



Dear Women4Cyber community,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Women4Cyber newsletter!

Last year challenged all of us in many different ways, yet we reached so many milestones and we could not be any prouder. We have even higher aspirations for 2021, we have started the year with renewed energy ready to change the world!

Our Secretariat and Council Members continue their efforts, and we're excited to share news of our work with you. Plenty of things happened since our last newsletter: we launched 3 more national Chapters, we closed the selection of women experts for our upcoming book of women in cybersecurity in Europe, 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 (newly launched) [Instagram](#), join our [LinkedIn group](#) and check out our [website](#) to keep up to date on all the W4C news.

Stay safe,

Women4Cyber Secretariat

What's new?

Book of "100 women in cybersecurity in Europe."

Last year Women4Cyber launched a contest to select over 100 women in cybersecurity in Europe to be showcased in our upcoming book. Our jury selected many inspiring figures of cybersecurity in Europe, whose achievements will be highlighted in the book in hopes of encouraging more women to join the field. We are currently working on the content of the book and we will keep you updated on its development!

Pact for Skills

Women4Cyber has endorsed the Pact of Skills, launched in November 2020 by the European Commission. The Pact for Skills promotes joint action to maximise the impact of investing in improving existing skills (upskilling) and training in new skills (reskilling). The Pact aims to mobilise and incentivise private and public stakeholders to take concrete action for the upskilling and reskilling of people of working age, and, when relevant, pool efforts in the partnerships.

Women4Cyber joined this initiative as one of the actions under the EU Skills Agenda. It is a fact of the cybersecurity field that there are simply not enough skilled professionals. Upskilling and reskilling are key to fill the gap as fast as possible!

National chapters

North Macedonia

In late November, during the conference "Cyber Security as a global problem - different aspects" NATO Academy 20, Ljubica Pendaroska officially launched the W4C North Macedonia Chapter!

Albania

In December, Women4Cyber Albania was officially launched by its National Coordinator Klora Janushi, during the roundtable "Orange the world by speaking up against cyber violence". 2021 is set to be the most exciting year!

Lithuania

Women4Cyber Lithuania was officially launched on February by its National Coordinator Inga Žukauskienė.

Women4Cyber Masterclasses Series with a role model

We launched a series of Masterclasses in November 2020.

- November 13th: with Christine Skropke, Head of Public Affairs at Secunet Security Networks AG.
- December 18th: with W4C President Anett Madi-Nator on “The greatest misconceptions about cybersecurity”
- January 22nd: Elena Santiago Cid, Women4Cyber Vice President and CEN-CENCELEC Director General, gave her masterclass on “Cyberstandards - the highest in the room”
- February 19th: Rayna Stamboliyska, VP Governance & Public Affairs at YesWeHack and member of the W4C Council, talked about “Building a career in cybersecurity: tips, tricks... and traps”.



We are offering one masterclass per month, and in celebration of International Women's day, two masterclasses are scheduled for March!

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!

You can also find the recordings on our website following [this link!](#)

IFSEC Global “Top Influencers in Security & Fire”

Women4Cyber and European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), Secretary-General Luigi REBUFFI was named to the IFSEC Global “Top Influencers in Security & Fire” for 2020, for the Security Executives Category! We could not be prouder!

Third Women4Cyber Council meeting

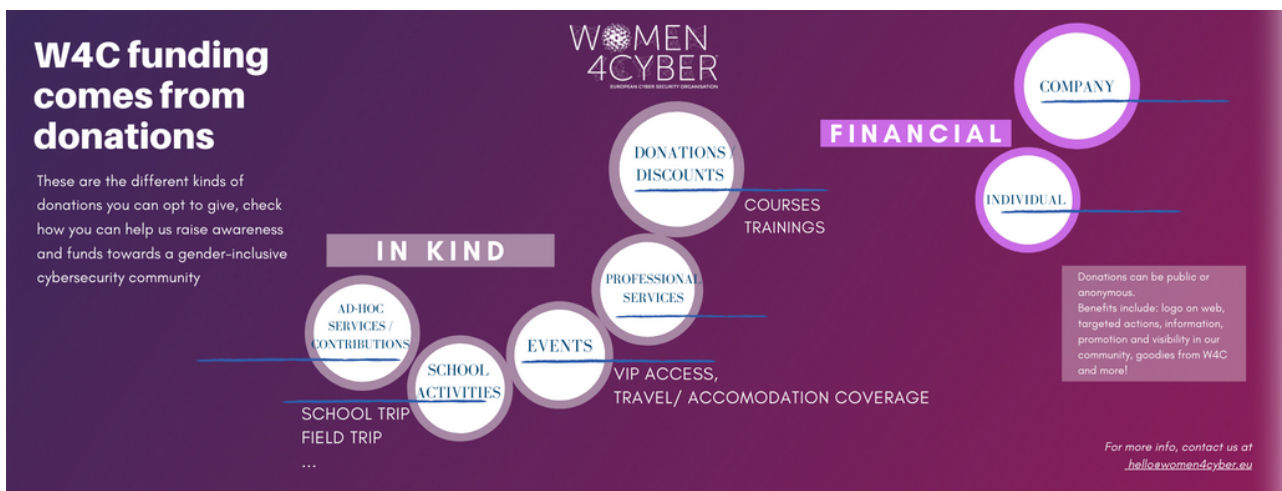
The third Women4Cyber Council meeting took place on December 15th. Three new members joined the Council: Rayna Stamboliyska from YesWeHack, Selene Giupponi from Resecurity, and Lucila Kominsky from S21Sec.

Our Council Members discussed the activities of the Foundation during the previous six months and the priorities for the coming months.

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, NordVPN, Secunet Security Networks and Or Security for their recent donations – 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!



News from our chapters

The Women4Cyber Chapters keep growing in number and activities, so from now on, we will include a section in our newsletter with their good news!

Women4Cyber Spain

Women4Cyber Spain will launch its Mentoring Program in March 2021. The aim of the programme is to offer the W4C Spain community personalised attention and support to make better decisions in their careers and to benefit from the experience of more senior mentors. Mentoring is an excellent way to develop talent, with benefits for both parties (mentor and mentee) sharing their experiences and creating a trusted space for mentees to find advice and ideas useful for their professional lives.

Women4Cyber North Macedonia

Women4Cyber North Macedonia has become a partner and started cooperation with two prominent industry players: the Economic Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies, the main representative and promotor of ICT industry and business environment and CaSys, the International card systems processor. They have also launched the university programme, entitled "Friday for Cyber".

Women4Cyber Albania

Women4Cyber Albania has launched a series of Masterclasses in January 2021 under the moto #CybHERTalk. #CybHERTalk gives students and young professionals the opportunity to meet experts doing amazing work in cybersecurity. These professionals come from different industries and types of jobs, but all want to help students explore different possibilities of what they can become! #CybHERTalk is open to any student and young professionals in cybersecurity worldwide.

Women4Cyber Albania's mission is to inspire women and girls around the world who are dedicated to creating and supporting thriving communities of cybersecurity.

Women4Cyber Lithuania

In February, Women4Cyber Lithuania was launched. They now have an established Steering Board, and are in the process of building their cyber community and looking forward to working all together towards a gender-inclusive cybersecurity.

There are several other Chapters under construction. Follow [this link](#) to know more about W4C Chapters



Women4Cyber @ Events

In the past few months, W4C representatives have participated in a number of events online in support of our initiative:

22nd International Information Security Conference, “Shaping a sustainable & disruptive Digital Risk Strategy”

On November 26, 2020, Anett Mádi-Nátor and Eduvigis Ortiz, President of [Women4Cyber Spain \(W4C Spain\)](#), discussed the making of the Spanish Chapter of Women4Cyber and the actions that we are jointly carrying out to enhance the presence of women in the field of cybersecurity during the 22nd International Information Security Conference organised by [ISMS Forum](#).

European Cybersecurity STARtup Award Final Competition

On February 2, eight European cybersecurity startups competed for ECSO's European Cybersecurity STARtup Award. While the Award Committee deliberated [Domitilla Benigni](#), COO of [Elettronica Group](#), President of CY4GATE and Member of the W4C Council and [Caroline GUILLAUME](#), talked about the cybersecurity sector, business development, market, entrepreneurship and the important role that women should play in this industry.

AP2SI monthly event

On February 17, [Nina Hasratyan](#), Women4Cyber Secretariat member and Policy Manager at European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), [presented Women4Cyber](#) at the February Confraia event, organised by [AP2SI](#).



What's next?

[Women4Cyber Week - Week of the 8th of March, International Women's Day](#)

Cyber Talk on Cyber Diplomacy organised by the Cyber Security Coalition in partnership with the Centre for Cyber Security Belgium (CCB) and the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO)

[This Cyber Talk](#) will focus on Cyber Diplomacy and the emergence of a cyber-international society. With: Mrs. Camille Gufflet, Policy Officer at the European Commission; Mrs. Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Ambassador at large for Cyber Diplomacy at the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Member of the W4C Council and Mrs. Séverine de Potter, Cyber Diplomacy Desk Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Belgium; Mrs.

Liga Rozentāle, Senior Director, Cybersecurity and Emerging Threats Policy at Microsoft European Governmental Affairs, Member of the W4C Council; Mrs. Nina Hasratyan, Policy Manager at ECSO, will update you on the latest developments at Women4Cyber; Mrs. Phédra Clouner, Deputy Director of the CCB, and Member of the W4C Council will moderate the event.

WEEK OF 8 March -Special Partnership with European Commission's DG CNCT and ENISA

Monday=> Connect University "Empowering women in cybersecurity"

To celebrate the International Women's Day 2021, on 8 March 2021 from 2-3:30 pm this CONNECT University event will bring together leading women in cybersecurity to address some of the most contemporary pressing issues, share their stories, and inspire other women who want to pursue a professional career in this field. The session would be live-streamed on the [CONNECT University webpage](#) and on [YouTube](#) (Digital Single Market channel - CONNECT University playlist) and an edited version of the video recording will be hosted on the [CONNECT University video space](#).

With Despina Spanou, Head of Cabinet Schinas, EC, and Founding Member of Women4Cyber; Anett Madi-Nator, Vice-President at Cyber Services and President of Women4Cyber Foundation; Selene Giupponi, Managing Director at Resecurity and member of the W4C Council ; Juhan Lepasaar, Executive Director of ENISA; moderated by Lorena Boix Alonso, Director DG CONNECT H Digital Society, Trust and Cybersecurity

Thursday => W4C Master Class with Lorena Boix Alonso, Director DG CONNECT H Digital Society, Trust and Cybersecurity

On March 11, in celebration of international women's day (we rather celebrate the week), Lorena Boix Alonso will give a W4C masterclass about the challenges women face in cybersecurity and how to overcome them: "How to succeed in Cybersecurity?"

Registration is open through [this link!](#)

And much more!

Events

JEEC – Connect

The Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), which is part of Universidade de Lisboa is organising discussion panels during the JEEC (Electrical and Computer Engineering Week). Our own Nina Olesen will intervene on the 18th of March on behalf of ECSO & Women4Cyber.

Women4Cyber Spain first #CybHerTalk Masterclass "Cybersecurity and Diplomacy: How to be an ambassador in the digital era"

Women4Cyber Spain is organising their first #CybHerTalk Masterclass "Cybersecurity and Diplomacy: How to be an ambassador in the digital era" with the participation of Julia Olmo y Romero, Consul General of Spain in Houston and former ambassador for Hybrid Threats and cybersecurity. It will be a great opportunity to listen and learn from a leading woman in the sector. The webinar is free and will take place on Wednesday, March 3rd at 6 pm. You can access more information and register via this link. Every first Wednesday of the month W4C Spain will host a #CybHerTalk Masterclass.

Women4Cyber Masterclass with Phedra Clouner

On March 26th, Phedra Clouner, Deputy Director at Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium, will give a masterclass titled: "Life, stories and challenges of a national cybersecurity agency". We will promote the registration link on our social media channels in due time.



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



In other news...

Here are some interesting articles and podcasts we recommend

Interesting reads:

- [Brussels Report: Europe Tries to Boost Its Cybersecurity Industry \(wsj.com\)](#). An article by The Wall Street Journal interviewing our Secretary-General Luigi Rebuffi about the European Cybersecurity Investment Platform and the newly launched #CybersecurityMadeInEurope label.
- [Exclusive: Bridging the cybersecurity skills gap | ISJ International Security Journal](#). This article was written by W4C and European Cyber Security Organisation (ECISO) Team Member Nina Olesen for the INTERNATIONAL SECURITY JOURNAL (ISJ). Nina Olesen highlights the specific initiatives ECISO is undertaking to help bridging the #cybersecurity #skillsgap and to raise levels of #cyberawareness and competence.
- [Les Femmes Dans La Cybersécurité Sont Un Enjeu Crucial De Demain ! | Forbes France](#). Women4Cyber Council Member Coralie Heritier Managing Director of IDnomic, was interviewed by Désirée de Lamarzelle for Forbes France.
- [Epic Women in Cyber — Ljubica Pendaroska | by Sonya Moisset | Epic Women in Cyber | Jan, 2021 | Medium](#). An interview with Ljubica Pendaroska, founder of the #W4CNorthMacedonia Chapter !!
- [Cybersecurity education must begin at school for everyone \(eccouncil.org\)](#). This article traces the lack of women representation in #cybersecurity back to school. It does so, by interviewing a number of women cybersecurity experts!
- [Study: Certifications Boost Salaries Substantially - \(ISC\)² Blog \(isc2.org\)](#). A study by (ISC)², on how to boost your salary in cybersecurity!
- [Closing the Skills Gap: Key Insights and Success Metrics | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#). This publication by the World Economic Forum summarises the learnings from the World Economic Forum's Closing the Skills Gap 2020 project, focusing on where there is an opportunity for collective action to strengthen reskilling and upskilling initiatives.

- [Women and Leadership: Looking Beyond the Global Health Crisis - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#). This article by The New York Times interviewed female leaders in crucial disciplines to talk about the role women can have in determining what the world looks like after the pandemic. The first leader interviewed is European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, she discusses how to encourage girls towards technology and innovation careers.
- [The Secret History of Women in Coding - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#). Computer programming once had much better gender balance than it does today. What went wrong? Some history for this #W4CSundayReading from The New York Times, from Lady Ada Lovelace almost 200 years ago until today!
- [Why You Should Study a Cyber Security Degree in 2021 - MastersPortal.com](#). A complete guide to decide if you should study a Cyber Security degree: IT Security degree duration and admission requirements. Tuition fees. Scholarships, internships, and hacking contests. And much more!

Podcasts:

- [Estonia's Role in Cyber Diplomacy | Center for Strategic and International Studies \(csis.org\)](#). Our Council Member and Estonia's Ambassador-at-Large for Cyber Diplomacy, [Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar](#) was interviewed by Jim Lewis and Chris Painter for one of the latest podcast episodes of [Center for Strategic and International Studies \(CSIS\)](#).



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