



# MONTHLY BULLETIN

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### Finalization of the National Cyber Security Marathon 2025



The National Cyber Security Authority successfully finalized the National Cyber Security Marathon 2025, an innovative and inclusive initiative that brought together 500 university students, vocational school students, women and girls, as well as persons with special needs, creating a practical space for the development and assessment of cyber security skills.

Through this marathon, a concrete platform was established for the identification and promotion of emerging talent, as a necessary step toward building national capacities in this field. This focus aligns with Albania's strategic direction, as the country is internationally recognized among those with advanced development in cyber security and aims to further strengthen this position.

At the conclusion of the event, awards were presented to the winners in each category, recognizing their achievements and performance.

### Interinstitutional Roundtable on Strengthening the Legal Framework for Child Online Protection

The National Cyber Security Authority, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, organized an interinstitutional roundtable on the protection of children in the digital space, focusing on increasing online risks and the need to strengthen the legal framework and protection mechanisms. Discussions addressed emerging forms of digital abuse and the challenges posed by the current digital environment to the effective protection of children.

During the roundtable, the need to review and adapt existing legal provisions was emphasized, along with the importance of digital education and cooperation among institutions, schools, and parents. Participating institutions identified concrete areas for intervention, aimed at implementing measures to enhance the safety and well-being of children in the online environment.



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## NCSA Hosts Webinar on Cyber Risks and Online Protection

The National Cyber Security Authority held an informative webinar in December, led by the Director General, Igli Tafa, focusing on the increased cyber risks during the holiday season and the need for heightened vigilance in the digital space. The webinar was followed online by a broad audience and served as an awareness-raising platform for citizens and public institutions.

The webinar addressed concrete scenarios of online fraud, personal data protection, and the importance of adopting secure digital practices. The activity forms part of NCSA's ongoing efforts to inform the public and strengthen the culture of cyber security in the country.

## Cyber Incident Management in Focus of the Meeting with Critical Infrastructure Operators

The NCSA, in cooperation with DCAF, held the fourth meeting with operators of critical and important information infrastructures, concluding the first cycle of work aimed at strengthening national cyber security capacities. The meeting focused on cyber incident and crisis management as a key component for ensuring service continuity and protecting digital systems.

During the meeting, the incident management process was presented, covering the stages of detection, categorization, analysis, coordination with the NCSA, and management of impacts on public services. Participants also followed a practical demonstration of a real incident, highlighting the need for clear procedures, coordinated response, and institutional communication in cyber crisis situations.



## NCSA Projects for 2026 in Focus of the Meeting with International Partners

The National Cyber Security Authority held a roundtable discussion with national and international partners to present its strategic projects and discuss cooperation in the field of cyber security. The meeting focused on institutional priorities and coordination of actions to address current and emerging challenges in the digital space.

The discussions outlined the main directions of the projects planned for 2026, including strengthening the protection of critical and important information infrastructures, developing institutional and human capacities, and enhancing online protection for citizens, particularly children and young people. Partners and donors engaged in the exchange of views and the identification of concrete opportunities to support these objectives, in line with the National Cyber Security Strategy 2025–2030.



## Cyber Security Measures During the Holiday Period in Focus of Coordination Meetings with Infrastructure Operators

The National Cyber Security Authority conducted a series of coordination meetings with representatives of critical and important information infrastructures, focusing on enhancing preparedness and strengthening coordination in response to cyber risks during the end-of-year holiday period. Discussions addressed the increased level of online activity and the higher exposure to cyber threats during this time.

The meetings covered concrete measures for enhanced system monitoring, rapid incident response, and effective real-time information sharing, as well as the importance of staff awareness and operational readiness. In parallel, key planning directions for the coming year were discussed, with a focus on strengthening institutional capacities and increasing cyber resilience at the national level.

