

14h00-15h50

Workshop 7 – Ransomware attacks, their impact on societies worldwide and critical infrastructure, rise in criminal activities in Pandemic times

Purpose: During the COVID-19 pandemic and due to restrictions imposed, more and more businesses switched their activities to the online environment, with their employees working from their homes. While in most business environments, methods of protection are in place to counter cyber threats, personal computers might not have the same level of compliance with Internet security rules, thus leaving their users defenceless against ransomware attacks. Ransomware attacks have been in the last two years hitting hard, targeting both personal workstations but also on critical infrastructure, exposing hospitals and medical facilities to the concentrated attacks of cybercriminals. The response of both judicial authorities and the private sector needs to be adequate to meet the challenges posed by this growing form of criminal activity. The workshop aims to provide recommendations on how to protect oneself against this form of cybercrime and provide the required tools to mitigate this threat. Another purpose is to determine how co-operation on ransomware can be further supported on Council of Europe level.

Moderators: Hein Dries, CEO Vigilo Consult and Key Expert on Cybercrime in the West African Response on Cybersecurity and Fight against Cybercrime project (OCWAR-C)
James Shank, Chief Architect of Community Services, Team Cymru and member of the Ransomware Task Force (RTF)

Rapporteur: Matteo Lucchetti, Director of CYBER 4.0, Italian Cybersecurity Competence Center

Secretariat: Alexandru Cristea, Project Manager, Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe
Liliana Trofim, Senior Project Officer, Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe

► **Introduction and objective of the workshop [5 min]**

- Hein Dries and James Shank

► **Ransomware: threats and modi operandi [45 min]**

- A private sector perspective on ransomware. Threats and evolution over time, Alexandru Catalin Cosoi, Chief Security Strategist, Bitdefender
- Combating ransomware as a service, public-private partnership, Dominik Helble, former cybercrime investigator within the Federal

Criminal Police Office of Germany (BKA) and Head of Cyber Security of Festo

▶ **Ransomware: tools, regulations, good practices [50 min]**

- Mitigating large ransomware attacks. The Colonial Pipeline case, Nikhil Bhagat, Federal Prosecutor, USA Department of Justice
- [No More Ransom](#), an EU perspective into preventing and countering ransomware, Emmanuel Kessler, Head of Team Prevention and Outreach, Europol

▶ **Conclusions [10 min]**