



Press release

Third meeting of the Ukraine Cybersecurity Cluster took place in Bucharest. This was the first meetup of the representatives from Ukrainian and Romanian cyber ecosystems

Bucharest, April 15, 2024

The National Cybersecurity Cluster of Ukraine organized the third international meeting of the coordination platform “Partnership Development for Southeastern Europe Cyber Resilience” in Bucharest on Friday, April 12.

The Cluster session was organized in hybrid format by the National Cyber Security Coordination Center (NCSCC) at the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine (NSDC), the Romanian National Cyber Security Directorate (DNCS) and Representation of U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation in Ukraine, (CRDF Global), with over 100 people in attendance.

The concept of the National Cybersecurity Cluster focuses on using the knowledge gained by Ukrainian experts as a tool for collective defense in cyberspace at a regional and global level as well as supporting joint capacity building, deeper European integration and further institutional development for Ukraine, by joining forces in the cyber security sector with European partners.

This was the first event that brought together, in an offline format, representatives of the Ukrainian and Romanian cyber ecosystems from governmental institutions, private companies, academia and NGOs, aiming to foster cooperation in a truly cross-sectoral way.

The event focused on the topics of “Cyber War Escalation Risks for Southeastern Europe”, “Synergy of Government and Business to Foster Collective Security” and “Deepening of Cooperation with EU And NATO: Practical Steps for Ukraine in Cybersecurity Domain”, bringing together decision makers and high-level experts from both countries, as well as from international organizations, such as the European External Action Service and the Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe.

Key speakers included representatives of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization of Romania, the Council of Europe’s CyberUA project, E-ARC, as well as the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the National Bank of Ukraine, the State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection, the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, Cyber Unit Technologies, CRDF Global, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), European External Action Service (EEAS), CyberLab, NEXTLAB.Tech, and Bitdefender.

Dan Cîmpean, the Director of the Romanian National Cyber Security Directorate emphasised the need to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. During the panel dedicated to cyber war escalation risks, he highlighted the need to be aware that the tactics, techniques and procedures used during cyber-attacks are continuously changing. „We have a lot to learn from our

neighbours and their unique experience and skill set. Applying these lessons, learned by Ukraine during the struggles of a cyber warfare, is of paramount importance for us”.

“Today, Russia is conducting a cyberwar not only against Ukraine but also against the European Union and NATO countries. This is evidenced by numerous cyberattacks on state authorities, critical infrastructure, and stolen personal data of EU citizens, as well as the use of cyberattacks in combination with means of information influence. Therefore, it is important to send a clear message from our partners that such actions are unacceptable, as well as to ensure public attribution to the Russian federation. Otherwise, the sense of impunity will lead to a greater escalation of Russia's covert cyber aggression against the countries of the Euro-Atlantic community and their citizens”, said the Head of the Information Security and Cybersecurity Service of the NSDC of Ukraine, Secretary of the NCSCC, **Nataliya Tkachuk**.

Natalia Tkachuk also thanked international partners for their support of Ukraine: “Our country has already demonstrated its resilience, high level of public-private partnership and effective coordination. And thanks to your support, I’m confident that we will withstand and win this war”.\

One of the main conclusions of this meeting, which persisted among the audience on this event was that **Cyber warfare and information warfare IS WARFARE**.

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