



TECHNOLOGY AND PRIVACY

Approval of the National Cyberspace Security Strategy for the period 2019-2023

Council of Ministers Resolution no. 92/2019 was published in the Portuguese official gazette, Diário da República, on 5 June and it approves the National Cyberspace Security Strategy 2019-2023 (the "Strategy" or "ENSC 2019-2023").

The Council of Ministers' approval of the strategy for the four-year period 2019-2023 follows on from the First National Cyberspace Security Strategy, approved in 2015. It also follows the approval of Law 46/2018 of 13 August, which establishes the [Legal Framework of Cyberspace Security](#) by implementing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 (the NIS Directive).

According to a statement issued by the Council of Ministers on 23 May 2019, the strategy now approved "makes Portugal a more secure country through innovative and resolute action that preserves the fundamental values of the rule of law and ensures the proper functioning of the institutions".

However, the Resolution also determines that "the assumption of commitments (...) depends on the existence of funds made available by the public authorities".

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1. Establishment of operating values, definitions and principles

_ **Values:** the basic premise of the Strategy is that the guarantee of security of networks and information systems must, at the same time, ensure the protection, defence and use of cyberspace by all citizens and public and private entities.

_ **Definitions:** for operational reasons and reasons of conceptual implementation, the Strategy defines the concepts of *cyberspace, cybersecurity and cyber defence*.

_ **Principles:** the Strategy is based on the principles of *subsidiarity, complementarity and proportionality*.

2. Analysis of the context

The ENSC 2019-2023 characterises the main elements and events of the current context of cyberspace security. In fact, the context is marked by:

_ Constant changes in technology and technological habits compared with to the context of the 2015 Strategy

_ Potential threats originating from state agents, carried out by agents with political, military or economic motivations, which lead to interference, misinformation and cyber sabotage

_ Potential threats from non-state agents, carried out by agents with criminal, political and ideological motivations

_ Cybercrime structures increasingly present on the criminal landscape

_ The expansion of traditional cybercrime targets

_ The impact of information and communication technologies on acts of terrorism, including the impact of social networks

_ The poor culture of cybersecurity and lack of digital culture in the public and private sectors

_ The difficulty of training and maintaining human and financial resources

3. Vision

The vision of ENSC 2019-2023 is driven by the statement issued by the Council of Ministers referred to above.

4. Strategic objectives

The ENSC 2019-2023 establishes three "strategic objectives":

_Objective 1 - Maximise resilience: to overcome the threats that could compromise cyberspace security, it will be necessary to strengthen Portuguese digital resilience

_Objective 2 - Promote innovation: making cyberspace into a field of development and prosperity

_Objective 3 - Generate and ensure resources: to contribute to achieving sufficient resources to guarantee the country's capacity for security in cyberspace

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5. Areas of intervention

The ENSC 2019-2023 sets out six priority areas for intervention, with a view to achieving the strategic objectives listed above. They are:

Area 1 - Structure of cyberspace security

Area 2 - Prevention, education and awareness

Area 3 - Protection of cyberspace and of infrastructures

Area 4 - Response to threats and combating cybercrime

Area 5 - Research, development and innovation

Area 6 - national and international cooperation.

6. Evaluation and review of the Strategy

The ENSC 2019-2023 will be evaluated annually by the Higher Council of Security in Cyberspace and reviewed within a maximum of five years.

Finally, the ENSC 2019-2023 provides for the preparation of a "ENSC 2019-2023 Plan of Action" to be adopted within 120 days. The National Centre for Cybersecurity is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the plan, and for revising it.