CONFRONTING RANSOMWARE:
Analysis and Strategy for the Western Balkans

Hosted by the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Centre (WB3C)
Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, Unicorn Conference Room, 2nd floor
2-3 December 2025

Day 1: December 2, 2025	
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Coffee & Registration
09:30 - 10:00	**Opening Remarks:** • Maras Dukaj, Minister of Public Administration, Montenegro • Anne-Marie Maskay, Ambassador of France in Montenegro • Gilles Schwoerer – Program Director and Head of WB3C
10:00 - 10:45	**Panel 1: "Decoding ransomware: The threat landscape"** Moderated by: Igor Kovač - Government Information Security Office of Slovenia • Dušan Polović – Ministry of Public Administration, Montenegro • Saimir Kapllani - Director of GRC at the National Cyber Security Authority, Albania • Predrag Puharić – CEO, Cyber Security Excellence Centre, BiH • Mladen Bukilić – CISO at Cikom Computer Engineering, Montenegro *Panellists will discuss what ransomware is, how it works and the current threat landscape. They will also cover preventative measures and detection techniques used by both national agencies and private sector companies.*
10:45 - 11:30	**Panel 2: "Behind the curtain: The organization of cybercriminals"** Moderated by: Francisco Losada **-** Specialist, European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), Europol • Julien Hamm - Anti-Cybercrime Office (OFAC), France • Nenad Bogunović, Chief Inspector, Acting Deputy Head, Ministry of Interior, Service for Combating High-Tech Crime, Serbia • Sreten Ćorić, Senior Investigator – Police directorate of Montenegro – High-tech Crime Unit, Montenegro *This panel will provide insights into the structure, organization and tactics used by ransomware cybercriminal groups. Panellists will discuss the growing sophistication of these organizations and how law enforcement agencies are adapting their strategies to counter evolving criminal methods.*
11:30 – 12:00	**Coffee Break**

12:00 - 12:45	**Keynote: "Decrypting success: How the French Gendarmerie defeated ransomware"** Speaker: Captain Pascal Martin *Ransomware investigation that led to the identification and dismantling of a cybercriminal network. The session will highlight the investigative strategies, international cooperation and digital forensics techniques that turned a complex cyberattack into a story of success.*
12:45 - 13:45	**Lunch Break**
13:45 - 14:30	**Panel 3: "Jurisdictional response: Legal frameworks in combating ransomware"** Moderated by: Ana Bukilić - National Program Coordinator at International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) • Brouillet Aurélien - Deputy Prosecutor at Judicial Court of Paris • Marina Barbir – Judge of the Higher Court of Belgrade • Ivaylo Iliev - Assistant of the National Member for the Republic of Bulgaria in EUROJUST (EU Agency for criminal justice cooperation) *This panel explores how legal frameworks across jurisdictions are evolving to combat ransomware threats. Experts will discuss regulatory approaches, enforcement challenges and international cooperation needed to strengthen resilience against cybercrime.*
14.30 – 15.15	**Case study: Real-world ransomware attack response** Speaker: Vladimir Mlynar - Pole Information Security Officer VINCI Energies CEE ICT *Discussion of real-life ransomware incidents, particularly from the perspective of organisations that have faced such attacks, and explanation how the situation was managed and ultimately resolved.*
15.15 – 16.00	**Panel 4: “Legal and technical aspects for the seizure of cryptocurrency”** • Laurent Tisseyre - TRM Labs • Arben Murtezić - Law professor and Legal Counsel to the Vice President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina *This panel brings together representatives from the public and the private sector to discuss the legal and technical challenges of seizing and managing cryptocurrencies. Topics include tracing, freezing and securing digital assets, as well as emerging trends in enforcement and regulation.*

Day 2: December 3, 2025	
09:00 - 09:30	Coffee and networking
09:30 – 10:45	**Panel 1: *"AI & Ransomware: A new era of threats"*** Moderator: David Toulotte - Head of IT Infrastructure at ArcelorMittal Europe, France • Mitja Trampuž - Managing Director of Creaplus and President of ai4si • Ivan Bošković – CEO at IT Advanced Services, Montenegro • Dimitar Bogatinov – Professor at Military Academy Skopje *This panel will explore how AI is transforming ransomware, making attacks more sophisticated, automated and targeted. It discusses how attackers use AI to analyse stolen data, craft persuasive ransom demands and evade detection, while defenders explore AI-driven tools and strategies to detect, prevent and respond to these evolving threats.*
10:45 – 11:30	**Presentation: "Lessons from Paris 2024: SOC Testimony from the Olympic Games"** Speaker: Jeremy Couture, Head of Lottery Cybersecurity, CISO at FDJ United *A unique insider's perspective on cybersecurity challenges and ransomware defence during one of the world's largest events. Real-life scenarios and what defenders learned from securing a high-value global target.*
11:30 – 12:15	**Panel 2: *"Negotiating under pressure: Law enforcement, hostage tactics, and legal oversight"*** • Jean-Dominique Nollet, TotalEnergies, CISO • Captain Pascal Martin, French Gendarmerie • Gilles Schwoerer – Program Director and Head of WB3C *This session will cover how ransomware negotiations unfold during an active attack. Panellists will explain operational, legal and ethical aspects of negotiating with cybercriminals under prosecutorial oversight.*
12:15 – 12:30	**Closing remarks**
12:30 – 13:30	**Farewell lunch & networking**