

Erasmus+ KA2 Capacity Building project

**Development of Innovative Graduate Educational Program in Cyber
Security for Digital labor market of Central Asia**

(Cyber4CA)



31 March-2 April 2026

**“Workshop on Cyber Security Application
Comparative Analysis in EU/CA HEIs curricula
development” Almaty, Kazakhstan**

Venue:

International Information Technology University, 34/1 Manas Str, Almaty

Participating Institutions:

- Tashkent University of Information Technology (**TUIT**), Uzbekistan
- Universidad Politecnica De Madrid (**UPM**), Spain
- University Politehnica of Bucharest (**UNSTPB**), Romania
- University of Antwerp (**UAntwerp**), Belgium
- Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (**SSSA**), Italy
- National University of Uzbekistan (**NUU**), Uzbekistan
- University of Management and Future Technologies (**UMFT**), Uzbekistan
- International Information Technology University (**IITU**), Kazakhstan
- Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda University (**KKU**), Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov (**KSTU**), Kyrgyzstan
- Osh State University (**OshSU**), Kyrgyzstan
- “UNICON.UZ - Science-Technical and Marketing Research Center” LLC (**UNICON.UZ**), Uzbekistan
- Association of legal entities “Kazakhstan Information Security Association” (**KISA**), Kazakhstan
- Ministry of higher education, science, and innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan (**MHSSERUZ**)
- Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan (**MSHE RKZ**)
- Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic (**MESKR**)
- Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan (**MDTRUZ**)

Workshop Overview and Objectives

This 3-day face-to-face workshop, held at IITU (International Information Technology University) (Almaty, Kazakhstan), will bring together all project partners to compare and analyze **cybersecurity curricula, courses and best practices** in higher education institutions in the European Union (EU) and Partner Countries (PC). The event will be the culmination of WP2 (analysis phase) and will also serve as a solid “bridge” to WP3 (development of training courses and programs). The main objectives of the workshop are:

- **presentation and discussion of previous analyses:** Share findings from the analyses (key issues, current curricula/courses, existing cybersecurity centers) conducted within the framework of deliverables D2.1 and D2.2 on cybersecurity education in EU and PC countries. These results (together with future survey data) will serve as the main evidence base for course development;

- **sharing best practices:** Providing best practices in cybersecurity curriculum design, teaching methodologies and practical approaches by EU partners, and identifying gaps and needs in PC universities;

- **review of the draft survey on public demand and awareness:** Present the survey draft developed within T2.5, receive feedback from partners. The draft survey will be discussed step by step during the workshop to ensure that it is appropriate for local conditions and needs;

- **develop practical recommendations for adaptation through working groups:** Organize discussions in working groups on adapting EU experience to the needs of the Central Asian region. As a result, specific recommendations and adaptation solutions will be formulated for WP3 and subsequent activities;

- **strengthen the consortium's common understanding and agree on directions for WP3:** Prepare thoroughly for WP3 (course and program development) by reaching a common approach and agreement among partners on priorities, next steps, and a work plan.

Monday 30, March 2026

| Arrival and check-in of the participants at the hotels.

DAY 1 Tuesday, 31 March – Workshop

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| 09:30 – 10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | <p>Opening, Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Address – Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of kazakhstan; • Welcome Address - Rector, IITU, Kazakhstan; • Welcome Address - Ministry of higher education, science, and innovations of the Republic of Uzbekistan; • Welcome Address - Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic; • Welcome Address – Halimjon Khujamatov Project Coordinator – Cyber4CA, Uzbekistan; • Welcome Address – Slobodan Bojanic Regional Coordinator from EU, UPM, Spain. |
| 11:00 -11:30 | <p>Coffee Break</p> <p>Common cybersecurity challenges in curricula, gaps in PC vs EU approaches, and highlights of EU Cyber Security centers</p> |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | <p>Report on Survey of Public Demand and Awareness (Summary of findings from D2.1 and D2.2) Razvan Craciunescu, UNSTPB, Romania; Nilufar Sadullaeva, NUU, Uzbekistan.</p> |
| 13:00-14:30 | Lunch Break |
| 14:30-15:30 | <p>Session 1: EU Best Practices in Cybersecurity Education</p> <p>Slobodan Bojanic, UPM, Spain; Johann Marcelo Marquez Barja, UAntwerp, Belgium; Luca Valcarengi, (SSSA), Italy; Razvan Craciunescu, (UNSTPB), Romania.</p> <p>Presentation content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) an overview of EU policy in the domain of Cyber Security. 2) Tools, methods, standards, policies, and programs incorporated in EU countries pertaining to Cyber Security. 3) Specific instances of Cyber Security implementation in EU Partner universities. 4) Curricula and courses pertaining to Cyber Security and its specific applications 5) Teaching approaches related to the use of Cyber Security. |
| 15:30-16:30 | Session 2: Partner Country Curricula and Challenges |

Presentation content:

Existing educational programs in Cybersecurity, standards, tools, methods, curricula, courses, teaching approaches.

Khasanov Doston, TUIT, Uzbekistan;
Nilufar Sadullaeva, NUU, Uzbekistan;
Mukhriddin Mukhiddinov, UMFT, Uzbekistan;
Damelya Yeskendiroya, IITU, Kazakhstan;
Temirbolat Kenshinbay, KGU, Kazakhstan;

16:30-17:00

Coffee Break

17:00-17:30

Absamat Abdulaev, KSTU, Kyrgyzstan;
Ulukbek Erkebaev, OshSU, Kyrgyzstan.

17:30 – 18:00

Discussion, Q&A

19:00

Welcome Dinner

DAY 2 Wednesday, 1 April – Workshop

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09:30 – 09:45

Deep Dive: Interactive Working Groups & Knowledge Exchange

(Highlights of the discussions on Day 1: identified best practices, key challenges and gaps. General summary as a “starting point” for the work of the working groups.)

09:45 – 10:15

Session 3: Specialized Topics Presentations

Cybersecurity competencies and qualification: modern market demands

Victor Pokussov, (KISA), Kazakhstan;
Makhamadnozimov Shukurjon, (UNICON.UZ), Uzbekistan.

10:15-10:45

CyberLab and training program models

Slobodan Bojanic, UPM, Spain;

10:45-11:00

Q&A

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-11:45

Development of the design and content of the Master's degree program within the framework of the project

(Each CA partner university should have a draft of the future MA educational program taking into account national requirements).

Formation of working groups

(Participants will be divided into **3** groups of mixed EU and PC. Each group will be given a topic, guiding questions, and a flipchart/worksheet. Each group will appoint a rapporteur)

11:45-13:00

Parallel Working Groups:

Group 1 - Curriculum Content & Structure:

(Compare EU and PC course/topic lists. Identify new courses or content areas that should be added to the PC curriculum (e.g., incident response, blockchain security, etc.). Make suggestions for restructuring existing courses, teaching methodologies (lecture vs. lab, PBL, etc.));

Group 2 - CyberLabs & Practical Training:

(Requirements for hands-on training: equipment, labs, practical assignments, industry collaboration. Adaptation of EU CyberLab experience (D2.2 and Session 3B) to Central Asian context. CyberLab Recommendation Package for WP4);

Group 3 - Policy Alignment & Institutional Support:

(Institutional changes and political support required to implement new programs: accreditation processes, role of ministries, incentives, industry participation, faculty training needs (related to WP3), sustainability mechanisms);

13:00-14:30

Lunch Break

14:30-15:30

Working Group Reports (Plenary)

(Each group rapporteur presents the results)

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-16:30

Consolidation discussion

The rationality of using the best practices of the EU and CA in the creation of the MA program on Cybersecurity and the role of Cyberlab: the view of WPs Leaders.

Leader of WP2 – Analyses of Cyber Security related study programs
UNSTPB; Co-Lead: NUU

Leader of WP 3 - Development and implementation of Cyber Security related study programs and courses
Lead UAntwerp; Co-Lead: OshSU

Leader of WP 4: CyberLab and training program development
Lead: UPM; Co-Lead: IITU

Discussion, Q&A

(A brief summary of the results achieved, an assignment for participants to prepare additional ideas for final recommendations, and Q&A)

16:30-18:00

Tour visit to “Freedom Satellite Company”, the division of the Information Security Department, Almaty

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| 09:30-10:00 | <p>Consortium Meeting – WP1 WP1: Project management and coordination (TUIT) (i) Project management and coordination (TUIT) (ii) Financial flows and budget management (TUIT)</p> |
| 10:00-10:30 | <p>Consortium Meeting – WP2 WP2 - Analyses of Cyber Security related study programs (UNSTPB and NUU) (i) Report on Cyber Security centres at EU (ii) Report on Survey of Public Demand and Awareness</p> |
| 10:30-11:00 | <p>Consortium Meeting – WP3 WP3: Development and implementation of Cyber Security related study programs and courses</p> |
| 11:00-11:30 | <p>Coffee Break</p> |
| 11:30-12:00 | <p>Consortium Meeting – WP3 WP3: Development and implementation of Cyber Security related study programs and courses</p> |
| 12:00-12:30 | <p>Consortium Meeting – WP4 WP4 – CyberLab and training program development (Universidad Politecnica De Madrid in collaboration with IITU) (i) List of purchasing equipments (All CA HEIs)</p> |
| 12:30-13:00 | <p>Consortium Meeting – WP5 WP5 – Quality assurance and monitoring (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in collaboration with KSTU) (i) Quality Assurance Plan (ii) External Quality Evaluation</p> |
| 13:00-14:30 | <p>Lunch Break</p> |
| 14:30-15:00 | <p>Consortium Meeting – WP6 WP6 – Dissemination and exploitation (University of Management and Future Technologies in collaboration with KKU) (i) Project website and social networks (ii) Dissemination and exploitation plan (iii) Project promotional material</p> |
| 15:00-16:00 | <p>Session 4: Formulating Final Recommendations for Regional Adaptation (Curriculum updates (which modules/courses from the EU to adapt to PC programs), Pedagogical changes (more hands-on labs, industry guest lectures, PBL, etc.), CyberLab development steps (based on the EU model, taking into account local resource constraints), Policy/partnership mechanisms (industry advisory board, ministerial support, accreditation path, etc.) and these recommendations directly feed into the design of WP3 (courses/programs) and WP4 (CyberLabs))</p> |
| 16:00-16:30 | <p>Formalizing decisions and action items (Review and approve the list of decisions from the workshop)</p> |
| 16:30-17:00 | <p>Coffee Break</p> |

17:00-17:30

Closing Session and Certificates Ceremony

Friday, 3 April – Partners' Departure