

# CYNET

*ESTABLISHING AN  
ACADEMIC CSIRT  
IN CYPRUS*

# CYNET

- ❖ The Cyprus Research and Academic Network (CYNET) is the NREN of Cyprus.
- ❖ Founded by decision of the Council of Ministers in May 2000.
- ❖ Founding members: Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Cyprus Republic, University of Cyprus and the Research Promotion Foundation.
- ❖ Currently, all the Universities and Research Institutes of the Republic of Cyprus are connected via CYNET to GEANT.
- ❖ **CYNET's objective** is to provide e-infrastructure and e-services exclusively to the educational and research community through its participation in programmes funded by the European Union.
- ❖ Operations and services are financed 100% by users since 2013.



# THE ACADEMIC CSIRT OF CYPRUS

- ❖ In 2010 CYNET was assigned the creation and setting up of the Cyprus Academic CSIRT, as part of the National Digital Strategy. The project did not progress then due to lack of funding that made completion of the project impossible.
- ❖ CYNET is a crucial infrastructure. It's also responsible for the Cyprus Internet Exchange.
- ❖ In 2017 the submission of a successful proposal resulted in the granting of funds through CEF (Connecting Europe Facility).
- ❖ CYNET in collaboration with OCECPR - Telecoms Regulator in the Republic of Cyprus and 2nd partner in the proposal - were selected for funding, with the action '2017-CY-IA-0121: Establishment of Cypriot Academic CSIRT', under the 'Connecting Europe Facility Call for proposals: CEF Telecom Call 2017 CEF-TC-2017-2'.



# MAIN OBJECTIVE OF PROPOSED ACTION

## **Establishment of the Cypriot Academic CSIRT by**

- ❖ developing tools for analysis, identification and detection of threats;
- ❖ running awareness campaigns ancillary to capabilities development;
- ❖ performing maturity assessment and development, encompassing governance and legal compliance;
- ❖ hiring trained staff, training current staff, running joint training courses with the Cyprus National CSIRT;
- ❖ participating in collaboration meetings and Europe-wide cybersecurity exercises; and
- ❖ performing data protection compliance audits.



# FURTHER OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Proposal also includes actions for connecting with national and EU CSIRTs.
  - ❖ Concept: the exchange of knowledge and expertise, in order to join forces to benefit the Academic world.
  - ❖ The proposed action may also be considered as the continuation of previous efforts towards the enhancement of cybersecurity capabilities in Cyprus.
- ❖ The Cyprus Academic CSIRT aspires to become a member of the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) and Trusted Introducer (TI) affiliation, so as to increase both the maturity and capabilities of the Academic CSIRT.



# CYNET'S EXAMPLE

CYNET's example with the funding procedure might be helpful and inspiring for other NRENS.

- ❖ CYNET has gained the necessary knowhow to successfully apply for EU grants. This makes CYNET competent in preparing joint proposals, as well as setting up extended co-operations on Academic CSIRT matters.
- ❖ Lack of Funding is common among NRENS e.g. for Accreditation or Skilled Personnel.
- ❖ GEANT is supporting our efforts through services like FoD, NSHaRP or transfer of knowledge.
- ❖ ***CYNET is open to collaborations with other institutions, so as to further develop its expertise on cybersecurity, as well as discussing and discovering funding procedures and resources.***



# THANK YOU...

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