



MÁLAGA HOSTS THE **FIRST** EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM and TF-CSIRT meeting for global security experts

FIRST and the Task Force on Computer Security Incident Response Teams (TF-CSIRT) co-hosted a European Symposium in Málaga, Spain at the end of January 2020. The event featured a combination of panels, roundtables, hands-on classes and presentations on topics such as vulnerabilities, incidents, tools and all other issues that affect the operation of incident response and security teams.



Taking place at the University of Málaga – Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingeniería Informática from January 29-31 2020, IT security experts from more than 200 international organizations, as well as governmental bodies, universities and other American, Asian, European and Oceanic institutions took part in the event. Delegates from organizations such as ENISA, Google and CISCO, among others participated. Local teams supporting and sponsoring the event included SpectX, Domain-Tools, CCN CERT and Ingenia.



FIRST PARTICIPATES IN THE UN'S DEVELOPMENT OF CYBER NORMS

Did you know that Incident Responders were among the first to establish norms in cyberspace? We have been building successful norms, and trust, by collaborating across the globe for many years. New policies, such as sanctions may make this work more difficult in the future or even impossible. With this in mind, FIRST board members have recently built partnerships and influence within groups that are leading the change.

The United Nations launched the UN General Assembly's First Committee - the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Cybersecurity in 2019 to look at how norms can increase stability in cyberspace and how negative

behaviors can impact this stability. UNGGE aims to address norms, rules and principles, capacity building and how to evaluate international law in cyberspace. The OEWG, which consists of interested member states, aims to review and make proposals around the implementation of any new norms.

FIRST was grateful to be invited to participate in an intersessional meeting in December 2019 by OEWG with representatives from the private sector and NGOs. During the meeting, FIRST stressed that partnership and inclusion of various stakeholders, including the technical community, is crucial before any norms become effective.

We highlighted that there is a need to raise awareness of new norms among our community and to develop mechanisms to solve capacity challenges so that CSIRTs can continue to focus on “incident response” and not become overloaded with additional activities.

Trust and stability is easier when we understand our expectations and roles so we requested that all stakeholders adopt practical measures to create clarity around their roles and responsibilities - similar to our [ethicsFIRST initiative](#).

We emphasized that bad policy can often have negative impacts on actual incident response - whether it is the criminalization of security tools or technical expertise, or

the implementation of economic sanctions that prohibit incident responders from working together.

Finally, we encouraged the Group to take a closer look at the development of norms in multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary groups such as the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace, which is outside of purely government.

We believe that working together with governmental partners will help to ensure that the new UN guidelines contribute to a more stable internet, with solid incident response teams that are well equipped to defend their constituencies.

Our full recommendations to OEWG can be found [here](#).



In addition to our contribution to the OEWG meeting, FIRST board members Maarten van Horenbeeck and Serge Droz were invited to discuss how CSIRTs promote norms of responsible behaviour to a small group of academics and policy professionals at Yale University in November.

Read more about the development and implication of norms in this [comprehensive document](#) created by the Best Practices Forum on Cybersecurity in 2018 which was co-led by FIRST.

FIRST will continue to work in this area. We are currently looking to create a volunteer group to work on our policy positions. Members should express their interest by contacting Board members Serge Droz (serge@first.org) or Maarten Van Horenbeeck (maarten@first.org)

“ Today the internet affects every layer of society, from simple users to the most powerful nation states. And most of these actors do not have any form of power over each other. How do those stakeholders play along then? The answer is norms, non binding but generally accepted norms of behaviour.”

Serge Droz, Chair of FIRST.Org

FIRST TECHNICAL COLLOQUIUM - LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

October and November were busy months for **FIRST** in the Balkans.

In October a one day workshop in Budva, Montenegro "Connecting and Building Capacities of the CIRT Community in Western Balkans" was organised by ITU at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Public Administration of Montenegro and in collaboration with DCAF.

The workshop offered the opportunity for representatives from National CERTs including FIRST and political representatives from Western Balkans countries to discuss and share practices on cybersecurity and build and strengthen the European CERT community. The purpose of the workshop was to enhance communication between participants as well as encourage a continued collective effort in mitigating cyber threats among the regions' national Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs); to improve incident communication and knowledge among the CERT community, including technical tools, policy and political aspects on CERT communication and information sharing at the national, regional and international level.

FIRST joined up with the Slovenian National Cyber Security Incident Response Centre (SI-CERT) and the

Software Engineering Institute of Carnegie Mellon University (SEI) to hold a Technical Colloquium in Slovenia in November.

We were involved in the first day of the three day event where we shared different tools and techniques for strengthening newly established CERTs and capacity building initiatives across the Western Balkans. The event was sponsored by DCAF and was attended by twelve CERT staff from the Western Balkans (specifically from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia), as well as participation of six international speakers as expert lecturers from the Shadowserver Foundation (FIRST Technical Colloquium) in Ljubljana, Slovenia, as well as Austria, Estonia, Poland, Luxembourg.

DCAF also organised a two-day round table in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with CERT RS. The first day we focused on presenting examples of how incident response functions on a global scale and the preconditions required to establish a successful CSIRT community.



FIRST RELEASES UPDATED COMPUTER SECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (CSIRT) SERVICES FRAMEWORK – VERSION 2.1

We are happy to share that we have updated our Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) Services Framework. The development of the new framework was led by 2019 Incident Response Hall of Fame winner Prof. Dr. Klaus-Peter Kossakowski (HAW Hamburg) with strong support from the Task Force CSIRT (TF-CSIRT) Community, and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The goal of the CSIRT Services Framework is to facilitate the establishment and improvement of CSIRT operations, especially in supporting teams that are in the process of choosing, expanding, or improving their service portfolio. Version 2.1 provides, for the first time, a consistent framework by identifying and defining core categories of services and their sub-components. The Framework will provide the basis of further work that will include examples of good practice, as well as desired knowledge, skills, and abilities in a CSIRT.

In-depth knowledge and long-term cybersecurity experience, as well as capability and capacity were vital to the development of the new update said Prof. Dr. Klaus-Peter Kossakowski: “We benefited greatly from the CSIRT Development team of the CERT Program at the Software Engineering Institute at CMU where I had worked in the past as a visiting scientist on many related projects. These same projects provided the baseline for the recent update, which was truly needed to define standards and provide the means to significantly increase the maturity of computer security incident response teams.”

Version 2.1 is now available to all on the FIRST [website](#)

A close-up photograph of a hand using a sharp object to shatter a piece of glass. The words "CYBER SECURITY" are etched or written on the glass in a bold, metallic, sans-serif font. Shards of glass are flying through the air around the point of impact, which is centered over the word "SECURITY". The background is dark and out of focus.

CYBER SECURITY

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Member awarded Order of Three Stars in Latvia



We would like you to join us in congratulating Baiba Kaskina, General Manager of [CERT.LV](https://cert.lv) (Latvian National and governmental CSIRT) on receiving the Order of Three Stars at an official awards ceremony in November. The order was awarded for cybersecurity development in Latvia at the 60th anniversary of The Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Latvia.

Baiba has been a very active member of the European CSIRT community. Between 2003-2006 she was the Secretary of the TF-CSIRT task force. Baiba then established the first CSIRT team in Latvia in 2006 which has grown from three members in 2006 to 33 in 2020. She participated in the FIRST annual conference Programme Committee several times as well as took charge of the security area for the TNC conferences (run by GEANT) for several years. From 2013 to 2019, she was a member of the TF-CSIRT Steering Committee and the chair of TF-CSIRT from 2014 to 2019.

Baiba has been involved in different CSIRT related projects including responsible disclosure related debates, CSIRT maturity definition and particularly Trusted Introducer CSIRT certification study, assistance to newly developed teams and legal aspects of CSIRT work. Baiba is also one of the TRANSITS training courses teachers and certified SIM3 auditor.

Do you know of a FIRST member who has received a special recognition or honor? Please submit to first-sec@first.org

"The Order of Three stars was awarded to me personally but I see it as very high level external recognition of all CERT.LV activities. We have shaped and improved the Latvian cyber space with our activities in the past 13 years and it's very rewarding to receive the highest recognition from the President of Latvia."

Baiba Kaskina

RAISING AWARENESS OF **FIRST**

As well as participating in high level committees, the Executive team have been busy raising awareness of FIRST.Org across the world through media interviews and podcasts. Executive Director, Chris Gibson contributed an article on cybersecurity and IOT for Hong Kong's Economic Times and did an interview with the **New Cyber Frontier** podcast (expected to be broadcast in April or May). While Chair, Serge Droz, contributed an article on AI to CISO magazine. A number of press releases have also been shared globally with a wide range of media.



FIRST INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Member Portal & Identity Project

FIRST has replaced X.509 certificates with a new Single Sign-On solution supporting modern multi-factor authentication options (U2F, OTP, and mobile app).

The new member portal will provide you with improved control of your team and individual profiles, team members, access to your billing information, and a consolidated location for access to protected FIRST resources and services.

We plan to reduce the use of X.509 and the members.first.org page in May so we recommend that you remove your FIRSTX.509 certificate from your systems / browsers after the completion of the onboarding process.

Members can find onboarding instructions here: <https://www.first.org/sso-onboarding>

Please let us know if you experience any difficulties or have feedback on first-tech-issues@first.org

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UPDATE

The health and safety of FIRST Members, staff, and attendees, their colleagues and their families is our top priority. COVID-19 is an incident on a scale unlike anything we have seen before. Due to the widespread impact of the virus and global travel restrictions we have taken the decision to postpone the 32nd Annual FIRST Conference which was due to be held in Montreal, Canada from June 21-26 2020.

The FIRST Board of Directors, our supporting staff, and our partners are meeting regularly to discuss alternative options for the conference as well as our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is held during the event. We may hold the conference later in the year, and we are currently exploring options for holding the AGM physically, virtually, or by sending proxies published well in advance of the meeting. We will do everything we can to ensure a fair and smooth election of the five Board of Directors that normally takes place during the AGM. Until then, the current Board will remain in place.

Please refer to our [website](#) and [social media channels](#) for regular updates on these events and our other activities. We will continue to work on a number of cybersecurity initiatives as normal and we will keep you informed of their progress via the aforementioned communications channels and our quarterly newsletter.

FIRST is a financially stable and healthy organization. We are proud of the role that the Annual FIRST Conference plays in our community but we do not depend on any single event for the health of the organization. Like most incident responders we have been preparing for worst case scenarios for a very long time and have the financial reserves to handle all options.

Finally, the single biggest value of FIRST is our community, our ability to work together on responding to incidents of any nature across the world. We strongly believe in this community and our shared willingness to work together for the benefit of the planet. Please be safe, continue to support each other, and act with the spectacular professionalism that makes FIRST such a wonderful organization.



Derrick Scholl
FIRST Board of Directors
2020 Conference Chair



Thanks for reading! Remember to follow us on our social media channels Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn for regular updates!

