus Conferences**. The Octopus Conference is the flagship event of the Council of Europe on cybercrime since 2004. It involves multiple public and private sector stakeholders from around the world and serves as a laboratory of ideas for the criminal justice response to cybercrime.

Development of online tools for the delivery of capacity building activities on cybercrime and electronic evidence (such as **Octopus platform, Cyberviolence resource, CYBOX** online training platform on cybercrime and electronic evidence, etc).



# Octopus Project Achievements

The Octopus Project and its predecessor **Cybercrime@Octopus** contributed to the implementation of the Convention on Cybercrime worldwide, and specifically to:

→ The increase in the number of Parties to the Convention and of States invited to accede.

→ Development of synergies with other Council of Europe standards, in particular Data Protection Convention 108, the Lanzarote and Istanbul Conventions, as well as the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

→ Negotiation, opening for signature and preparation for implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime.

→ The functioning of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY).

→ The functioning of the 24/7 network of contact points and networking of prosecutors.

→ The expansion of legislative support and capacity building activities to new countries, as well as development of important resources for practitioners, such as CYBOX, Cyberviolence resource, Octopus Platform.

The project thus generated a positive impact on:



Domestic legislation on cybercrime and electronic evidence.



Domestic investigations based on such legislation.



International, public/private and interagency cooperation.



The strengthening of criminal justice capacities.



# Octopus Project Highlights



The project supported the T-CY in providing resources for:

- ✓ organisation of **T-CY plenaries** and T-CY **WG meetings**
- ✓ **outreach by T-CY to States** in view of promoting accession
- ✓ Development of **Guidance Notes** and **Assessment of Art.19**
- ✓ **Negotiation** and support in **implementation of the 2nd Additional Protocol**
- ✓ Coordination of positions and facilitation of participation at the **UN Treaty process**

## Octopus Conferences

The Octopus Conferences organised in hybrid mode in 2021, and in-person in Romania in 2023, and in France in 2025, brought together:

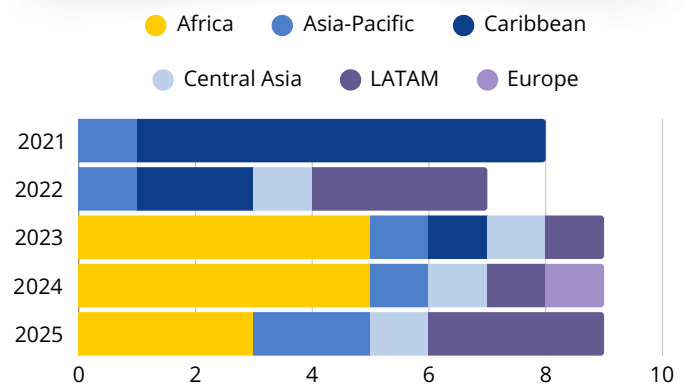
Over **2,000 participants**

representing **120 countries**

with contributions from over **210 speakers**

across **46 workshops**

## Capacity Building - Legislative support



- Africa:** Benin, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritania, Seychelles, Sierra Leone
- Asia-Pacific:** Fiji, Malaysia, Nauru
- Caribbean:** Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname
- Central Asia:** Kazakhstan
- Europe:** Kosovo\*
- LATAM:** Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay

## Online tools developed: CYBOX in figures

Multi-tenant platform serving over **800 users**

160 learning resources available

Content available in up to **20 languages**

24/7 Network of Points of Contact under Budapest Convention



To visit CYBOX, please go to [www.cybox.coe.int](http://www.cybox.coe.int)



[www.coe.int/octopusproject](http://www.coe.int/octopusproject)



# Thank You!

Join us in our action against  
cybercrime worldwide! Support the  
Octopus Project.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## Contact Information



[www.coe.int/octopusproject](http://www.coe.int/octopusproject)

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