

Making the internet more secure and safer

Working Group 2: Education and Skills

Acquiring the skills to be safe and secure in the digital world

Mission statement

1. The problem - the challenge - the opportunity

Business leaders continue to express concern about the gaps in the digital skills of people entering the digital technology and cybersecurity sectors. Ensuring that there is a supply of qualified cyber experts who are able to respond to emerging digital threats and challenges to personal and corporate security, has become increasingly important in enabling personal and business internet users to keep one step ahead of the challenges to their security and safety.

The innovation and the diversity of new ideas are often not realised because many schools and tertiary educational establishments have not adapted to the rapidly evolving requirements of the digital age. These weaknesses and omissions in the educational system will have a negative impact on economies and societies as they adjust to the transformations brought about by the digital revolution.

Working Group 2 of the IGF's Dynamic Coalition on Standards, Security and Safety (DC-ISSS) will examine how educational curricula at all levels need to adapt to ensure that school and college-leavers are equipped with sufficient knowledge and understanding of how deploying security-related standards helps individuals and businesses be secure and safe in the digital economy.

The working group aims in particular to develop recommendations and guidance that will:

- encourage educational institutions to factor into their curricula the essential skills, knowledge and understanding for every individual to be secure and safe in the digital world;
- define the requirements to provide a flow of skilled experts, bridge the gaps in educational curricula, and identify and promote good security practice;
- strengthen collaboration between educational decision-takers and policy makers in governments and industry in order to align school and tertiary curricula with the requirements of our cyber future;
- develop strategies to ensure effective ongoing collaboration between key stakeholders in order to keep in step with new technologies and standards and prevent new skills gaps from developing.

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2. Work plan - timeline and milestones

The DC-ISSS Working Group 2 has agreed the following phases in its work plan:

January-June 2021

- Research current best practice worldwide.
- Identify common skills gaps in educational curricula relating in particular to adoption of security-related standards.

July-September 2021

- Expand network of expert contacts in educational and training sectors in all geographical regions.
- Conduct interviews with leading industry experts.
- Develop a questionnaire to prioritise common skills gaps in educational curricula and training, and to identify best practice.

October-November 2021

- Draft a working document that will:
 - i) summarise the initial research findings;
 - ii) outline potential solutions and proposals for policy recommendations and guidance for educational decision-takers and practitioners.This document will provide the basis for a workshop presentation and stakeholder interaction during the IGF in Katowice.

December 2021 - March January 2022

- Presentation of the WG2: Education and Skills outcomes at the DC-ISSS session during the UN IGF in Katowice.
- Contribute to the fully open external stakeholder consultation held by the DC-ISSS on its proposals for policy recommendations and guidance.
- Review the external stakeholders' responses.
- Publish the final recommendations and outcomes for use in regional and national presentations to national policy makers and industry decision-takers worldwide.

4. Participation and outreach

DC-ISSS is a multistakeholder coalition and WG2 will accordingly engage and invite the participation from all geographical regions of industry experts in the field of digital skills and vocational training, policymakers in national education ministries and agencies, leading curriculum reform bodies, and experts in digital literacy in international organisations such as the Council of Europe, and UNESCO.

WG2 will also reach out to relevant education initiatives such as European Schoolnet and Forum Europe, and identify opportunities in key global educational events to present reports on its progress and outcomes.

UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
Dynamic Coalition on Internet Standards, Security & Safety (DC-ISSS)

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5. *Contacts*

WG2 Chair: Raymond Mamattah - mamattah.raymond@gmail.com

WG2 Vice-chair: Janice Richardson - janice.richie@gmail.com

The DC-ISSS is led by the Coordinator, Wout de Natris: denatrisconsult@hotmail.nl
supported by Mark Carvell, Senior Policy Advisor: markhbcarvell@gmail.com.

To subscribe to the DC-ISSS mailing including all three working groups, please register [here](#).

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