

REFERENCE: ODA/2023-00042/ ICT-Mapping Exercise

Pursuant to the request "ODA/2023-00042/ ICT-Mapping Exercise" Slovenia would like to highlight its contribution to capacity-building programmes and initiatives within the United Nations on a regional level:

Slovenia places great weight on strengthening the cyber resilience of not just the EU, but also its neighbouring countries. Within its efforts for cyber capacity building Slovenia partnered with France and established a regional Cyber Capacity Centre in the Western Balkans (WB3C). The WB3C is an opportunity to support the countries of the Western Balkans on their path to the EU and it represents the commitment to help the countries of the region face the issue of cyber security and cyber capacity building.

With WB3C, Slovenia and France, together with Montenegro, developed a strategic long-term project aimed at exchanging information, good practices and training courses as well as strengthening the cyber culture and developing the expertise of active practitioners. The WB3C is based in Podgorica (Montenegro), where it conducts different trainings, which enable the transfer of knowledge skills to Western Balkan partners, so that they are better equipped to prevent, prepare and respond to cyber threats. Its goal is to educate the educators in national administrations on cutting-edge policies and practices in cybersecurity, combating cybercrime and adhering to international norms. Furthermore, the centre is actively contributing to the enhancement of the cybersecurity system of the Western Balkans region through various international and inter-regional cooperation initiatives as well as through fostering cooperation between Slovenian, French and regional academia to develop cyber curricula.

WB3C designed an array of diverse trainings this year, such as a trainers' session on cyber hygiene for public administrations, a mentoring program supporting women engaged in cyber security policy-making and international negotiations, a cybercrime course for judicial academies, a cybercrime course for police academies and a course for chief information security officers in critical infrastructures across all WB6 countries. In 2024, 12 trainings (lasting one or two weeks) are scheduled at the WB3C.

Slovenian activities in the Western Balkans region reflect its commitment to cyber capacity building. We strive to support the integration of these countries to the EU – in case of the WB3C, in particular by increasing cybersecurity and strengthening the rule of law.