It is well know that the COVID-19 pandemic created a completely new set of challenges and small businesses are not prepared to deal with them; their investments in cyber-protection are low.

SMEs as well as other organizations scrambled to move operations online and it meant more personal devices like smartphones, tablets and laptops that have the access to sensitive corporate information. The result has been an insufficient cybersecurity infrastructure and the need for increasing training to avoid complex cyberattacks. SMEs in particular are targets for criminal activities also due to less knowledge of cybersecurity measures and connections with other disciplines. SMEs' resources are limited, so they need help.

In this context, within the Erasmus+ project Interdisciplinary Cyber Training (InCyT), partners from University, Research, VET, and SMEs have developed a flexible, digital interdisciplinary cybersecurity training program for SMEs employers and employees supported from a collaborative digital platform.

The content and methods used by training were improved after discussions with SME representatives, cyber consultants, educators and trainers.

Employees and Employers from all partner countries who participated in the training program were supported by mentors in each partner country. Different interactive training methods have been used.

The training program was presented at different events and was appreciated as useful.

The training will also be evaluated by learners from all partner countries who followed the program through special short questionnaires.
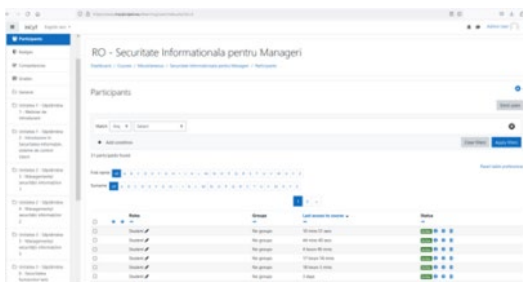
Some observations from Denmark are the following.

After the course has ended, the participants have continued the discussion on the LinkedIn community group and at the in-person event (Cyber Cafe). As a result of the group exercises, several participants made a new connection and expanded their business network. A group of participants even discovered a need within the Danish cybersecurity field and are planning to create a course/training in that direction as a business venture.

Several of the SMEs have followed our advice to access public funding to increase their digital security and most of the participants are encouraging their network to take advantage of this opportunity.

When asked on how to improve the organization of the course, the participants suggested the following: a 10 minutes break every 50 minutes; ensure there is a leader in every breakout room; make the course longer; add more images to the slides;

Activities from Romania to support the training

Training in Romania takes place in good conditions. After a campaign to promote and disseminate information, among SMEs, registrations have begun. 41 participants registered for the courses for managers and employees. The participants are constantly assisted and guided.

Dissemination activities – Romania

Regional Innovation Forum, University of Craiova, February 27, 2023.

HUB - Support Center for International R&D Projects for the Oltenia region, Craiova, February 14, 2023
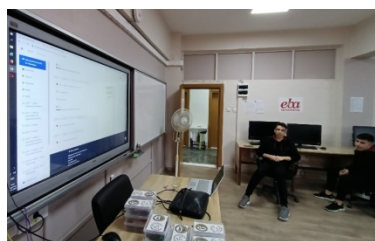

Meeting in Copenhagen

The learners will describe how the training can help them in their jobs, particularly for taking right security measures in case of a cyber-attack.
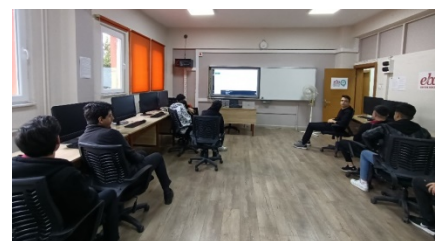
Dario Assante (Italy) presented the paper entitled "Cybersecurity education for SMEs" at the 20th International Conference on Remote Engineering and Virtual Instrumentation (REV2023) and International Edunet World Conference (IEWC 2023) organized on 01–03 March, 2023, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Ileana Hamburg presented the paper "Supporting Interdisciplinarity, Diversity and Inclusion in Cybersecurity", at the 17th annual International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation (INTED2023), on the 6-8 of March, 2023, Valencia, Spain.

Ali Gokdemir (Turkey) carried out a small workshop to improve the awareness of vocational high school students in the field of cyber security and to share educational opportunities. It is very important that these students, who will start their professional life, are trained in the field of cyber security.

The next step within InCyT is based on the improvement of the training program for SMEs, the development of a version for VET and a European training model. In this context the training program and the digital platform will be presented to the VET institutions also within planned Multiplier Events in partner countries as well as evaluated by the VET through a questionnaire.