Press release

EUROCYBER NEXUS brings European cybersecurity partners together in Udine

At the project's first Policy Gate, held at the Science and Technology Park in via Jacopo Linussio, Friuli Venezia Giulia showcased its expertise and regions compared their approaches to cybersecurity for SMEs.

Udine, 20 November 2026 – **EUROCYBER NEXUS** held its first Policy Gate at the premises of **Friuli Innovazione – TEC4I FVG**, the project coordinator, in via Jacopo Linussio 51. Funded by the *Horizon Europe* programme, the project brought together partners from Italy, Finland, Romania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with experts, institutions and companies from Friuli Venezia Giulia, to discuss how to strengthen cybersecurity for SMEs and identify new opportunities for collaboration.



Participants in the first EUROCYBER NEXUS Policy Gate, Udine, 20 November 2026.

"*Today, **cybersecurity** is a key factor for business competitiveness and for the security of our region. In Friuli Venezia Giulia we have highly valuable expertise and experience that must be increasingly connected. At Friuli Innovazione we are actively committed to supporting SMEs through cybersecurity services and initiatives, encouraging the adoption of innovative solutions and strengthening digital resilience. EUROCYBER NEXUS is an important opportunity for exchange and collaboration at European level, from which concrete actions can emerge to benefit businesses and the region*", said **Fabrizio Rovatti**, CEO of **Friuli Innovazione – TEC4I FVG**, the project coordinator.

During the meeting, the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia framed its support for SMEs within the context of the European NIS2 Directive; the University of Udine presented its research, from anomaly detection to quantum communications; and ITS Academy Alto Adriatico outlined its cybersecurity training programmes. DITEDI, Eurosystem and Confindustria Udine contributed the perspective of the digital cluster and of businesses.

"*In Friuli Venezia Giulia we can rely on a strong network of universities, research centres, technology infrastructures and organisations that support businesses on their innovation journey. Today's challenge is to better connect these resources and make it easier for **SMEs to access expertise and services in cybersecurity**. This is not only about meeting the obligations introduced by NIS2, but about helping businesses understand risks, prevent them and tackle them with the right tools*", commented **Ketty Segatti**, Director of the Specialist Operational Unit for Research, Innovation, European Social Fund Plus and Other EU Funds of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

"*In light of the **cyberattacks** we are witnessing at European and global level, it is increasingly clear how important it is to build an ecosystem in which public administration and businesses strengthen each other against attacks and protect*

national and European sovereignty", observed **Paolo Perucci**, Deputy Central Director for Property, State Assets, General Services and Information Systems of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

The presentation of regional expertise was followed by the project's first validation step. The EUROCYBER NEXUS international Advisory Board reviewed the preliminary results of the European mapping and the method used to collect and compare the data. On this basis, it discussed the priorities for the next cooperation activities.

In the next phases, the project partners will exchange the practices already adopted in their respective regions and work on tools to help SMEs prepare for **cyber incidents**. This process will lead to a joint roadmap for cooperation and investment in cybersecurity.

Find out more at https://eurocybernexus.eu/

About EUROCYBER NEXUS

EUROCYBER NEXUS is an 18-month Coordination and Support Action funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe programme (Grant Agreement No. 101304810). The project aims to strengthen Europe's interconnected cybersecurity innovation ecosystems by mapping regional ecosystems and SME needs, fostering peer dialogue between territories and building a European network that helps SMEs access cybersecurity expertise and services.

The consortium is coordinated by Friuli Innovazione – TEC4I FVG (Udine, Italy) and includes AREA, an SME based in Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy); Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences (Helsinki, Finland); EIT Manufacturing South (Milan, Italy); ADR Vest – West Regional Development Agency (Timișoara, Romania); and the International University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) and the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council (Finland) take part as associated partners.

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