WB CyberPulse 2025:
TRACKING PROGRESS, BUILDING RESILIENCE, DRIVING CHANGE
Western Balkan Cyber Security Conference 2025

PODGORICA | 2 JULY 2025

AGENDA

📍 Venue: Science and Technology Park

08.30 - 09.00   **Registration and welcome coffee**

09.00 - 09.30   **Opening of the Conference**

- **Amer Kapetanovic**, *Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)*
- **Filip Ivanovic**, *Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Podgorica*
- **Michael Docherty**, *Head of Sector, DG ENEST, European Commission (EC)*
- **Gilles Schwoerer**, *Head of Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C)*

09.30 - 10.30   **High-level panel: Stronger Connectivity, Smarter Security, Resilient Future**

Moderator: Danijela Gacevic, *Head of Programme Department, RCC*

The high-level panel will be an opportunity for a strategic and informed discussion on cybersecurity priorities for the Western Balkans. In addition, the panel will elaborate on the strategic perspective and the main cyber security challenges faced by the Western Balkans, with the aim of supporting a regional response, including through enhanced stakeholders' engagement.

- **Bardhyl Dobra**, *Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Pristina*
- **Naim Gjokaj**, *State Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration , Podgorica*
- **Radoslav Nastasijevikj Vardjiski** , *Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation, Skopje*

10.30 - 10.50   **Coffee break**

10.50 - 11.50 **Navigating Cyber Threats in the Western Balkans: The Evolving Role of AI and Emerging Technologies**

Moderator: Mirza Jamakovic, *Expert Adviser at the Prosecutor's Office, Sarajevo*

This panel will benefit from the discussion on evolution of the cyber threats landscape in the Western Balkans region, including the importance, impact, and role of AI and new technologies in cybersecurity.

- **Nenad Bogunovic**, *Cybercrime Unit, Belgrade*
- **Emmanuel Kessler**, *EUROPOL*
- **Jelena Zelenović Matone***, founding board member and first President of WomenCyberForce and Women4Cyber Chapter, Luxembourg*
- **Amar Dedovic,** *Technology Cloud Senior Sales Executive,* Oracle

11.50 - 12.50 **Empowering Talent: Skill-Building for the Future in WB**

Moderator: Andreja Mihailovic, *Women4Cyber, Podgorica*

This panel will benefit from the discussion on the need for further improvement of skills in the area of cybersecurity, focusing on women and youth inclusion in cybersecurity, but also on the importance of existing initiatives.

- **Igli Tafa***, General Director, Cyber Security Authority, Tirana*
- **Tamara Tafra**, *Advisor to the Minister, Zagreb*
- **Andi Dobrushi***, Director, Open Society Foundations, Western Balkans*
- **Fabio di Franco**, *ICT Security Expert, ENISA, Brussels*

12.50 - 14.00 **Lunch break**

14.00 – 15.00 **Integrating Experience and Strategy: A Multisector Dialogue on SOC Advancement**

Moderator: Vanja Madzgalj, *Senior Project Manager, WB3C, Podgorica*

The aim of the panel is to provide different practices of a systematic approach to the development of SOCs by bringing examples of good practice and experience from the Western Balkans and the EU, as well as the effects on improving cyber capacity building at the regional level. In addition, the panel will benefit from a discussion between SOCs from both the public and private sectors exchanging experiences on how they operate, and from sharing diverse and unique experiences.

- **Dusan Polovic**, *General Director, Ministry of Public Administration, Podgorica*
- **Franc Zylyftari**, *Head of the Incident Response Team, Tirana*
- **Aleksandar Acev**, Cyber Balkans*, Skopje*
- **Philippe Gillet**, *Co-Founder, Gatewatcher, Paris*

15.00 - 15.20   Coffee break

15.20 – 16.20   United Against Cyber Threats: Building Bridges Across Sectors

Moderator: Milan Sekuloski, *Senior Cybersecurity Expert, eGA, Tallinn*

The panel aims to provide perspectives on the roles of academia, the private sector, and NGOs in cybersecurity. In addition, the panel will benefit from a discussion on gaps and support for the public sector in different areas, including the need for further cooperation between private and public sectors in enhancing the response to cyber threats, cybersecurity awareness, cyber hygiene, etc. The panel will benefit from showcasing the role of NGOs in the WB6 through the KnowCyber initiative launched under the Cyber Balkans Project KnowCyber - E-riigi Akadeemia).

- **Lulezon Jagxhiu**, *Advisor to the Prime Minister, Pristina*
- **Predrag Puharic***, Director,* Cyber Security Excellence Centre*, Sarajevo*
- **Ivona Dabetic**, *President, NGO Secure, Podgorica*
- **Roi Yarom***, EBRD*

16.20 - 16.30   Closing of the Conference