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D6.5 FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT

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Work Package 6: Dissemination and Communication

Deliverable 6.5: Final Conference Report

Leader of WP6 – Women4Cyber Foundation



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CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	2
1. OBJECTIVES.....	3
2. SUMMARY	3
3. ATTENDEES.....	6
3.1. GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION	6
3.2. GENDER REPRESENTATION	7
3.3. SECTOR REPRESENTATION.....	7
4. FEEDBACK.....	8
CONCLUSION	9
ANNEXES	10
ANNEX 1 - EMPOWERING CYBERSECURITY CHANGE AGENT CONFERENCE AGENDA.....	10
ANNEX 2 – CYBERAGENT FINAL CONFERENCE FEEDBACK SURVEY	11
ANNEX 3 – CONFERENCE PICTURES	15
ANNEX 4 – CONFERENCE FLYER.....	16

INTRODUCTION

On 27 May 2026, the CyberAgent consortium hosted its Final Conference, *Empowering Cybersecurity Change Agents*, in Brussels, Belgium. The event marked the culmination of the Erasmus+ Alliance project CyberAgent, which was established to strengthen cybersecurity capacity among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through practical training, digital learning tools, and collaboration between education providers and industry stakeholders.

The conference brought together representatives from SMEs, higher education institutions, vocational education and training (VET) providers, cybersecurity organisations, researchers, policymakers, students, and project partners from across Europe. The event served as an opportunity to present the project's achievements, showcase its key outputs, and facilitate discussions on current and future challenges in cybersecurity skills development.

Throughout the day, participants engaged with keynote presentations, panel discussions, a live demonstration of the CyberAgent platform, and the CyberAgent Competition award ceremony. Discussions focused on strengthening Europe's cybersecurity workforce, fostering collaboration between education and industry, promoting diversity and inclusion within the sector, and supporting organisations in developing practical cybersecurity capabilities.

This report provides an overview of the conference objectives, programme highlights, participant profile, feedback received from attendees, and key conclusions emerging from the event. It aims to document the outcomes of the conference while reflecting on the contribution of the CyberAgent project to Europe's evolving cybersecurity skills ecosystem.

1. OBJECTIVES

The CyberAgent Final Conference was designed as the project's flagship dissemination event, bringing together stakeholders from across the cybersecurity, education, and SME ecosystems to reflect on the project's achievements.

The primary objective of the conference was to showcase the concrete outcomes developed throughout the CyberAgent project, including the learning platform, training materials and educational resources. By presenting these results to external stakeholders, the consortium sought to demonstrate the practical value of the project and encourage the continued use of its outputs beyond the project's lifetime.

A second objective was to create a space for dialogue between key target groups, including SMEs, higher education institutions, vocational education and training (VET) providers, cybersecurity practitioners, policymakers, students, and industry representatives. The conference aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange, strengthen existing networks, and foster new connections between organisations working to address Europe's cybersecurity skills challenges.

The event was also expected to raise awareness of the importance of cybersecurity education and workforce development, while highlighting the need for stronger collaboration between industry and education providers. We designed the event to be an interactive one, where participants were invited to share perspectives on emerging challenges, skills gaps, and opportunities for building a more resilient and inclusive cybersecurity ecosystem.

Finally, the conference sought to celebrate the achievements of the CyberAgent consortium team and its community of learners, while creating momentum for the sustainability and future uptake of the project's results. The organisers Women4Cyber Foundation expected the event to serve not only as a conclusion to the project, but also as a platform for continued engagement and impact.

2. SUMMARY

This section provides a detailed overview of the CyberAgent Final Conference programme, including the main discussions, key messages, and activities that took place throughout the day. For a concise overview of the programme and speaker line-up, please refer to the conference agenda included in **Annex 1 – Empowering Cybersecurity Change Agent Conference Agenda**. The presentation slides showcased during the conference are also available online and can be accessed [here](#).

Welcome and Networking

The conference commenced with a networking session, providing participants with an opportunity to connect before the formal programme began. Attendees from different backgrounds exchanged and established new professional connections. This opening session helped create a collaborative atmosphere that carried throughout the day.

Opening Remarks

The conference was officially opened by Dr Renata Danielienė, CyberAgent Project Coordinator from Vilnius University. In her remarks, she presented the project's vision and achievements, highlighting CyberAgent's contribution to strengthening cybersecurity skills across Europe through practical, accessible, and multilingual learning resources.

Dr Danielienė provided an overview of the project's impact, including the development of extensive training materials, specialised learning content, and the successful implementation of pilot activities.

Keynote: Beyond 25 – Why Diversity Is the Engine of Cybersecurity

The first keynote address was delivered by Henk Dujardin, CEO of the Belgian Cyber Security Coalition. The session focused on the role of diversity and inclusion in strengthening the cybersecurity sector and addressing workforce shortages.

The keynote highlighted the value of diverse perspectives in tackling increasingly complex cybersecurity challenges. Particular attention was given to the importance of increasing the participation of women in cybersecurity and creating environments where different voices and experiences can contribute meaningfully to decision-making and innovation. The presentation reinforced the message that building resilient cybersecurity teams requires both technical excellence and diversity of thought.

Panel Discussion: Bridging the Cyber Skills Gap

Moderated by Anne-Sophie Van Vaerenbergh (European Cyber Security Organisation), the panel brought together representatives from industry and academia to discuss current challenges in cybersecurity workforce development.

Panellists explored the growing demand for cybersecurity professionals, and the difficulties organisations face in recruiting and retaining talent. Discussions highlighted the need for continuous upskilling and reskilling in response to rapidly evolving technologies, including artificial intelligence and emerging digital threats.

The panel also examined the role of collaboration between industry, higher education institutions, and vocational training providers in preparing future cybersecurity professionals. Speakers reflected on structural challenges such as talent shortages, brain drain, and barriers faced by individuals seeking to enter the cybersecurity workforce. The discussion underscored the importance of creating accessible learning pathways and strengthening links between education and labour market needs.

Live Demonstration: Exploring the CyberAgent Platform

Following lunch, participants attended a live demonstration of the CyberAgent platform led by Neda Mađarac from Prios Kompetanse.

The session provided a practical overview of the platform's functionalities, learning pathways, and training resources. Participants were guided through the user experience and shown how learners and organisations can engage with cybersecurity content, track progress, and apply acquired knowledge in professional environments.

The demonstration showcased one of the project's most significant outcomes, illustrating how digital learning tools can support flexible, self-paced cybersecurity education for a wide range of users.

CyberAgent Competition Award Ceremony

The afternoon programme included the presentation of the CyberAgent Competition Award by Camille Montmorency from Women4Cyber Foundation.

The competition recognised participants who successfully applied concepts learned through the CyberAgent training programme to real-world cybersecurity scenarios. The winning submission, by Smee Cujic, a Master's student at the Brussels School of Governance, demonstrated both technical understanding and practical problem-solving skills, reflecting the project's emphasis on translating knowledge into actionable competencies.

Keynote: The Power of Perspective – Strengthening Europe's SMEs Through Inclusion

The final keynote was delivered by Kayle Giroud from the CyberPeace Institute and Women4Cyber Belgium.

The presentation explored the relationship between inclusion, organisational resilience, and cybersecurity preparedness. Drawing on experiences supporting SMEs and vulnerable organisations, the keynote emphasised that cybersecurity challenges are fundamentally human challenges that require people-centred solutions.

Closing Remarks and Final Networking Session

The conference concluded with closing remarks from Dr Renata Danielienė, who reflected on the project's achievements and thanked partners, speakers, participants, and stakeholders for their contributions throughout the CyberAgent journey.

A final networking session followed, providing attendees with an opportunity to continue discussions, explore future collaboration opportunities, and exchange ideas on sustaining the project's impact beyond its formal completion.

3. ATTENDEES

The CyberAgent Final Conference brought together **52 participants** representing a diverse range of organisations, sectors, and professional backgrounds from across Europe. The attendee profile reflected the project's target audiences.

3.1. GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

The conference attracted participants from **11 countries**, demonstrating the project's broad European reach, with a strong majority of Belgium based participants.

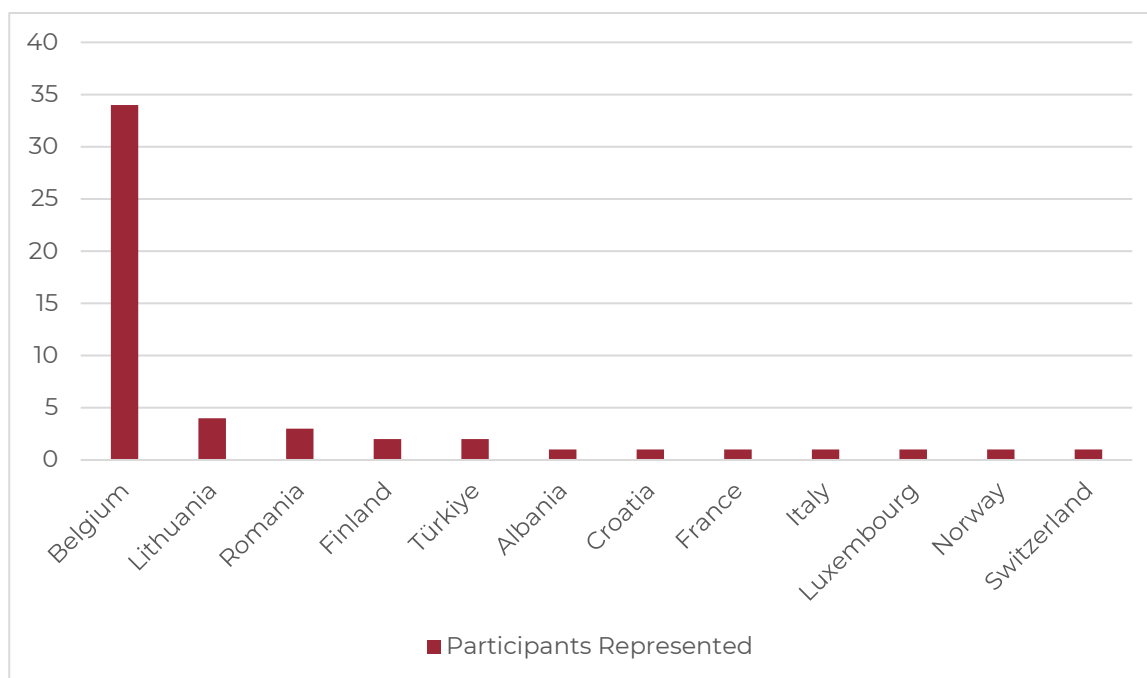


Figure 1 - Number of Attendees per Country

3.2. GENDER REPRESENTATION

The conference demonstrated strong gender diversity among participants. The high level of female participation reflects both the project's commitment to inclusivity and the strong engagement of organisations actively promoting diversity within the cybersecurity sector.

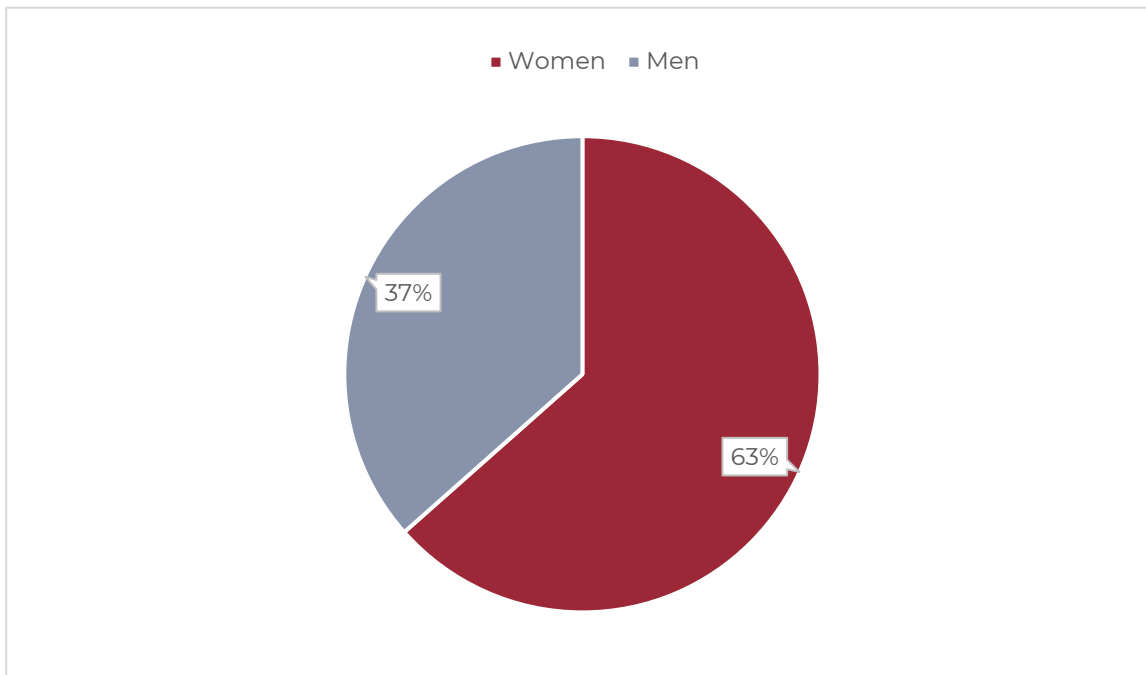


Figure 2 - Gender Distribution Among Attendees

3.3. SECTOR REPRESENTATION

Participants represented a broad range of sectors involved in cybersecurity education, industry and policy. Approximate sector distribution include:

- Private sector, SMEs and consultancies – 29%
- Policymakers, European organisations and professional networks – 25%
- Academia, schools and vocational education providers – 25%
- Civil society organisations and foundations – 13%
- Students and learners – 8%

4. FEEDBACK

To assess the effectiveness of the CyberAgent Final Conference, participants were invited to complete an evaluation questionnaire at the end of the event. A total of **28 responses** were received.

Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with **89%** of respondents rating the conference as **Excellent**. In terms of expectations, **44%** reported that the conference **exceeded their expectations** and **52%** indicated that it **met their expectation**.

These results demonstrate that the conference successfully delivered a valuable and engaging experience for participants across different sectors and professional backgrounds. The complete feedback breakdown is available in **Annex 2 – CyberAgent Final Conference Feedback Survey**.

Participants highly valued the presented CyberAgent methodology and recommended scaling up these results in future national initiatives. Based on the success of the CyberAgent hybrid platform and the completed cross-border bootcamp in Lithuania, attendees suggested that future projects should replicate this exact model by expanding intensive bootcamp options and creating deeper, internship-style learning pathways within wider SME networks.

CONCLUSION

The feedback survey results indicate that the CyberAgent Final Conference successfully achieved its objectives of showcasing project outcomes, facilitating knowledge exchange, and engaging key stakeholders from education, industry, and the cybersecurity community. The consistently high ratings across all categories, combined with the positive qualitative feedback received, demonstrate strong participant satisfaction and confirm the relevance of the CyberAgent project's results for supporting cybersecurity skills development across Europe.

Bringing together 50 participants from 11 countries and a wide range of sectors, the event demonstrated the relevance of the CyberAgent approach. From an organisational perspective, the conference represented a significant achievement. Despite initial risks and challenges related to participant recruitment and attendance, the event ultimately attracted a full audience and maintained strong engagement throughout the entire programme.

As the CyberAgent project ends, the conference marked not only the celebration of its achievements but also the beginning of its longer-term impact. The resources, partnerships, and knowledge developed throughout the project will continue to support cybersecurity upskilling efforts across Europe, contributing to a stronger, more resilient, and more inclusive cybersecurity workforce.

ANNEXES

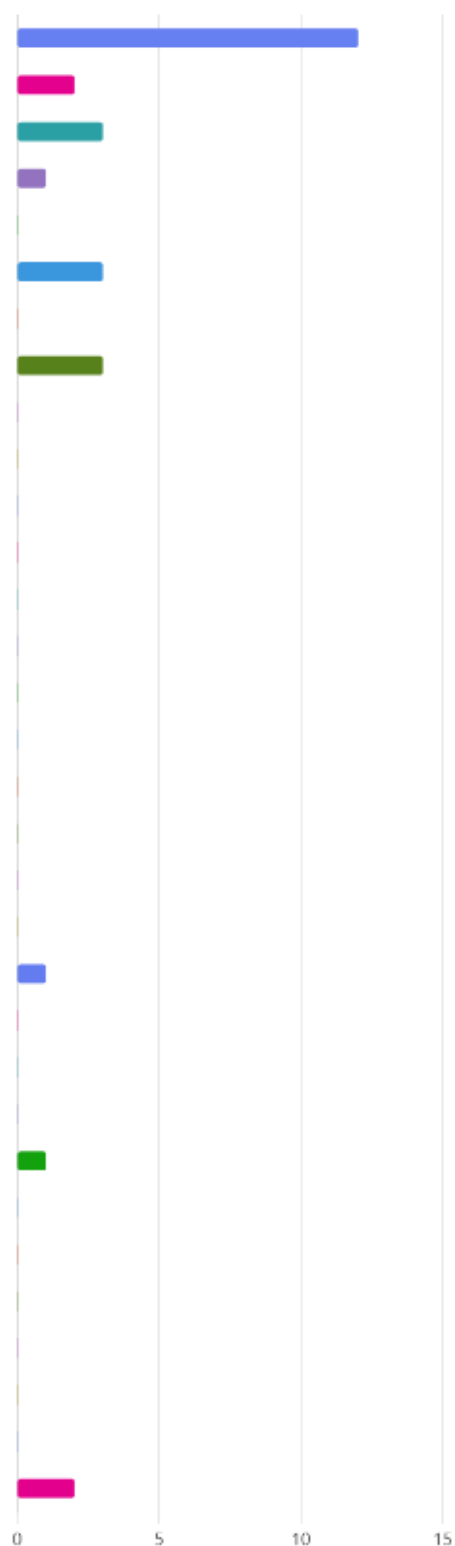
ANNEX 1 - EMPOWERING CYBERSECURITY CHANGE AGENT CONFERENCE AGENDA

AGENDA	
09:00	WELCOME AND NETWORKING
10:00	Opening remarks Dr Renata Danielene (Vilnius University, Lecturer & Researcher, CyberAgent Project Coordinator)
10:30	Keynote Beyond 25: Why Diversity Is the Engine of Cybersecurity Henk Dujardin (Belgian Cyber Security Coalition, CEO)
11:00	Panel Bridging the Cyber Skills Gap, Collaborative Strategies Between Industry, Academia, and Vocational Training Moderator: Anne-Sophie Van Vaerenbergh (Manager Skills & Human Factors, ECSO) - Jo Sakariassen (CEO, Prios Kompetanse) - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gabriele Lenzini (University of Luxembourg / Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust (SnT), Associate Professor – Chief Scientist II) - Vanessa Lewis (Head of Talent Acquisition, Nexova & Head of Recruitment, Starion)
12:00	LUNCH BREAK
13:00	Live Demo Exploring the CyberAgent Platform and Learning Pathways Neda Mađarac (Management Consultant, Prios Kompetanse)
13:45	Award for the CyberAgent Competition Camille Montmorency (Project Manager, Women4Cyber Foundation)
14:00	Keynote The Power of Perspective: Strengthening Europe's SMEs Through Inclusion Kayle Giroud (Head of European Affairs, CyberPeace Institute / W4C Belgium)
14:30	Closing remarks Dr Renata Danielene (Vilnius University, Lecturer & Researcher, CyberAgent Project Coordinator)
15:00	COFFEE & NETWORKING
16:00	END OF EVENT

ANNEX 2 – CYBERAGENT FINAL CONFERENCE FEEDBACK SURVEY

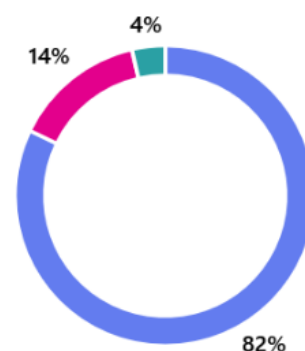
Country of Origin

● Belgium	12
● Finland	2
● Lithuania	3
● Norway	1
● Poland	0
● Romania	3
● Spain	0
● Turkey	3
● Austria	0
● Bulgaria	0
● Croatia	0
● Cyprus	0
● Czech Republic	0
● Denmark	0
● Estonia	0
● France	0
● Germany	0
● Greece	0
● Hungary	0
● Iceland	0
● Ireland	1
● Italy	0
● Latvia	0
● Liechtenstein	0
● Luxembourg	1
● Malta	0
● Netherlands	0
● Portugal	0
● Slovakia	0
● Slovenia	0
● Sweden	0
● Other	2



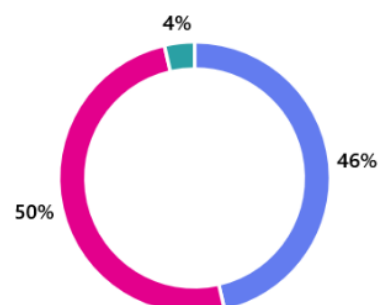
Were you satisfied with the conference as a whole?

Excellent	23
Good	4
Average	1
Poor	0
Very poor	0



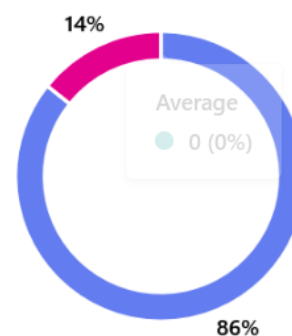
Overall, did the conference meet, exceed, or fall short of your expectations?

Exceeded expectations	13
Met expectations	14
Fell short of expectations	1



The organization of the facilities used for the conference was:

Excellent	24
Good	4
Average	0
Poor	0
Very poor	0



Event Evaluation

Please rate the following on a scale of 1 to 5, where: 1 = Strongly Disagree / Very Low, and 5 = Strongly Agree / Very High.

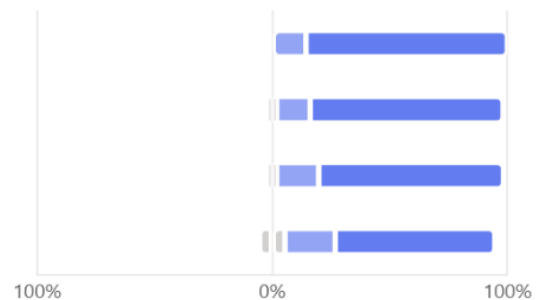
1 2 3 4 5

Relevance of the conference topics to your professional needs

Quality of the speakers and the information provided

Usability and potential of the CyberAgent Platform demo

Overall organization and networking opportunities



Impact & Exploitation

Please rate the following on a scale of 1 to 5, where: 1 = Strongly Disagree / Very Low, and 5 = Strongly Agree / Very High.

1 2 3 4 5

To what extent did the conference improve your understanding of cybersecurity needs for SMEs?

In your opinion, how can the CyberAgent results best contribute to the local cybersecurity ecosystem?

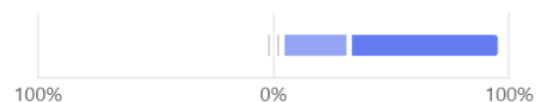


Usage of the platform

Please rate the following on a scale of 1 to 5, where: 1=Very Unlikely, 5=Very Likely

1 2 3 4 5

Are you likely to utilize the CyberAgent platform or training modules in your future activities?



What was the most valuable part of today's conference?

- Guests and networking experience
- The inspiring keynotes and speakers
- Renata's speech
- Good presentation of the cyber challenges and ways to respond to them
- Live demo of CyberAgent platform and Award Ceremony
- Feedbacks and opening further perspectives, the project presentation
- The diversity of the audience, the engaging speakers and the importance of the topic
- Truly enjoyed the presentation by CyberPeace Institute highlighting the role of SME and civil society

What improvements would you suggest for the future implementation of SME cybersecurity upskilling programs?

- Everything was great
- Not any
- Demo to have in real time
- Nothing
- Micro practical trainings
- Involvement of more employees
- Engagement
- Strengthening relationships with local ecosystem
- Be practical oriented
- An intensive hands on bootcamp/internship opportunity for quick and relevant upskilling beyond just theoretical foundations

Any additional comments?

- No
- Thank you, I hope to see more of CyberAgent in the future
- Everything was at high standards, not only today, but all over the project

Do you have any general comments about the conference?

- Everything was great
- Congratulations for the event.
- Everything was very smooth.
- High quality speakers, high quality location, high quality content
- Extremely interesting and well organised
- Renata you put part of your heart in Cyber Agent and it was today visible. Sending you respect and love for your attitude.
- It was interesting and highly engaging

ANNEX 3 – CONFERENCE PICTURES



ANNEX 4 – CONFERENCE FLYER



EMPOWERING CYBERSECURITY CHANGE AGENTS

CyberAgent - ERASMUS+EDU-2022-PI-ALL-INNO
- ERASMUS2027 - Project ID: 101111732



RESULTS*

Cybersecurity Change Agents
Equipping SME employees with practical cybersecurity skills to lead organisational resilience and digital safety from within.
→ 370+ participants completed at least one certified training module

Collaborative Platform
Building connections among HEIs, VETs, and SMEs through training, knowledge exchange, and collaborative engagement.
→ Nearly 600 registered users

Gender Diversity Impact
Promoting inclusion through targeted awareness-raising and training activities.
→ 200+ women trained during the project

*All figures are preliminary and remain subject to final deliverables and ongoing analytics consolidation.

Strengthening the skills and competences of SME employees, particularly women, is the core focus of CyberAgent

THE PROJECT

Over the course of the project, CyberAgent has worked to **empower SME employees to become Cybersecurity Change Agents**. By combining technical, analytical, and soft skills, CyberAgent **helped address the cybersecurity skills gap and supported a more diverse, resilient workforce**, so SMEs are better prepared to protect their operations and contribute to a future-ready European economy.

OUR VISION

The aim of the CyberAgent project was to create a platform for our target groups to acquire sustainable cybersecurity and entrepreneurial knowledge, and competences to inspire, empower, up-skill, re-skill and engage SME employees taking the role as Cyber Security Change Agents and involve more women in the IT sector.

FOR WHO?



HEIs students and VETs trainees



SME employees in particular women

LEARN MORE

 www.cyberagent.eu







Scan to check out our website



PARTNERS

We are a collaborative initiative that unites a Consortium of partners from 8 different EU countries, including a diverse mix of educational institutions, innovative businesses, and dynamic non-governmental organisations.





Vilnius University



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