Establishment of Cypriot Academic CSIRT

58th TF-CSIRT Meeting
September 17, 2019
Talk outline

1. CYNET
2. The Academic CSIRT of Cyprus
3. Main Objective of the proposed Action
4. Further Objectives
5. Stakeholders
6. Services
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 (CYNET-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.

- In 2017 the submission of a successful proposal resulted in the granting of funds through CEF (Connecting Europe Facility).

- CYNET in collaboration with DSA - Digital Security Agency 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’.

Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union
Main Objective of the proposed action

Establishment of the CYNET-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;
- 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.
MISSION

CYNET-CSIRT aims to

- Provide
  - Incident response and security services to all Academic Institutions, Research Institutes & educational networks - members of the CYNET.
  - Early warnings, alerts, announcements and dissemination of information to its constituency and relevant parties regarding risks and incidents.

- Educate its members about
  - the effects of cyber threats and cyber-crime, and train them to provide early warnings, alerts, announcements and efficient use of the respective tools.
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.
Stakeholders

- Existing CYNET Members
- Academic Private Institutes and relevant organisations
- Research Institutes and relevant organisations
- Public and Private Schools
- National CSIRT and other global sectorial and private CSIRT/CERTs
Services

- **Reactive Services**
  - Alerts and Warnings
  - Incident Handling

- **Proactive Services**
  - Announcements
  - Tools Development
  - Intrusion Detection
  - Threat Intelligence Sharing

- **Security Quality Management Services**
  - Security Awareness
  - Education and Training
Team Members

Contact Details

- **George J. Konnis**
  Managing Director  
  Cyprus Research & Academic Network  
  **Tel.** +35722892744  
  **Email:** director@cynet.ac.cy  
  **Address:** 1, Panepistimiou Avenue 2109, Nicosia, Cyprus

- **Aristos S. Anastasiou**
  Cyber Security Analyst  
  Academic Cyber Security Incident Response Team  
  **Tel.** +35722693084  
  **Email:** aristos.anastasiou@cynet.ac.cy  
  **Address:** 8, Ilioupoleos Str. 1101, Nicosia, Cyprus

- **Panayiota T. Smyrli**
  Cyber Security Analyst  
  Academic Cyber Security Incident Response Team  
  **Tel.** +35722693091  
  **Email:** yiota.smyrli@cynet.ac.cy  
  **Address:** 8, Ilioupoleos Str. 1101, Nicosia, Cyprus
Thank you for your attention!