

CYBERSECURITY for SMEs

The EU scenario and the Italian perspective

Webinar, 10 November 2021 – 15h00-16h30 (CET)

1. Background

A study produced in 2020 by the European Commission estimated that “small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) [...] represent 99% of all businesses in the EU and employ around 100 million people. They also account for more than half of Europe’s GDP and play a key role in adding value in all sectors of the EU economy”. The study found also that more than 50% of the SMEs were undertaking innovation activities, with a strong focus on the digital transformation of their productive processes.

In parallel with the growing use of advanced technologies though, SMEs have been facing an increasing number of cybersecurity issues, generally due to lack of resources and insufficient capabilities to effectively prevent and respond to cyber incidents.

Such a situation has been further amplified by the COVID19 pandemic and the on-line shift of many phases of the company’s processes, often executed in teleworking through unsecure personal devices, which hugely enlarged the surface of possible vulnerabilities to be exploited by cyber attackers.

CYBER 4.0 is the highly specialized national competence center for cybersecurity promoted and financed by the Italian Ministry of Economic Development in the framework of the Industry 4.0 Plan.

With the purpose to strengthen the competitiveness of the national productive system, CYBER 4.0 develops capacity building initiatives at national level, with a specific focus on SMEs and Public Administration, by implementing training and orientation activities and by financing research and innovation projects.

The webinar is the first of a series of initiatives that will be organized monthly by CYBER 4.0 with a focus on cybersecurity for SMEs.

2. Expected outcome

The webinar gathers together EU institutions and national players that have researched on the issues related to cybersecurity and SMEs, with the purpose to compare the EU and Italian contexts and draw a list of priorities that the action of CYBER 4.0 should focus on.

Methodologies and tools to analyze the scenario will be also discussed, with reference to the practical use of the National Cyber Security and Data Protection Framework of Italy.

The 1h30 webinar is expected to:

- Foster a deeper understanding of cyber security issues pertaining the context of Small and Medium Enterprises;
- Identify key challenges both at EU level and at national level, and discuss methodologies and tools to address them;
- Explore perspective actions that EU institutions are undertaking, in particular through the work of ENISA and of the newly established EU Cyber Competence Center, and point out opportunities for cooperation in the field;
- Define a set of priorities for the action of CYBER 4.0 in the next period, with specific reference to capacity building initiatives, promotion of innovation and other forms of technical support.

The event will be held fully online and in English, no interpretation will be provided.

3. Agenda

15h00 15h10	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Teodoro VALENTE, President of CYBER 4.0
15h10 15h40	<p>Cybersecurity and SMEs – The EU scenario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Anna SARRI, Cybersecurity Officer, Capacity Building Unit, ENISA • Mr. Dan CIMPEAN, Acting Director, National Cyber Security Directorate of Romania and Representative of Romania in the European Cybersecurity Competence Center Governing Board
15h40 16h10	<p>The Italian perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Leonardo QUERZONI, Associate Professor, Sapienza University of Rome • Mr. Rocco MAMMOLITI, Board Member of the Information Technology Section, Unindustria
16h10 16h25	<p>Q&A from the audience</p>
16h25 16h30	<p>Key takeaways – Top Priorities for CYBER 4.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Matteo LUCCHETTI, Director of CYBER 4.0

4. Participants and registrations

Expected participants are representatives from the managerial level of Italian SMEs, national and international organizations working on cyber security for SMEs, partners of CYBER 4.0, members of its Stakeholder Group, academia, any other player with an interest in the field.

Participants are expected to actively contribute to the Q&A session that will follow the interventions from the panelists.

Register for free at:

<https://www.eventbrite.it/e/cybersecurity-for-smes-the-eu-scenario-and-the-italian-perspective-tickets-200685765527>.

5. Reference materials

- ENISA, [Cybersecurity for SMEs - Challenges and Recommendations](#), Jun 2021
- ENISA, [Threat Landscape 2021](#), Oct 2021
- European Commission, [Unleashing the full potential of European SMEs](#), Mar 2020
- European Commission, [European Cybersecurity Competence Centre](#)
- Sapienza/ CINI, [Framework Nazionale per la Cybersecurity e la Data Protection](#), Feb 2019