European Cyber Security Challenge 2021 Czech chapter of AFCEA in Prague

The European Cyber Security Challenge (ECSC) is a Europe-wide competition focused on cyber security to search cyber security talent across Europe and raise awareness of cyber security and its importance in public spaces. Since 2014 the competition has been organised annually by one of the EU countries under the auspices of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), and it is intended for young European talent (secondary school and university students) organised in national teams. the ECSC will take place in Prague between 28. 9. and 1. 10. 2021, and is organised by the Czech chapter of AFCEA (as part of the activities of the European Cybersecurity Month).

Who participates in the ECSC?

Ten-member national teams accompanied by an escort (up to seven persons—substitutes, coaches, officials). The number of competing teams is continuously increasing, the last ECSC 2019 in Bucharest was attended by 20 national teams, representing 200 competitors and almost 100 members of the entourage. The prerequisite for Prague is 25+ competition teams, culminating in approximately 500 participants—experts and officials in cyber security from across the European Union and observers from non-EU countries (Israel, United States, Canada, etc.).

How is the selection of national teams made?

Members of the national teams in the ECSC represent their country (they must have the country's nationality). Within countries, the selection is made in a variety of methods and ways—from narrowly focused specialised competitions within the professional community to competitions with a society-wide scope and overlap. Members of the Czech national team (secondary school and university students) are selected out of thousands of participants from the annual Secondary School Cyber Security Competition (www.kybersoutez.cz). The Czech Republic is an absolute leader within the European Union from the number of participants in the national competition . The leading professional guarantor of the competition is the National Cyber and Information Security Office (NÚKIB).

Why ECSC 2021 in Prague?

In 2019 the organiser of the Czech national competition AFCEA (the Czech chapter of the Armed Forces Communication & Electronics Association) was approached by ENISA to host the ECSC . This was mainly due to the active participation of the Czech national team in the ECSC (starting in 2017) and the organisers' cooperation with ENISA in this area. The ECSC in 2022 will take place in Austria, and Norway in 2023.

What is the goal of ECSC 2021 in Prague?

The main goal is to present the Czech Republic as the country with the most sophisticated system of secondary education in the field of cyber security. This source of talent solves the lack of top specialists that the whole field is currently struggling with. This will be an important international event carried out before the start of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The ECSC will also allow visibility of all participating partners based on partnership conditions (see annexe) and the presentation of the Czech Republic as:

- a modern, educated and open society that is active in innovation, digital agenda, artificial intelligence, cyber security and defence in all areas—legislation, education, training, business activity support, organisation of protection and security of critical systems
- an essential member of the European Union and an important partner in the Central European area
- a safe place for innovative entrepreneurship
- a country of traditional values with a rich history and natural beauty

How will ECSC 2021 be secured?

The preparation of the ECSC 2021 will be organised through the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee, which are composed of representatives of the main organiser (AFCEA),

the main professional guarantor (NÚKIB), the state, as well as academic bodies and partners.

Material collateral will be carried out through financial and non-financial performance:

- financial performance—grants (ENISA, Czech entities), state contribution, partner contributions
- non-financial services—technical, logistical, media, organisational, professional, personnel and other support consisting of loans, rentals, overheads, telecommunications, transport, public relations, catering, accommodation, fire and health services, insurance, provision of in-kind prices, etc.

What happens to acquired technologies and tasks?

Personal computers with accessories and technical equipment (hardware, software, peripheral equipment):

- partly used for the organisation of the next years of the National Secondary School competition in cyber security
- donated to secondary schools in the Czech Republic to support cyber security teaching

Security scenarios, competition tasks and assignments and methodological materials will be put into practice:

- cybersecurity and defence teaching in secondary schools and universities
- state and non-profit organisations

ECSC 2021

The ECSC 2021 as a significant event with an emphasis on multinational cooperation is planned as part of the project the Country for the Future, which aims to open the Czech Republic for innovative ideas and businesses, thus moving it up the socio-economic ladder.

www.ecsc2021.cz

fb 📷 🐦

@ecsc2021