

INVITATION TO THE COURSE

“Cyber Incident Responder”

(Activity Number 24-25/265/1)

Nicosia, Cyprus, 17-20 June 2025

Venue: Nicosia, Cyprus

The Cyprus Digital Security Authority (DSA) is honored to organize, under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College - Cyber ETEE platform, the “*Cyber Incident Responder*” course. This event will take place at the DSA premises **in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 17–20 June 2025.**

This course is designed to equip participants with the necessary skills to analyze, evaluate, and mitigate the impact of cybersecurity incidents as well as to identify the root causes of cyber incidents and the malicious actors behind them. Participants will engage in exchanging views and sharing best practices regarding Security Operation Centers (SOCs) and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs). The course aims to enhance participants’ knowledge, competencies, and capabilities to effectively mitigate the effects of large-scale cyber-attacks within Windows network/domain environments. In addition, this course will provide cybersecurity professionals with an opportunity to exchange perspectives, share best practices, and strengthen their expertise.

The course supports the European Cybersecurity Skills Framework (ECSF) of ENISA Role profile 2, Cyber Incident Responder and is linked with the strategic objectives of Pillar 2 of the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade.

Geared toward a technical/tactical level, this course requires participants to have a foundational understanding of topics outlined in "Annex C." It will be conducted in English, and can accommodate a maximum of 20 participants.

Eligibility is open to civilian and military personnel from EU Member States, EU Institutions, and Agencies currently in roles that involve cyber incident response or those wishing to enhance their knowledge in this domain. Participants must be nominated by their national nominators (see Annex A) **not later than 26 May 2025**).

We are therefore very delighted to invite you to join us for this specialized course on "Cyber Incident Responders." For further details, please refer to the administrative instructions in Annex A and the draft programme and practical information in Annex B.

Fergal O’ REGAN
Acting Head of the European Security and
Defence College



Signature

George Michaelides
Commissioner of Communications



Signature

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

17-20 June 2025 (Activity Number 24-25/265/1)

- **Target audience:** EU Member State and EU Institutions representatives
- **Venue:** The course will take place at ICT Academy of Commissioner of Communication, address: Andrea Chaliou 1, 2408 Egkomi, Nicosia, Cyprus
- **Seats and nominations:** a maximum 30 places will be available for participants.
- **Applications:** Applications are to be filed via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, under <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login> no later than 30 January 2025. A list with relevant ENLIST nominators can be found from the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators>
- **Attendance:** participants' attendance on all days of the course is mandatory. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to those course participants who have completed the entire course, including the e-learning modules. The course will not be offered in a hybrid format.
- **Language:** the working language will be English, without interpretation.
- **Costs** for Member State representatives: costs are to be covered by the Member States.
- **Dress code:** civilian formal for the opening and closing ceremonies; smart casual for the working sessions.
- **Liabilities and insurance:** in a medical emergency, the costs should be covered by the participant's medical insurance, provided by the sending country/organization. The organizer does not provide health or accident insurance for participants taking part in the event.
- The activity will start on Tuesday 17 June (08:00) and end on Friday 20 June (15:00-15:30). It is recommended that participants travel to Nicosia on the 16 June and book return tickets for the evening of 20 or morning of 21 June 2025.
- **Additional info:** further detailed information on the course will be forwarded via email directly to the course participants in due time

Points of contact:

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Cyber Incident Responder
DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY 1

08:00-08:30	Welcome Coffee
08:30-09:00	Welcome address by Mr. George Michaelides, Commissioner of Communications, Cyprus Opening Address by Major Evangelos Englezakis, Training Manager European Security Defence College
09:00-10:00	Presentation DSA – Organizational structure, National CSIRT-CY
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break
10:15-11:30	Module 1 - Introduction to incident handling and response
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:15	Module 2 - Inside SOC operations
13:15-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:00/15:30	Session /Lab

DAY 2

08:00-08:30	Welcome Coffee
08:30-10:00	Module 3 - Incident Handling and Response process
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break
10:15-11:30	Module 4 - Incident Handling and Response plan
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:00	Behind the Scenes: Visiting the Security Operations Center (SoC)
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:00/15:30	Session /Lab
	Social Dinner

DAY 3

08:00-08:30	Welcome Coffee
08:30-10:00	Session
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break
10:15-11:30	Module 5 - Handling and responding to Windows related incidents
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:00	Session/Lab
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:00/15:30	Session /Lab

DAY 4

08:00-08:30	Welcome Coffee
08:30-10:00	Module 6 - Risk Management
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break
10:15-11:30	Module 7 - Communicating cybersecurity incident
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:00	Session/Lab
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:00/15:30	Session /Lab

CYBER INCIDENT RESPONDER COURSE

Venue: [ICT Academy of Commissioner of Communications, Andrea Chaliou 1, 2408 Egkomi, Nicosia, Cyprus](#)

Practical Information



Contents

1. Welcome to Cyprus & Nicosia.....	6
2. Accommodation	6
3. Entry Requirements	7
4. Local Transport Options	8
5. Useful Information for your Stay	8

1. Welcome to Cyprus & Nicosia

A warm welcome to Cyprus, the third largest island in the Eastern Mediterranean, strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Known as the mythical birthplace of Aphrodite, the ancient Greek goddess of love and beauty, Cyprus is renowned for its stunning landscapes, rich history, vibrant traditions, and warm hospitality.

For more information, visit: [Visit Cyprus](#)

We are especially pleased to host this meeting in Nicosia, the island's capital. Nicosia is a city brimming with cultural and historical heritage, famously encircled by historic Venetian walls and known as Europe's last divided capital. It serves as the administrative and cultural heart of Cyprus.

For more information, visit: [Nicosia Municipality website](#)

2. Accommodation

We have provided several hotel options to aid you in arranging your accommodations:

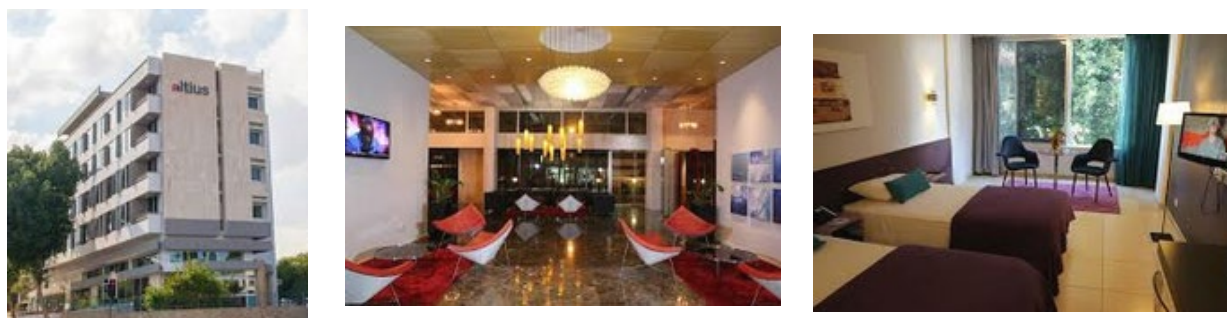
[Hilton Nicosia Hotel 5*](#) (approx. 600m away from DSA), [Route from Hotel to DSA](#)



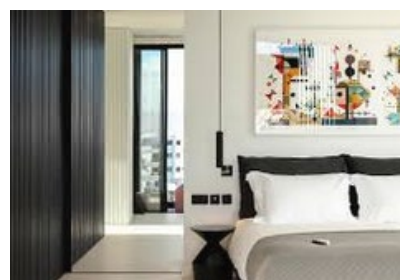
[Hypnos Boutique Hotel](#) (approx. 1.1km away from DSA), [Route from Hotel to DSA](#)



[Altius Boutique Hotel](#) (approx. 3km away from DSA), [Route from Hotel to DSA](#)



[Map Hotel](#) (approx. 4km away from DSA), [Route from Hotel to DSA](#)



[Gate22 Boutique Hotel](#) (approx. 4km away from DSA), [Route from Hotel to DSA](#)



Note: Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodations and covering any incidental expenses. All payments should be made directly to the selected hotel or service provider. We recommend booking early to secure your preferred choice.

3. Entry Requirements

Legal Ports of Entry:

The legal ports of entry into the Republic of Cyprus are the international airports of Larnaca and Paphos and the ports of Larnaca, Limassol, Latsi and Paphos, which are situated in the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. Most major airlines' scheduled flight operations are served by Larnaca International Airport (e.g. Lufthansa, Austrian, Swiss, British Airways, Emirates, Qatar, Elal, Aegean, SAS, Wizz Air etc.), while Pafos International Airport mostly serves low-cost and charter flights (e.g. Ryanair, Easyjet, TUI etc., especially during high-season (April to October).

Important note concerning the illegal airport Ercan (ECN) in the occupied area of Cyprus:

The ECN airport operates in the Turkish-occupied area in the northern part of Cyprus and serves illegally flights from/to Turkey. The entry in the Republic of Cyprus via the ECN airport is illegal. Further information on this issue may be found at the website of the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<https://mfa.gov.cy/important-information-concerning-travel-to-occupied-area.html>).

Distances:

- Larnaca airport is approximately a 40-minute (63km / 39mi) drive to the Conference venue in Nicosia.
- Paphos airport is an hour and 40-minute (142km / 88mi) drive to the Conference venue in Nicosia.

Admission and Transit Guidelines:

- **Strict Enforcement of Entry Regulations:** The Republic of Cyprus strictly enforces its entry regulations.
- **Passport Requirements:** All travellers must present a valid passport. Exceptions are made for holders of a Laissez-Passer issued by the United Nations, as well as for stateless individuals or recognized refugees.
- **EU and EFTA Nationals:** Citizens of EU countries, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway may enter Cyprus using their national identity cards, provided these include a photo.

- **Restrictions:** Entry is prohibited for individuals holding passports issued by the so-called "trnC."

Visa Information

For a list of countries that require a visa to enter Cyprus, please refer to the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website](#). You can directly access visa information using the provided link.

Additional details are available on the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website](#).

4. Local Transport Options

Walking & Biking: Many areas in Cyprus are pedestrian-friendly, and biking is a popular option for short distances.

Taxis: Taxis are widely available and offer a convenient mode of transport across the island.

- [Cyprus Taxi](#)
- [A.T. Taxi Services](#)

Buses: Cyprus has an extensive bus network that offers various services:

- **Airport Transfer Buses:** Regular connections from Larnaca and Paphos airports to all major towns.
- **Intercity Buses:** Daily services that connect major towns across the island.
- **Urban Buses:** Frequent routes within towns, with extended hours in tourist areas during the summer.
- **Rural Buses:** These connect villages to nearby towns, though services may be less frequent.

Bus Services:

- [Kapnos airport shuttle](#) – Frequent services to Nicosia from the airport. Have in mind that using the shuttle takes you to a [Kapnos station](#) in Nicosia and then you will have to take a taxi to your destination.
- [Cyprus By Bus](#) - Comprehensive information on bus routes, timetables, fares, and maps.
- [Intercity Buses](#) - Information on interurban bus services.
- Local Bus Companies:
 1. [Larnaka: Zinonas Buses](#)
 2. [Pafos: Pafos Buses](#)
 3. [Limassol: EMEL Buses](#)

For the most up-to-date transport details and schedules, travelers should refer to the [Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works' official website](#). It is advisable to check with relevant transport providers for the latest information before traveling.

5. Useful Information for your Stay

Emergency Contacts

- **Emergency Services:** Dial 112 for immediate assistance (ambulance, fire, police).
- **Night pharmacies:** 11892
- **Centre for Drugs and Poisoning:** +357 90 901 401
- **Search and Rescue Coordination Centre (Naval and Air Accidents):** 1441

Regional Hospitals

- Nicosia General Hospital: +357 22 603 000 (Accidents & Emergency)
- Makarios Hospital: +357 22 405 000
- Limassol General Hospital: +357 25 801 100

- Larnaca General Hospital: +357 24 800 500
- Paphos General Hospital: +357 26 803 100

Driving

For those planning to drive in Cyprus, please note that traffic flows on the left side of the road. It is essential to follow local driving regulations.

Electricity

The plug type in Cyprus is G (of British origin), which is the plug that has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern. Cyprus operates on a 230V supply voltage, at 50Hz. Examples of wall socket, plug and adaptors:



Many hotels offer Universal Plugs and USB chargers in their rooms. Some hotels offer adapters at the reception (with deposit). Please make sure to have an adapter ready though, if you might need to charge your device during the conference.

Currency

As an EU country, Cyprus uses the Euro as its currency.

Time Zone

Eastern European Time (EET) is the time zone in Cyprus during January (GMT+2).

Language

The official language is Greek, but a significant portion of the population is also fluent in English.

Communications

The country code for Cyprus is +357. The area codes for landlines are as follows: 22 for Nicosia, 25 for Limassol, 26 for Paphos, and 24 for Larnaca. Most hotels provide fax services and broadband internet connections, ensuring that you can stay connected during your stay.

Weather Details

June in Cyprus marks the start of summer, bringing reliably hot and sunny weather. Expect average daytime high temperatures across the island to generally range from 28°C to 34°C (82°F to 93°F), with inland areas like Nicosia typically experiencing the higher end of this range, and sometimes exceeding it. Night-time temperatures offer some relief, usually falling to between 18°C and 22°C (64°F to 72°F).

Rainfall is extremely rare in June, with most days being completely dry. While an isolated, brief shower is not entirely impossible, precipitation is minimal to non-existent for the month. The weather is characterized by strong sunshine and increasing heat as the month progresses.

Technical Requirements

Participants should have a basic understanding of the following technical areas:

- **Fundamental IT:**
 - How basic computer operating systems work (like Windows and Linux).
 - Core networking ideas and how computers communicate.
- **Cybersecurity Basics:**
 - Key concepts in keeping information secure.
 - Common types of cyber-attacks and threats you might encounter.
 - Different kinds of security tools and what they do.
- **Introduction to Incident Response:**
 - The basic steps followed when a security incident happens.
 - The idea of collecting basic digital evidence.
 - How to look at computer logs to find clues.

Having this foundational knowledge will help you fully participate in the course's technical and tactical exercises (labs).

You will also use specific software tools during the course, you'll be guided on how to download and install them when needed.