

Press Release

Vienna, 18.04.2024

AIT AND OFFICE FOR COUNTER TERRORISM (UNOCT) ORGANISE CYBER SECURITY TRAINING IN VIENNA

Cybersecurity training for greater resilience of digital infrastructures in global smart cities

On 27 and 28 March 2024, the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN) and the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), in cooperation with the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, conducted a strategic, scenario-based table-top exercise focusing on a terrorist cyberattack on critical infrastructure. The two-day event took place at the AIT headquarters in Vienna and involved the participation of eight cities. The exercise highlighted the current challenges facing city leaders in terms of critical infrastructure vulnerability, deepfake/disinformation campaigns, and incident coordination and response, amplified by new threats from generative artificial intelligence (AI). "We are delighted to be able to support the United Nations on such an important topic. Sharing our experience and new tools to combat cyberattacks is one of our core services," says **Helmut Leopold**, Head of Centre for Digital Safety & Security, AIT. "We greatly appreciate AIT's cooperation and support in organising this two-day exercise in Vienna. Their knowledge and expertise in this area led to a very successful exercise that was of great benefit to the participating cities," said **Mauro Medico**, Director of the UN Counter Terrorism Centre, UNOCT.

Cybersecurity training for 8 global smart cities

Representatives from eight cities - Barcelona, Brussels, Copenhagen, London, New York City, Seoul, Singapore and Stockholm - took part in the scenario-based table-top exercise. Chief Information Officers (CIOs), Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs), cyber security specialists and law enforcement and counter-terrorism experts exchanged information security best practices to protect critical infrastructure. They analysed response structures, capabilities and contingencies as part of the scenario exercise.

Internationally recognised cyber security training centre

The AIT Austrian Institute of Technology has established a globally recognised position as a competence centre for cyber security training for digital infrastructures. The powerful and modern AIT Cyber Range supports cyber security training for IT and OT systems for competence development and capacity building for critical infrastructure operators, system developers, public authorities, large companies and SMEs.

The AIT is the world's first IAEA Collaborating Centre for cyber security training for the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA). It is also a training partner for the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS) and supports the national KSÖ cyber security exercises for Austrian operators of critical infrastructures and authorities.

Further information:

- AIT Cyber Range – Training Center: <https://cyberrange.at/>
- News story on the IAEA website: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/ait-austrian-institute-of-technology-becomes-the-first-iaea-collaborating-centre-for-information-and-computer-security-for-nuclear-security>
- KSÖ Cyber Security Trainingsbericht: <https://www.ait.ac.at/en/news-events/single-view/detail/8011?cHash=d3d5eb453e130ff6d797219483cca849>

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Picture credits: AIT / Donald Dudenhoeffer

Caption Group photo:

The organisation team of the exercise (from left to right): Alex Townsend-Drake, Programme Manager, Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN), Philipp Agathonos, Head of Unit, Federal Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs (FMEIA), Martin Stierle, Head of the Competence Unit Security and Communication Technologies (AIT), Helmut Leopold, Head of the Center for Digital Safety & Security (AIT), Mauro Medico, Director, UN Counter Terrorism Centre (UNOCT), Balques Al Radwan, Programme Management Officer, Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme (UNOCT/UNCCT), Alexandre Goulfier, Associate Expert, Cybersecurity & New Technologies (UNOCT), Eric Eifert, Cyber Security Research Engineer, Center for Digital Safety & Security (AIT), Donald Dudenhoeffer, Cyber Security Research Engineer, Center for Digital Safety & Security (AIT)

Caption Certificate Image:

Mauro Medico (UNOCT) thanks Helmut Leopold (AIT) for the excellent partnership and cooperation.