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NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



ECCE 
EUROPEAN CYBERSECURITY
COMPETENCE CENTRE

DATA PROTECTION OFFICER



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Digital Governance

NERO The logo for NERO, consisting of the word "NERO" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, followed by a circular icon with a colorful, geometric pattern of lines.

advan**N**ced cyb**E**rsecurity
awa**R**eness ec**O**system for SMEs

An overview of the status
of cybersecurity SMEs

The Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)

Introduces requirements for manufacturers placing products with digital elements on the EU market. While welcomes efforts to increase cybersecurity, it calls for adequate support and guidance for SMEs to comply with the new requirements, which should be proportionate and not impose disproportionate costs.



Standardisation organisations

They must ensure adequate representation of SMEs in developing harmonised cybersecurity standards for the CRA. SMEs should have a say in the standards and benefit from measures like self-assessments and proportionate conformity assessment procedures.



The EU should establish regulatory sandboxes

Based on the Artificial Intelligence Act model, allowing SMEs to test their software and cybersecurity products in a safe environment before entering the market. This would facilitate compliance, boost innovation, and contribute to regulatory learning.



The CRA should limit the ability of Original Equipment Manufacturers

Ability to impose complex security standards that restrict access by independent third parties, especially SMEs, in after-sales markets. This would support SMEs, offer consumers the 'right to repair', and promote extending product lifecycles.



Budget allocation

- ❑ The budget for Cybersecurity actions covered is EUR **353 million**, distributed across the 3 years 2025-2027.
- ❑ The first **indicative** proposal for the distribution of budget is as follows.
 - Around EUR 110 million for the consolidation of **European Cybersecurity Alert System**;
 - Around EUR 70 million for **preparedness actions** and **mutual assistance** actions of Member States, in the context of the Cyber Solidarity Act;
 - Around EUR 80 million for the deployment of Artificial Intelligence for cybersecurity;
 - Around EUR 44 million for actions relation to the transition **to the post quantum world**;
 - Around EUR 40 million for **other actions** ;
 - Around EUR 9 million for **support actions**, including evaluations and reviews.



Concluding Remarks

In summary, the EU is taking a multi-faceted approach to promoting cybersecurity for SMEs, including legislation, standardization, regulatory sandboxes, and support for SMEs in after-sales markets and best practices. Ensuring proportionality and providing adequate support for SMEs to comply with new requirements is crucial



Thank you!



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