



Kompetenčné
a certifikačné
centrum
kybernetickej
bezpečnosti

How to find young talents in cybersecurity?

Cooperation of ECCC, NCCs, ENISA and partners

ISACA Budapest conference, 2.6.2026

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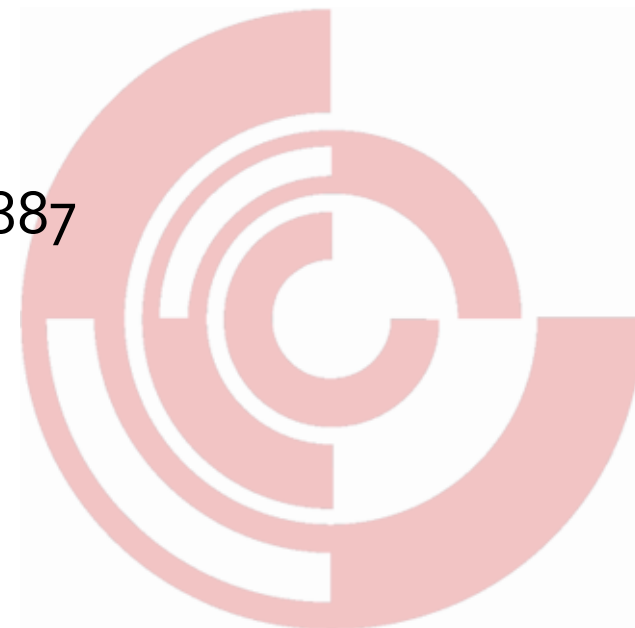


CYBERSECURITY COMPETENCE AND CERTIFICATION CENTER (KCCKB)

KCCKB is a state-funded organization established by the National Security Authority in 2020.

Main tasks of KCCKB include:

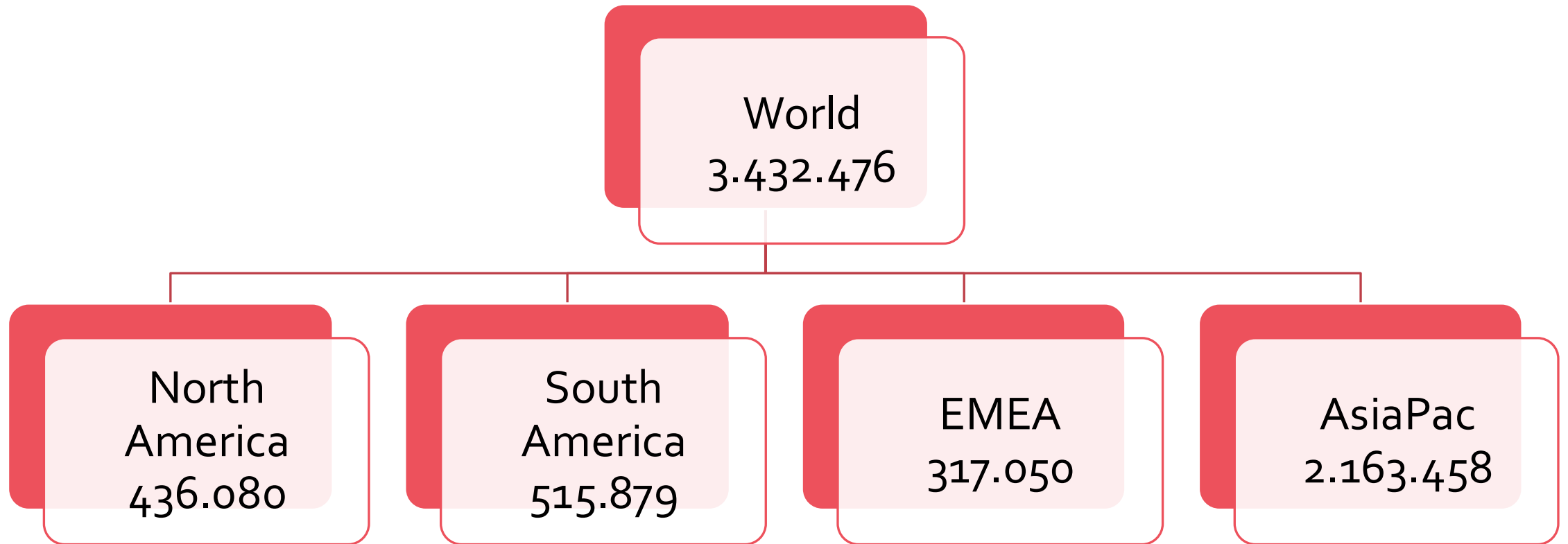
- National Coordination Center per EU Regulation 2021/887
- Certification of cybersecurity auditors and managers
- Cybersecurity education and awareness campaigns
- Publications and events
- Cybersecurity audits (per Act No. 69/2018)
- Consulting in cybersecurity, classified information, and trusted services
- Expert witness organization





WORLDWIDE DEMAND OF CYBER PROFESSIONALS

Yearly growth: 26,2%



Source: (ISC)² Cybersecurity workforce study



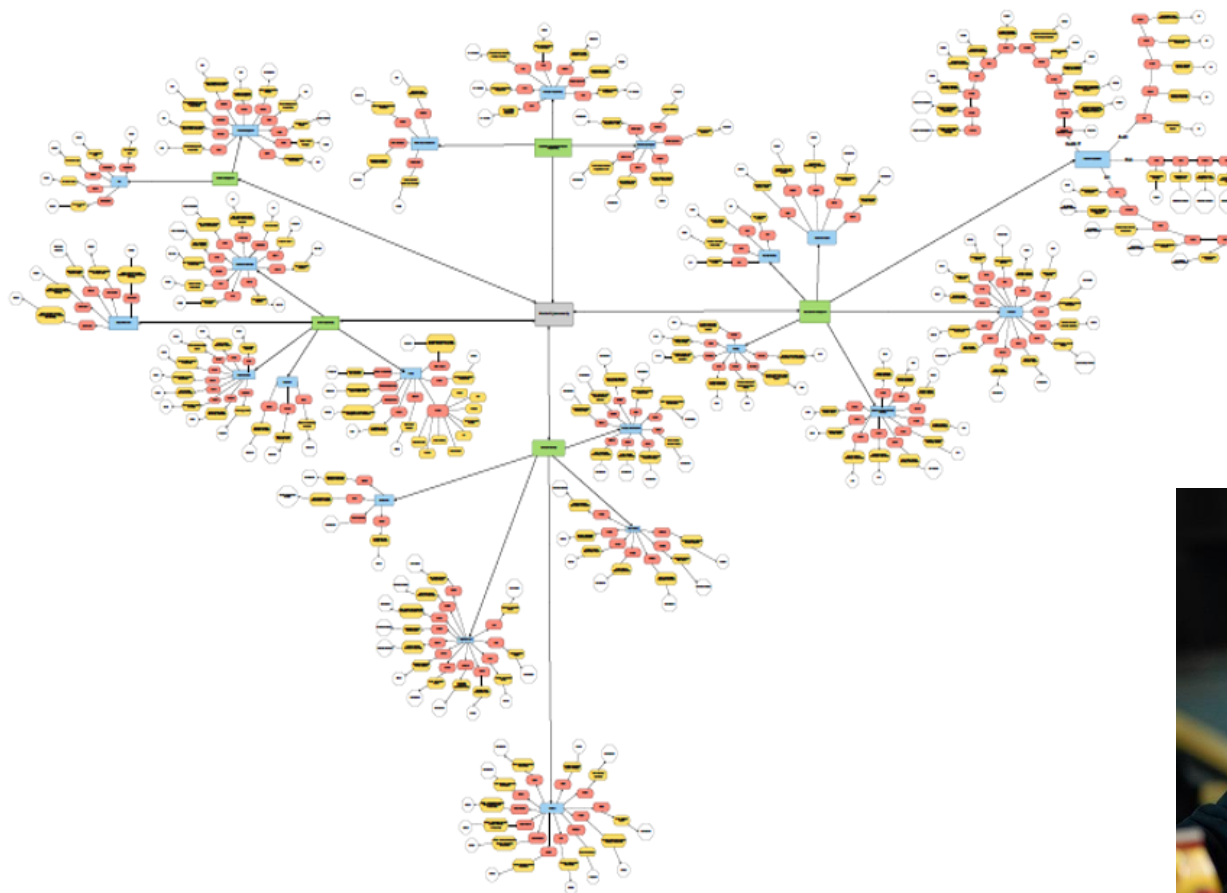
Missed chances or solutions?

- Upskilling

- Certification



- Finding young cyber talents





European Cyber Security Challenge ECSC

Managed by ENISA and financed by ECDC



What is European Cyber Security Challenge ?

- 2-day finals cyber competition of the national teams
- Onsite/online challenges - CTF (Capture The Flag)
 - Jeopardy
 - Attack & Defense
- The national team consists of 10 members
- Players between 15 and 25 years
 - Juniors (up to 20 years old)
 - Seniors (21-25 years old)
- The host country is always an EU country, the activity is covered by ENISA
- 12th ECSC Finals - October 2026 in Bochum, Germany
 - 44 countries = 44 teams = 440 young hackers





ICC 2026, Gold Coast, Australia

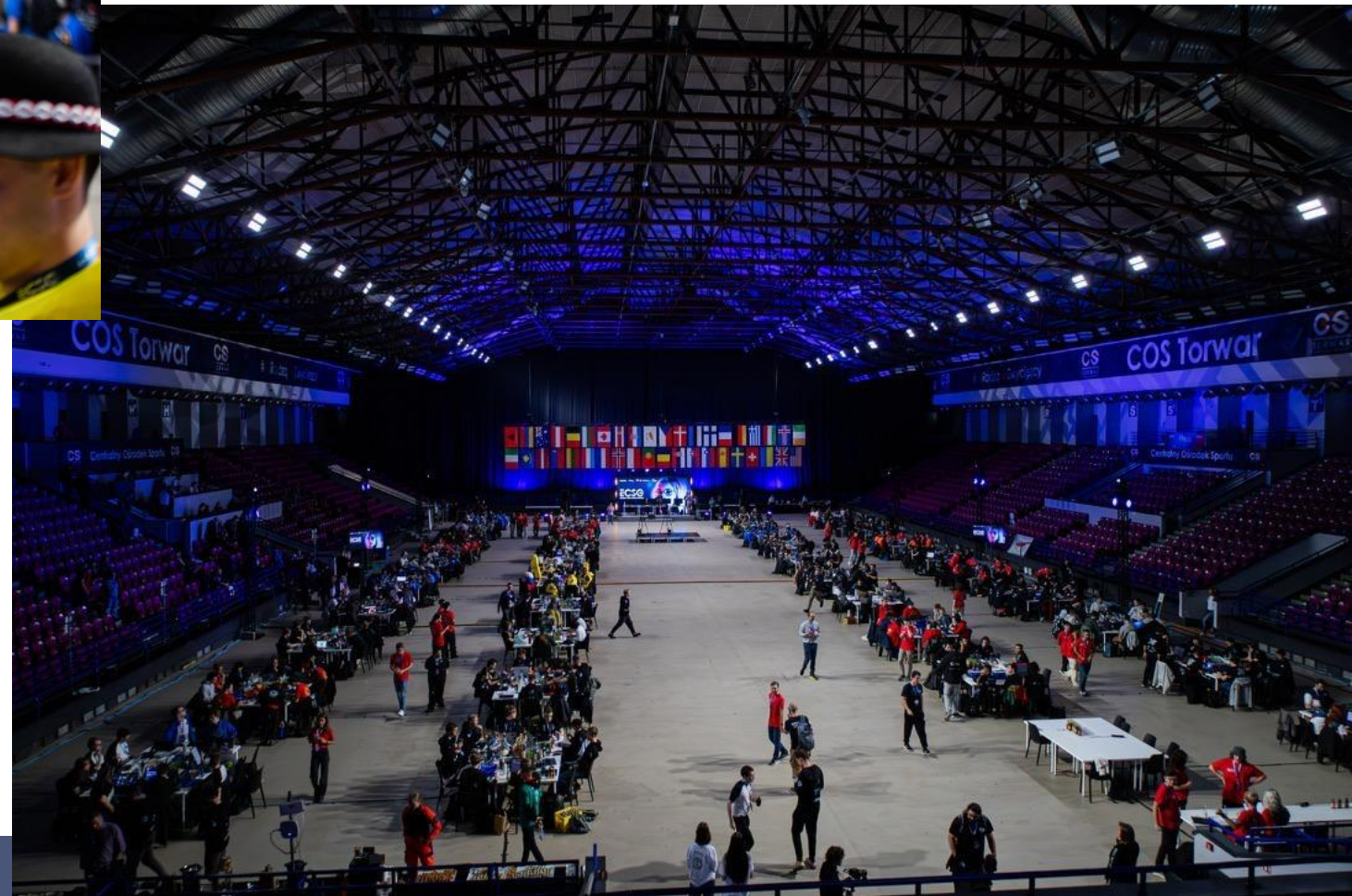




ECSC 2025, Warsaw, Poland



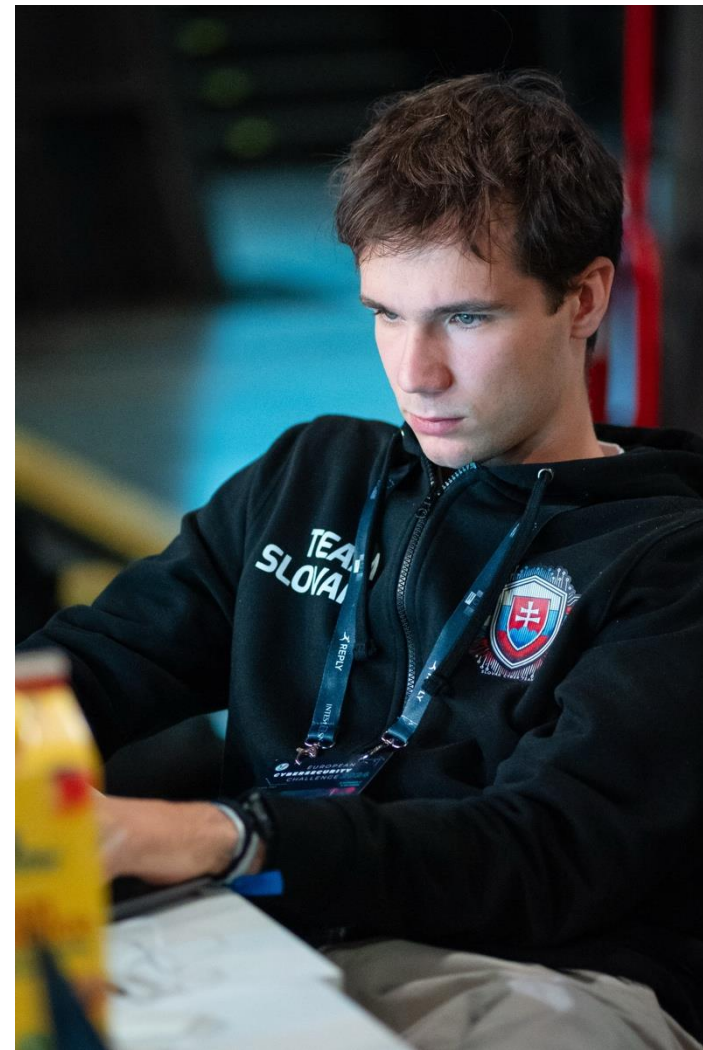
ECSC 2025, Warsaw, Poland



<https://ecsc2025.pl/>



ECSC 2024, Turin, Italy





Why CTFs?

- Gamification is one of the best learning methods
- Skill development
 - Practical, hands-on training across security domains
- Teamwork and readiness
 - Simulates high-pressure, real-world cyber incidents
- Community
 - Collaboration, Skillsharing, Talent Identification
- Innovation and Threat Discovery



Capture The Flag (CTF) Competitions

Consists of challenges in different categories

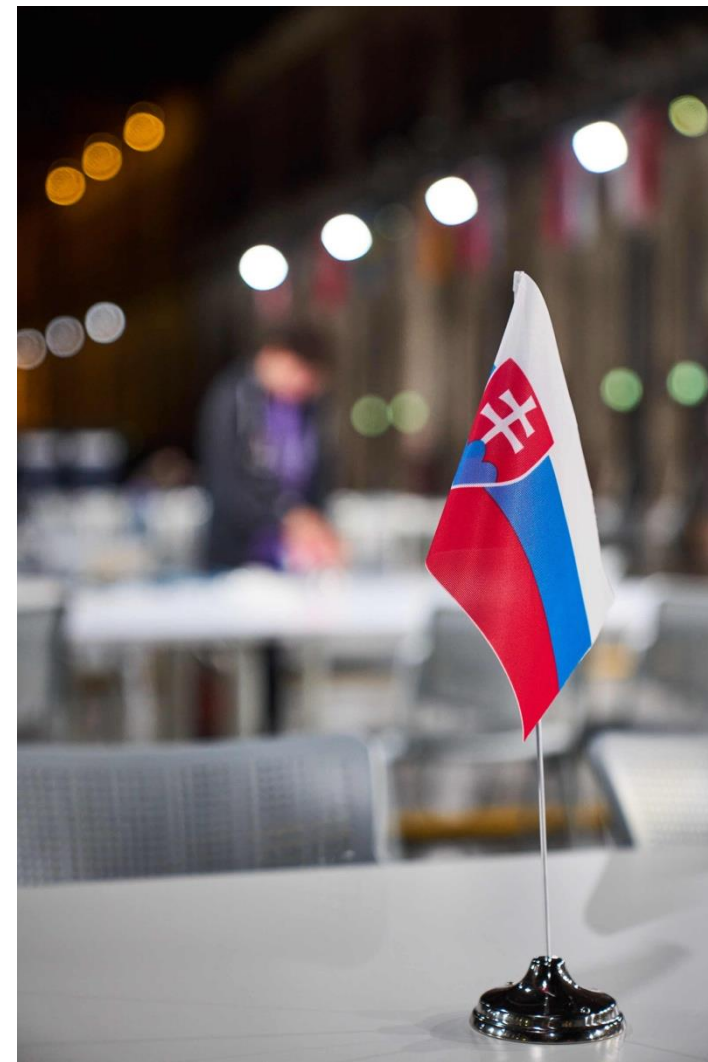
- Reverse Engineering, Cryptography, Forensics, Binary Exploitation, Web Security

Upon a correct solution, the player can access a flag

- A secret text in a predefined format -
flag{y0u_cr4ck3d_th3_3n1gm4_f83d12a}
- Players submit points for flags

Example:

- A website vulnerable to SQL injection
- Flag is stored in the database, only website administrator can access it
- Players have to exploit the SQL injection and get the flag





Attack-Defense style of CTFs

Teams are responsible for hosting their “vulnbox”

Each vulnbox runs a set of vulnerable challenges

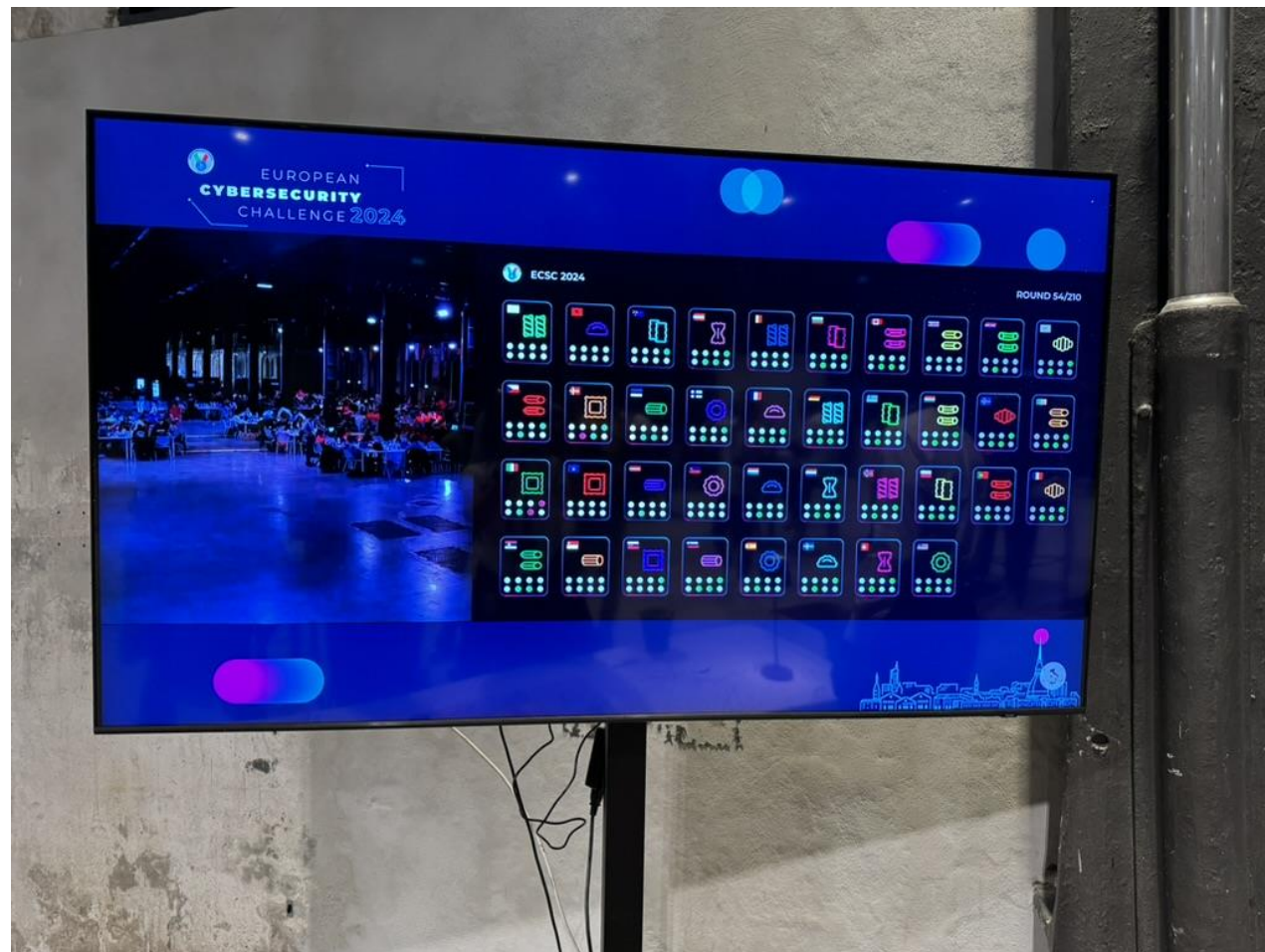
Teams identify vulnerabilities in the challenges

- Patch them on their vulnbox
- Attack other teams

Traffic monitoring

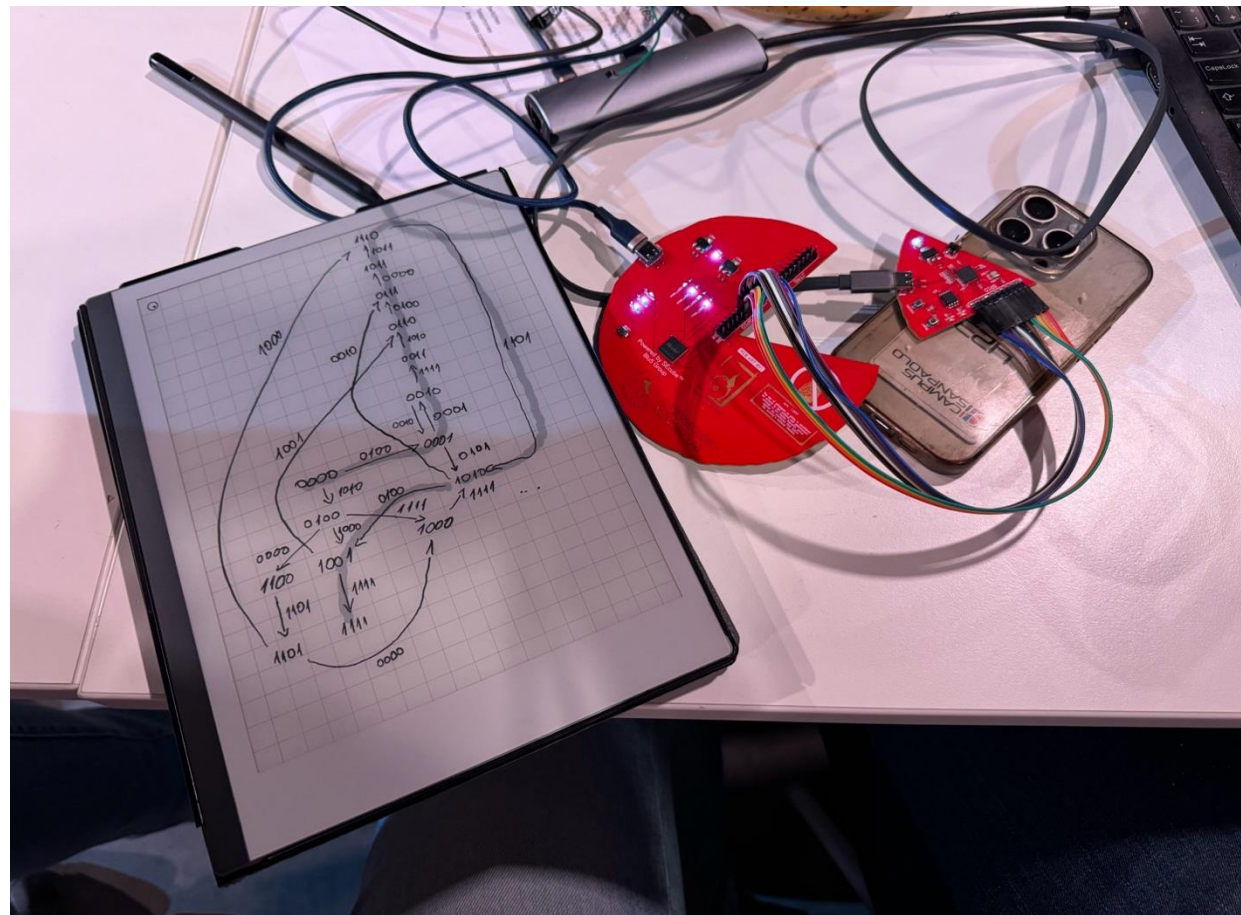
- Identifying attacks
- Stealing exploits 🐱

Points for Attack, Defense, and Availability





ECSC 2024





SLOVAK CYBER TEAM

Where are we looking for players? How to become one?

<https://cyberteam.sk/>



- organised by the National Security Authority - <https://cybergame.sk/sk>
- various difficulty levels, open to the general public - 1.3. - 9.5. 2026
- Number of players
 - In 2024: 2312 registered players and 874 active players
 - In 2025: 4000+ registered players, 1300 active
 - In 2026: 6000+ registered players, 2000 active



Forming the SLOVAK CYBER TEAM

- We organize educational/training bootcamps in the manor house in Brunovce
- Expert presentations, workshops, homework assignments
- Online CTF tournaments
- Cooperation with other national teams:
 - International bootcamp in Vienna (12 states) – workshops, joint CTF, networking
 - International bootcamp in Brunovce – SK, CZ, AT & Romania. (The joint team from last year session called "Habsburg Anarchy" won the 6th place in the online CTF Sekai out of more than 1200 registered teams)
- Zero Days CTF in Dublin, DefCamp conference in Bucharest



Partners of Slovak Cyber Team (including ISACA)





International bootcamp – SK, CZ & AT





4th place - DCTF, DefCamp Bucharest Romania
2nd place - ZeroDays CTF Dublin Ireland





Behind the scenes ...

- Life-changer – moving from the online world and being part of a community increases players' soft skills
- A huge chance to discover young talents and encourage them to pursue a career in cybersecurity
- Amazing commitment, enthusiasm and passion of managers and coaches, weekends spent with the team at bootcamps





What`s next?

- 1) Do you know your national NCC?
- 2) Do you know your national ECSC organization?
- 3) Are you working with your ENISA representative?

Ask me for contacts !



Hack, Compete, Connect

Thank you !



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