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Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of CyberPro Train, a pioneering project funded under the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL). The project responds to one of the most pressing challenges in the European Union: the critical shortage of qualified cybersecurity professionals.

## The Challenge: Addressing Europe's Cybersecurity Skills Gap

In 2022, the European Union faced a shortage of approximately 260,000–500,000 cybersecurity professionals, compared to an estimated 883,000 cybersecurity job openings. This significant gap highlights the mismatch between the growing demand for skilled professionals and the available workforce.

As cyber threats evolve and impact critical infrastructures, including energy, healthcare, water systems, transportation, public administration, and digital networks, the lack of skilled professionals poses a significant risk to Europe's societal functions and economic growth.

This skills gap not only hampers Europe's ability to combat cyber threats but also threatens its competitiveness in emerging technologies such as AI, 5G, and cloud computing. CyberPro Train is dedicated to addressing these challenges by equipping professionals with the expertise needed to safeguard critical sectors and ensure a resilient digital ecosystem.

# The CyberPro Train Solution



The CyberPro Train project aims to contribute to reducing the cybersecurity skills shortage in Europe through an innovative and scalable training model. The project focuses on empowering professionals from SMEs and public administrations to address complex cybersecurity challenges.

## Key Objectives:

### 1. Implementing a Scalable Training Model:

- Delivering a combination of theoretical and practical courses.
- Providing hands-on training and on-the-job learning experiences.
- Targeting professionals across 3 EU countries to develop adaptable training programs.

### 2. Developing the CyberPro Train Digital Handbook:

- A comprehensive resource featuring cybersecurity best practices, guidelines, and tools.
- Designed to be accessible in 10 EU languages, the handbook will serve as a benchmark for SMEs and public administrations across Europe.

### 3. Upskilling and Reskilling Professionals:

- Offering tailored training that meets the needs of SMEs, start-ups, and civil servants.
- Encouraging interdisciplinary understanding and application of cybersecurity principles.



## Impact and Opportunity

The CyberPro Train project will have far-reaching implications for the European cybersecurity ecosystem. By creating a highly skilled workforce, the project will:

- Reduce risks: Mitigate the likelihood and impact of cybersecurity incidents.
- Enhance resilience: Strengthen the EU's critical infrastructures and digital services.
- Foster innovation: Ensure Europe remains competitive in the global tech landscape.

Ultimately, the project aims to create a replicable and scalable cybersecurity training framework, empowering the EU to meet current and future challenges effectively.

## Work Packages and Activities

The project is structured into several Work Packages (WPs) to ensure a systematic and effective approach:

- WP1: Manages project coordination and administration.
- WP2: Conducts contextual analysis and mapping.
- WP3: Develops synchronous and asynchronous cybersecurity courses tailored to the identified needs.
- WP4: Organizes intensive bootcamps to provide practical and applied skills in defending information systems.
- WP5: Offers hands-on training opportunities at leading companies in the field.
- WP6: Focuses on the creation and development of the CyberPro Train Digital Handbook.
- WP7: Centers on continuous improvement and leveraging the CyberPro Train model, based on feedback and evaluations.
- WP8: Aims to maximize the project's visibility and adoption across Europe through best practices in communication and dissemination.



## Kickoff Meeting in Rome

The project launched with a successful Kickoff Meeting held on November 7–8, 2024, in Rome, Italy, hosted by Fondazione E. Amaldi.



This event brought together key partners from across Europe to:

- Discuss the project's structure, objectives, and implementation strategy.
- Review initial milestones and deliverables.
- Every organization presented them self to have the possibility all the partners get to know each other.

The meeting laid a strong foundation for the project's implementation, highlighting the shared commitment of all partners to enhancing Europe's cybersecurity workforce.

## Stay Connected: Follow CyberPro Train

Stay informed about the latest updates, training opportunities, and project milestones:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cyberprotrain>
- X: <https://x.com/cyberprotrain>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cyberprotrain/>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cyberpro-train-project/>

CyberPro Train is proud to be part of the EU's efforts to build a safer, more resilient digital environment. Join us as we take critical steps toward addressing the cybersecurity skills shortage and empowering professionals across Europe.



[www.cyberprotrain.eu](http://www.cyberprotrain.eu)

### Partners



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