Dear Women4Cyber community,

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Women4Cyber newsletter!

Our Secretariat and Council Members continue their efforts in that direction, and we're excited to share news of our work with you. Plenty of things happened since our last newsletter: we celebrated our second anniversary in September, we launched 4 more national chapters, we are about to publish the Book of 100 Women in Cybersecurity in Europe, we closed the selection for our Mentorship Programme, we participated in numerous events and much more!

We're also excited to see the W4C Community growing and getting involved more than ever! Make sure to follow our Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram, join our LinkedIn group and check out our website to keep up to date on all the W4C news.

Best,

Women4Cyber Secretariat

What's new?

Our second anniversary on September 23rd

We celebrated two years of working together to bring awareness and diversity into this field. It has been two years of challenges and achievements and we could not be happier to share it with you!

Mentorship Programme

We launched the call for our Women4Cyber Mentorship Pilot Programme during the summer. The mentorship aims to help women improve their skills and advance their cybersecurity careers at all levels. Mentors provide personal and professional guidance, share their experience, and help mentees identify and achieve career goals. Applications for the W4C Pilot mentorship programme closed on 30 September and the matching is underway.

The programme will officially launch in late October 2021, and other mentorship programmes with industry partners are foreseen in the future.

Training Programmes

Two contests were run in Summer 2021 to offer free passes for a few lucky Women4Cyber community members to participate in training programmes offered by two of our partners:

- **'Cyber Security Awareness & Culture Manager' training programme**: two members of the Women4Cyber community will participate in the training programme organised by the Cyber Security Coalition (Belgium).

- **Training programme on Cloud Certification**: two members of the Women4Cyber community participated in the training organised by the EU A4CEF project partners, NSAI (Ireland), Digital Security Authority (Cyprus), Red Alert Labs (France) and Kypriaki Eteria Pistopoiisis Ltd (Cyprus).

Women4Cyber Masterclasses Series with a role model

Since our last newsletter we hold seven more masterclasses:

- Masterclass with Lorena Boix Alonso, Director for Digital Society, Trust and Cybersecurity in DG CONNECT, in celebration of International Women's Day on "How to succeed in cybersecurity".
- Masterclass with Phédra Clouner, Deputy Director of the Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium and Founding member of Women4Cyber, on "Life, stories, and challenges of a cybersecurity agency" .
- Masterclass with Domitilla Benigni, CEO and COO of Elettronica, President of Cy4Gate and Founding Member of Women4Cyber and the Italian Chapter, on Strategic Autonomy and Technological Sovereignty in Cyber Security.

- Masterclass with Valeria Faure Muntian, French deputy, member of the W4C Council and President of the French Chapter, on the correlation between cyber professions and market economy.
- Masterclass with Līga Raita Rozentāle, Senior Director of Microsoft EU, and Women4Cyber Council Member, on multi-stakeholderism and cybersecurity.

- <u>Masterclass with Despina Spanou</u>, Head of the Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission overseeing the European Union's policies on security, migration and asylum, health, skills, education, culture, and sports, on her experience in the cybersecurity field.
- <u>Masterclass with Lucila Kominsky,</u> Vice-President of Strategic Marketing at S21sec and Women4Cyber Council Member, on how to build a solid cybersecurity marketing strategy.

You can find all the recordings and info on our website following this <u>link</u>!

The book "Hacking gender Barriers: Europe's top Cyberwomen"

Our book of 100 women in cybersecurity in Europe will be published by mid-November with the title "Hacking gender Barriers" !

We cannot wait for you to read it!

4th Women4Cyber Council Meeting

The fourth Women4Cyber Council meeting will take place in Berlin on the 2nd and 3rd of December. The activities of the Foundation during the past six months and the priorities for the coming months will be discussed among our Council Members. We will keep our Community updated with the outcomes and highlights of the discussions!

Operational Committee

After our first Operational Committee Meeting held on the 25 of May, the coordinators of the 11 Women4Cyber Chapters will meet again in December to share best practices, lessons learned, ideas, establish collaborations among chapters, and strengthen the Women4Cyber network across Europe.

National Chapters

<u>Luxembourg and Serbia</u>

Women4Cyber Luxembourg and Women4Cyber Serbia were officially launched on 8 March 2021 on the occasion of International Women's Day by Jelena Zelenovic Matone, and Svetlana Tesic respectively.

<u>Lithuania</u>

Women4Cyber Lithuania was officially launched on 11 May 2021 by Inga Zukauskiene.

<u>Italy</u>

Women4Cyber Italy was officially launched on 15 July 2021 by Domitilla Benigni, Rita Forsi and Selene Giupponi together with Paola Severino. You can watch the recording of the event at this <u>link</u>.

Coming soon:

Additionally, four other chapters - France, Portugal, Kosovo, and Finland - have been approved and will be officially launched in the next months!

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European Cyber Security Month

October is the European Cybersecurity Month: the EU campaign aimed at promoting online security and raising awareness about cybersecurity among EU citizens. Stay tuned and discover the programme here.
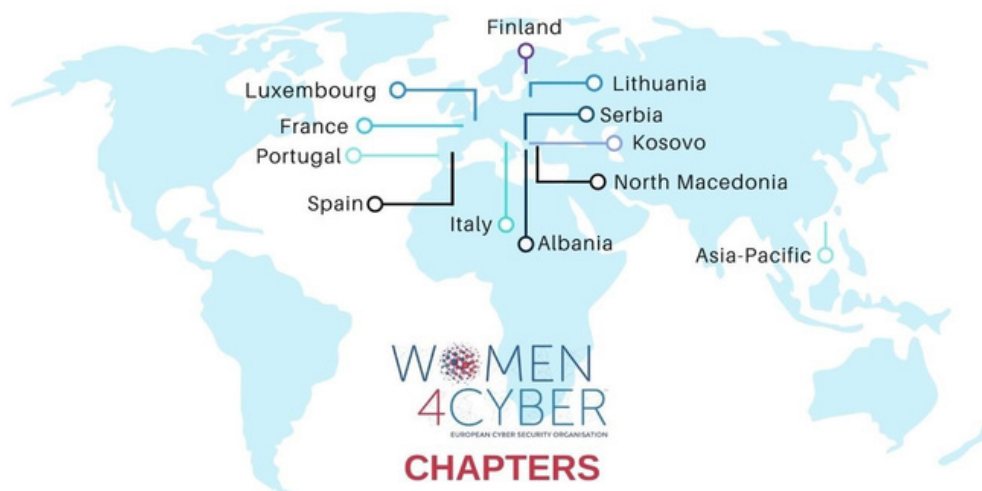
BeNeLux Summit Event

On the on 23rd-24th of November the Benelux IT Security Conference will take pace online, as part of a European series dedicated to tackling regional cyber security challenges.
The Women4Cyber community can secure their FREE pass with code WOMEN4CYBER here.

News from our chapters

Women4Cyber Spain

This October marks the first anniversary of the launch of Women4Cyber Spain, The W4C Spain association, initially just a board of 15 leading female professionals in the security and the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industries chaired by Eduvigis Ortiz, has now grown to ten regular collaborators and more than 80 associates.

W4C Spain organises regular meetings with different female professionals, all of the leaders in their respective fields of action. The last one was on October 6 about "Mobility, Cybersecurity and Digital Transformation", having as main guest Esther Mateo Rodríguez, D.G. Security, Processes and Corporate Systems at ADIF.

Women4Cyber Albania

Women4Cyber Albania is implementing the #Huawei4HER initiative, supported by Huawei. This initiative aims to reduce skills and gender gaps in Albania by presenting cybersecurity as a possible and desirable career option. Its mission is to engage role models of the ICT industry in Albania and connect them to talented students through featuring monthly mentoring circles, inspirational master classes, and further improve the cyber impact. Also, within this initiative, a training module was organized dedicated to "Cyber Hygiene" with the presence of representatives of the Municipality of Tirana and the Education System. Masterclasses will follow to build the capacity of the business sector in relation to raising awareness on cyber risks.

Women4Cyber Lithuania

In July 2021 Women4Cyber Lithuania organized Cyber Picnics, where members discussed the current status of women involvement in cyber and IT in Lithuania and set the roadmap for the chapter activities. The Chapter also started a partnership with the "Sunset Digital Innovations Center".
In September, the Chapter started a communication campaign, presenting its members on social media via articles on different cyber security topics. Before the launch of this activity, the Chapter organised an internal training on communication for the members of the Chapter.
Women4Cyber Lithuania was a partner of the annual ESET Cyber security conference where two members took part as speakers in the panel discussions.

Women4Cyber Lithuania together with the British Embassy in Vilnius will organise an event on the 26th of October where experts from government, industry and academia will explore different approaches to supporting and promoting women's participation in cyber and tech.

Women4Cyber Luxembourg

On September 29th, the EU institutions, bodies and agencies (EUIBAs) got together to kick-off virtually the European Cybersecurity Month. The event was co-hosted by the ECA and the European Commission.

Bringing together key cybersecurity experts from the EU institutions and their peers in Luxembourg society, the two institutions prepared a programme that included a spotlight on Women in Cyber. Vice President of Women Cyber Force, Krystina Gray, joined the women-only panel that highlighted the important role of women in reinforcing the cybersecurity stance of EU organisations and helping to fill the current skills gap in the field. The replay of the event can be watched here.

Women4Cyber Serbia

AFA organizes the fifth Women's Leadership Summit (WLS) which will take place on 21th October 2021 in a virtual environment. The Summit is AFA's annual regional flagship event, originally established in 2017 with the idea to connect, empower, support and elevate women leaders from different fields. The Summit also aims at gathering women together to address globally urgent topics and participate in the creation of a more innovative and sustainable economic and societal solutions.

The central topic of this year's summit is "Future of women at workplace". One panel session titled "Gender and Talent Gap - Cyber Security Missing Women Leaders" will be dedicated to women in cyber security and will seek the participation of W4C Serbia Vice President, Sanja Kekić, and other women in cyber security. Having more women would help boost the industry and fill in the huge need that companies have for top talent. W4C Serbia invites all of you to register as an audience and join a day of networking, inspiration and action.

Further information about the Women4Cyber Chapters here!

Past Events

#ConfSec

On October 7, our Secretary-General Luigi Rebuffi and Selene Giupponi, representing Women4Cyber Italia as Secretary-General, participated in the 6th edition of #ConfSec.

Among other topics, they discussed the new National Agency for Cyber Security, and Women4Cyber: who we are, what we are doing, and why you need us? They laid out our goals and strategy for the upcoming future, which will certainly involve more women in cyber!

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What's next?

Launch of the France Chapter
Women4Cyber France will be officially launched on Friday 22nd October! For more information click here.

Masterclasses with a role model

We will continue our series of masterclasses with a role model. The next one will take place on October 29th. lise Fuhr, durector General of TNO will talk about "5G and Cybersecurity: How it will impact society" !

Our masterclasses are online and completely free of charge. It is a great opportunity to learn from an expert about a cybersecurity-related topic and to have the opportunity to exchange with them!

Register here!

10th Edition of the Cyber Investor Days

The 10th CYBER INVESTOR DAYS is scheduled on 1-2 December 2021 in Helsinki, Finland, and is organised by ECSO, together with Business Finland, VTT Technical Research Centre, NewCo Helsinki and Maria 01.

The most promising European cybersecurity start-ups and SMEs will have great opportunity to engage in strategic B2B meetings with the leading investors and integrators, which is very much needed for the post-pandemic recovery.

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How to get involved?

Easy! You can choose which kind of involvement is most suitable for you based on the different possibilities below (or all of them):

- Donate to the Women4Cyber Foundation (BE73 0689 3639 2860). All contributions, financial or in-kind, large or small, help us achieve actionable results from our Roadmap and you can be a part of the adventure!

- Join the Women4Cyber Registry of Experts to receive news, speaking opportunities, event invitations and many other cool things!

- Contribute to the workstreams to implement concrete actions

- Create your local/national/pan-regional W4C Chapter.
  - If you wish to establish and lead one, get in touch with us to share your vision and we'll provide you with an application form that can be used to explain the set of actions (to be taken from the W4C Roadmap of Actions) that you wish to be carried out by your Chapter, and we will support you in your endeavour!

Send us an email at hello@women4cyber.eu

Donations

W4C's work is supported by our amazing contributors. Every donation received from individuals, community members and companies helps us to carry out the concrete actions from our Roadmap. We would like to send massive 'thank you's to Microsoft for their recent donation – we couldn't do our work without you!

Interested in donating? Donations can be in-kind and/or financial donations, they can be made directly to BE73 0689 3639 2860 or you can contact us via the W4C website with any questions you may have or to tell us how you would like to contribute. Together, we can make change happen!
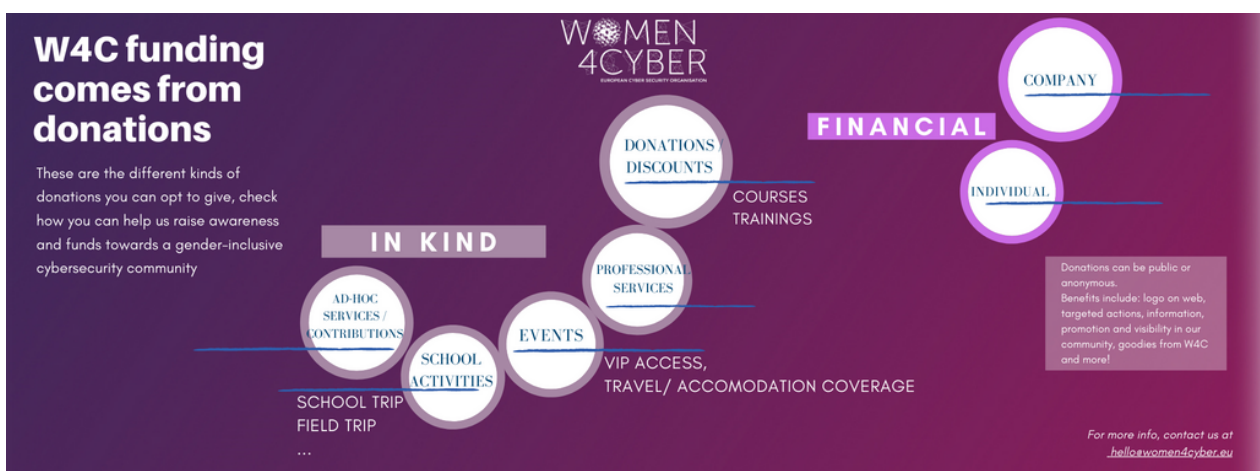
In other news...

Here are some interesting articles that we recommend:

Interesting reads:

Equal Opportunities in Cybersecurity in Europe: an article by the Global Cyber Alliance on the occasion of the International Women's Day that talks about the role that companies have to play in encouraging women to enter cybersecurity professions by providing a framework for equal opportunities.

<u>The Women4Cyber Foundation:</u> an article by the Global Cyber Alliance that addresses the huge skills shortage in cybersecurity and the lack of female representation.

<u>Article by the European Parliament on EU Cyber Defence Capabilities.</u>
On 7 October, the European Parliament adopted the report "State of EU cyber defense capabilities", which stresses that a common cyber defense policy and EU cooperation on cyber capabilities are key issues for the development of a European Defense Union. The Parliament also recommended setting a Joint Cyber Unit for improved information within the EU. MEPs also warned that the EU must become more technologically independent, innovating and investing more in cyber defense capabilities and personnel.

<u>Seven ways the EU keeps you safe online.</u>
This article explores seven ways in which the EU works to improve our security online, from raising awareness and improving legislation to fighting cybercriminals.

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