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Cyberexchange project strengthens cooperation of security teams across Europe

CERT and CSIRT teams from 10 countries of the EU are starting an expert exchange programme. Foreign internships will be held by 20 specialists. This will allow them to get to know the specific work of cyber security teams in other countries, exchange knowledge and experience and establish informal contacts, which are a key element of efficient international cooperation.

CERT Polska, operating in the framework of NASK and one of the three CSIRTs of the national level takes part in the CyberExchange programme from the Polish side. This exchange will also involve employees of similar teams from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania and Slovakia.

Closer cooperation between cyber security teams in different EU countries is one of the main objectives of building a pan-European network security system. The NIS Directive launched the CSIRT network. It consists of representatives of the CSIRT (Computer Security Incident Response Team) of the Member States, CERT-EU and the European Commission as an observer. To strengthen mutual cooperation of national and government CSIRTs/CERTs is a priority for ENISA. "Our national and international experience shows that this is the right direction. Cooperation is essential in dealing with cyber threats. And trust is a fundamental factor. While exchanging data on incident, we provide partners with information that is sometimes sensitive and often legally protected. We must have a legitimate belief that those who receive data from us will handle them professionally and lawfully. - explains Juliusz Brzostek, Director of the CyberSecurity Department at NASK.

At the same time, in the face of a large-scale crisis caused by cyber threat, there is no time for verifying procedures and official contacts. Contacts between CSIRTs should be established in advance. It is easier when people already know each other. Therefore, eleven teams representing public, private and academic institutions have jointly applied to the European Commission for funding the exchange programme.

The project is financed by the European Union funds under the Connecting Europe Facility programme of the European Commission. Its implementation will be completed at the end of 2020.

