Report IS3C flash session, EuroDIG, Tampere 20 June 2023

On 20 June, the Internet Standards, Security and Safety Coalition (IS3C) organised and chaired an interactive flash session on tertiary cybersecurity education at the EuroDIG meeting held in the Tampere University in Finland.

As chair of IS3C's working group on *Education and skills* Janice Richardson (Insight) led panellists Wout de Natris (IS3C coordinator), Kseniia Gnitko (ISOC Youth), Julia Piechna (NASK) and the audience into a discussion on how to close the skill gap between what tertiary educational facilities offer and the skills demanded by the cybersecurity industry and society as a whole.

In the session IS3C introduced the concept of a cybersecurity hub. This hub will have a clear goal: How can the recommendations of IS3C's international study conducted by Janice Richardson, et al, be integrated into everyday practice? Experts from industry, business, government, civil society, students and tertiary education establishments are invited to discuss the hub's context, as a starting point towards the adoption of the needs of industry and the cybersecurity sector into (tertiary) cybersecurity education.

The participants were asked to vote on three questions and discussed the outcomes on the best ways how tertiary education can meet with the growing cybersecurity challenges the world is facing and prepare students better for their future work.

Question 1. *How can we better prepare cybersecurity graduates for the workforce?*

Over half of the participants agreed that the cybersecurity industry and educational facilities need to cooperate better, followed by a third that from the youngest age onwards cybersecurity needs to be taught in schools.

Question 2. *How can we diversify the cybersecurity workforce?*

The answers almost evened out here, with a third of the votes supporting efforts to encourage people to change mid-career to cybersecurity as the leading answer.

Question 3. *What would be the main purpose of a cybersecurity hub?*

More than two-thirds majority voted on the sharing of knowledge between industry and education, followed distantly by better traineeship opportunities.

The answers show clearly there is a need for improved collaboration between industry and education sectors. In the coming months, IS3C will work with InSight and NASK to build a cybersecurity hub with this clear focus in mind.

The work will build on the outcomes of this session and on findings from the worldwide IS3C study led by Janice Richardson (https://is3coalition.org/docs/study-report-is3c-

cybersecurity-skills-gap/) and released at the IGF in Ethiopia last year, with thanks to our sponsors SIDN Fonds, NASK and InSight.

Over time, the hub will not only strive to foster collaboration between all key stakeholders, but also work on providing open training opportunities for underserved populations in the Global South and advise on diversity in the workforce and education on cybersecurity from the youngest age forward. Follow our work at https://IS3coalition.org.

IS3C is a Dynamic Coalition working under the aegis of the U.N.'s Internet Governance Forum with the shared goal of making online activity and interaction more secure and safer by achieving more widespread and rapid deployment of existing, security-related Internet standards and ICT best practices. You can join IS3C here: https://mail.intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/dc-isss_intgovforum.org