



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Sustainable and Secure Society
Trust and Security

Brussels, 23 July 2014

Invitation to join NIS Platform

The public-private network and information security (NIS) Platform – NISP - was established in June 2013, as part of the EU Cybersecurity Strategy, and has already succeeded in delivering a first set of guidance on good cybersecurity practices.

The Platform counts over 200 organisations¹ as its members. The membership has gathered for three Plenary meetings, and many more telephone conferences, over the year of its existence. The minutes and documents from Plenary meetings are available on the NIS Platform web-portal². This work is a good beginning in a process that aims to build trust and security over the long and diverse value chain linking together providers and users in the European digital marketplace.

1. FUTURE WORK PLAN AND ENLARGED MEMBERSHIP

The NIS Platform is now at the stage of identifying its future Work Plan and how to prepare for European Commission recommendations on good cybersecurity practices, drawing upon the work of the Platform.

The European Commission Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) and the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) are calling upon new members to join the NIS Platform, in particular Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), who have a great role to play for raising the level of cybersecurity over the value chain. But also economic sectors that are currently not so well represented, for instance banking, transport and health as well as consumer and digital user associations.

¹ Visible on European Commission expert group register:

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=2920&NewSearch=1&NewSearch=1>

² <https://resilience.enisa.europa.eu/nis-platform>

2. BENEFIT FOR SMEs

Having SMEs within the NIS Platform is a key issue and will be very helpful for both the Platform and SMEs. On the one hand, having first hand feedback from the targeted organisations will be very beneficial to the NIS Platform in order to refine the approach of the recommendations and better accommodate them to SMEs. On the other hand, SMEs can benefit from the recommendations and deliverables produced by the Platform, improving their cybersecurity level and raising the bar in the complete supply chain.

The public-private, multi-stakeholder approach of the NIS Platform, with participation of European Commission, ENISA, national authorities, industry and academia, delivers mutual understanding and common approaches to the complex challenge of cybersecurity. And can draw upon experience from past initiatives, such as the appropriate security measures for smart grids developed with the help of ENISA.

3. AREAS OF FUTURE WORK

Based on the first year of work of the NIS Platform, the following topics have been identified as **tentative Chapters for European Commission recommendations on good cybersecurity practices**:

1. Organisational structures and requirements
2. Verification and auditing of requirements
3. Voluntary information sharing
4. Incident response
5. Mandatory incident notification
6. Code of conduct on data protection
7. [Optional] Recommendations on research challenges and opportunities
8. [Optional] Incentives for the uptake of good cybersecurity practices

The Commission recommendations on good cybersecurity practices will be proposed in 2015 and serve as a reference document to help the organisations improve their network and information systems resilience. The recommendations will also help organisations concerned to comply with the requirements of the future NIS Directive, which is currently going through the legislative process. In the case of SMEs some of them would be in the scope of the NIS Directive, while micro-enterprises would be excluded. The Commission recommendations would therefore help micro-enterprises to raise their level of security as well.

The recommendations will foster the uptake of good cybersecurity practices in the spirit of the European Cybersecurity strategy as well as the NIS Directive across the broader value chain and thereby result in an enhanced level of security for end-users, individuals and companies.

4. MORE INFORMATION

On the website of the [NIS Platform](#)³ you can find information about its work, including its three Working Groups (WGs). If you are interested in becoming a member and actively contribute to its work please send a message to the NIS Platform secretariat at CNECT-NIS@ec.europa.eu mentioning the Working Group or above mentioned Chapter you would like to contribute to, the name of your organisation, the name and function of the person you would like to appoint as a member. The NIS Platform secretariat will then confirm your membership with the WG Chair, after which you will be put on the mailing list and granted access to the NIS Platform members' area.

Expressions of interest should be sent to the NIS Platform secretariat CNECT-NIS@ec.europa.eu, **preferably by 15 September 2014**. For questions of clarification please contact Ann-Sofie Ronnlund, Policy Officer, DG CONNECT by phone +32-(0)2-2953581 (in the holiday period you will be redirected to another colleague).

Please note that when expressing your interest in joining you are also committing to following the principles of the Member's Charter, in Annex.

We hope that this invitation will raise your interest and hope to welcome you as a future Member of the NIS Platform.

Yours sincerely

Jakub BORATYNSKI
Head of Unit

Enclosures: NIS Platform Member's Charter

³ <https://resilience.enisa.europa.eu/nis-platform>

ANNEX – NIS Platform Member’s Charter

In order to ensure that all Members have the same understanding of what it entails to be a NIS Platform Member, which is to actively contribute to the work, some basic principles are outlined herewith.

All bodies, organisations (public and private) and individuals may apply to become a member of a NISP WG. Membership of the WGs requires approval by the relevant WG Chairs and DG Connect⁴.

Members of WGs are expected to contribute to the activities:

- attend audio- and videoconferences and meetings; participate actively
- respond to requests for input from the WG Chairs;
- input to the creation and review of documents and deliverables;
- input to deriving consensus on recommendations and deliverables.

If members are not able to participate at a certain occasion they are expected to communicate their views to the Chairs or another member in advance, so that their contribution can be taken into account. Please note that if these conditions are not met by members their further membership may be reviewed by the WG Chairs and DG Connect.

The NISP operates on the principle of rough consensus for reaching agreement between its members, with possibility to have dissenting views recorded. The work of members is not remunerated and therefore audio- and videoconferences are privileged.

⁴ Public administrations are granted automatic membership by the NISP secretariat.