

# Toward a Common ECSC Roadmap

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This research is aimed to identify the key factors enabling the success of a national cyber security competition and to give a snapshot of the current situation in the EU and ECSC partner countries. To do that, we conducted a dozen of interviews with national and EU experts, searched and reviewed the relevant scientific literature and collected data on these key enabling factors with a survey, which was filled by 90% of the countries attending the ECSC. This was done to provide preliminary insights and a discussion platform to determine a common ECSC roadmap. In light of this research, we believe that establishing and implementing a common ECSC roadmap with a view to promote a standardisation of national cyber security competitions has the potential to make the ECSC the EU flagship policy in the field of cyber security education. This would place the ECSC in a primary position to support the objectives of the EU Security Union Strategy for the period 2020-2025. We believe so because we currently do not see many other policies that, like the ECSC, could potentially involve 20.000 students, provide solid cyber security training to almost 1.000 individuals and give such visibility to EU efforts in cyber security policies. The interviews with national experts and the survey found that the main objectives a national competition should meet are:

- Identify young cyber security talent
- Increase interest in cyber security as a topic
- Increase cyber security knowledge and skills
- Increase interest in a cyber security career and connect participants with employers
- Create a network of young cyber security specialist

National experts identified six main factors that are conducive to achieve these objectives namely:

1. Policy relevance
2. Governance and Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
3. Funding
4. Public relations and marketing strategy
5. Organization, training and cyber security challenges
6. Connection with employers and career outcomes

Based on the survey results on these key enabling factors (section 4) and an analysis of these results (section 5), this report provides recommendations for the establishment of a common ECSC Roadmap (section 6), if stakeholders wish to develop the ECSC to its fullest potential.