

PRESS RELEASE

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM - MAY 29, 2026

CYBERAGENT GATHERS EUROPE'S SME, EDUCATION, AND CYBERSECURITY COMMUNITY IN BRUSSELS FOR ITS CLOSING CONFERENCE

CyberAgent, an Erasmus+ Alliance project supporting SMEs to strengthen cybersecurity capacity through practical training and digital learning tools, gathered stakeholders from across Europe for the CyberAgent Closing Conference on Wednesday, 27 May 2026, at Radisson RED Hotel (Brussels). The event brought together SME representatives, higher education institutions (HEIs), vocational education and training (VET) providers, cybersecurity practitioners, and partner organisations to share results achieved so far, exchange practical lessons, and discuss priorities for strengthening Europe's cybersecurity skills ecosystem.

Cyber threats continue to evolve in speed and complexity, while many organisations struggle to find the time, talent, and resources to keep pace. CyberAgent addresses this challenge by supporting learners across technical and non-technical roles to recognise risks, reduce exposure, and embed stronger cybersecurity practices throughout daily work. The conference reflected a belief that resilient organisations are built through both technology and people.



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Closing Conference in Brussels: Agenda and Key Moments

The day opened with welcome and networking, followed by opening remarks from Dr Renata Danielene (Vilnius University), CyberAgent Project Coordinator. Dr Danielene set the scene for the conference by outlining the project's approach, building an upskilling ecosystem that connects SMEs with education and training providers and translates cybersecurity knowledge into actionable skills that can be applied inside organisations.

Dr Danielene highlighted CyberAgent's growing body of multilingual learning content, including:

- 3,700+ slides
- 800+ pages of training materials
- 1,200+ knowledge test questions
- 46 specialised videos

The contents are available in 8 partners languages. The project has also reached 425 successful pilot participants across sectors (170 HEI, 165 VET, 90 SME). She also noted encouraging gender inclusion outcomes, including a 38% pass rate among female participants in the pilot trainings which exceeded the goal.



Women want, can, and are able to be tech leaders.

— Dr Renata Danielene

Dr Danielene also shared milestones to date, including:

- 20+ deliverables available online
- 6 workshops on SMEs and cybersecurity with 700+ participants
- 60+ events attended by partners
- 6 newsletters
- 488,000 people reached
- 1,000+ social media followers`



The morning programme continued with a keynote by Henk Dujardin (Belgian Cyber Security Coalition) on diversity as a driver of stronger cybersecurity, underlining why the sector must keep working towards greater inclusion and more women in cybersecurity. The keynote emphasised the importance of stimulating diversity in ideas, building a noisy system where women are allowed to express their opinions, and coming together and acting as a team to support each other.

A panel discussion on bridging the cyber skills gap followed, moderated by Anne-Sophie Van Vaerenbergh (ECSO), with contributions from Jo Sakariassen (Prios Kompetanse), Assoc. Prof. Dr Gabriele Lenzini (University of Luxembourg, SnT), and Vanessa Lewis (Nexova / Starion). The panel explored how cybersecurity workforce development is shaped by multiple constraints at once, the need for continuous upskilling in a rapidly changing technology landscape (including AI), the importance of stronger collaboration between industry and education, and structural challenges such as brain drain and the reality of entry-level pathways into cybersecurity roles.

After lunch, participants joined a live demo led by Neda Mađarac (Prios Kompetanse) exploring the CyberAgent platform and learning pathways, with practical guidance on how to use the platform effectively. The demo showcased how the platform supports self-paced learning and knowledge exchange, enabling learners and organisations to engage with training content and apply it in workplace contexts.

The afternoon featured the CyberAgent Competition award presented by Camille Montmorency (Women4Cyber Foundation). The award was presented to Smee Cujic, recognised for an essay applying concepts from the CyberAgent training to a concrete cybersecurity attack scenario: analysing its impact on a familiar digital system and proposing mitigation solutions.

The conference concluded with a keynote by Kayle Giroud (CyberPeace Institute / W4C Belgium) on inclusion and strengthening Europe's SMEs, reflecting on why cybersecurity is about people before technology and drawing lessons from small-organisation capacity building and workforce development.



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