

The EU's approach to cybersecurity capacity building abroad



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Consultation with civil society

22 November 2017, Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan
5/5, Shantiniketan, New Delhi

Concept note

The expanding use of Information and Communications Technology over the past 20 years and its contribution to the evolution – or even complete revolution – of various policy areas has resulted in the emergence of a broad policy community relying on these technologies. However, the efforts at improving the access to ICT and the growing Internet penetration have so far underestimated the risks and challenges associated with this process. Consequently, capacity building has become a key approach which endeavours to ensure a minimum level of cybersecurity across the globe. Evidently, not all the countries in the world have equal technical capabilities, preparedness and legal framework to address cyber threats. Many policy-makers have been looking for models of how to structure the capacity building efforts, what methods to use and how to measure the efficiency of these efforts.

In broad terms, capacity building in the cyber domain is aimed at building functioning and accountable institutions in order to respond effectively to cybercrime and to enhance the countries' cyber resilience. This is an integral component of international cooperation and as such can foster international solidarity with a common vision and purpose: to secure a free, open, secure, interoperable cyberspace for everyone while ensuring compliance with human rights and the rule of law.

Since the adoption of its 2013 Cybersecurity Strategy, the EU has been leading on international cybersecurity capacity building and systematically linking these efforts with its development cooperation funds. Such actions are based on promoting a rights-based and whole-of-government approach that integrates lessons learnt from EU's internal experience as well as from the development effectiveness agenda. Moreover, in 2017 there has been a clear recognition at EU level that cybersecurity should be considered as a transversal issue in development cooperation that can contribute to the progressive realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as stipulated in the EU's Digital4Development policy framework.

In light of this, a concerted effort is deemed necessary to consolidate the lessons learnt from the EU's experience to date -particularly in bridging the development and technical communities- as well as to translate the several dimensions of cyber policy into a systematic methodology that will serve as operational guidance when designing/implementing EU's external cybersecurity capacity building actions. Due to the highly sensitive aspects of cybersecurity and potential flow-on risks running contrary to key EU values and policies (ex. rights-based approach, freedom of expression online/offline, multi-stakeholder internet model, applicability of international law in cyberspace, the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime as the international framework of reference for cybercrime legislation) high vigilance is necessary to ensure coherence between EU policy and programmes.

The purpose of this meeting is to collect the views of the civil society organisations in the EU's partner countries concerning the EU's methodological and operational work in the area of cyber capacity building. Based on the initial work conducted by the EU Institute for Security Studies on the 'operational guidelines', the participants will discuss the values and principles identified as the silver threads guiding the overall capacity building efforts undertaken by the EU and feed this process with ideas to streamlining this approach in an operational context.

Agenda

09:30-10:00

Registration and welcome coffee

10:00-10:15

Welcome remarks

Tomasz KOZŁOWSKI

Ambassador of the European Union to India and Bhutan

10:15-10:30

Introduction to the EU's efforts in external cybersecurity capacity building

Heli TIIRMAA-KLAAR

Head of Cyber Policy Coordination, European External Action Service

Nayia BARMPALIOU

Policy Coordinator / Programme Manager for Organised Crime and Cyber, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

10:30-10:45

General presentation of the EU's operational guidelines for external cyber capacity building

Patryk PAWLAK

Brussels Executive Officer, EU Institute for Security Studies

10:45-12:00

Session I : a values and principles-based approach

Moderator

Pranesh PRAKASH

Founding Director, Centre for Internet and Society

12:00-12:10

Short break

12:10-13:00

Session II: the EU's approach to external cybersecurity capacity building: lessons, challenges, perspectives

Moderator

Nayia BARMPALIOU

Policy Coordinator / Programme Manager for Organised Crime and Cyber, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

13:00-13:10

Closing remarks

Pranesh PRAKASH

Founding Director, Centre for Internet and Society

Patryk PAWLAK

Brussels Executive Officer, EU Institute for Security Studies

13:10

End of the meeting and transportation to the lunch venue

13:30-15:00

Lunch