

## Press Release

Vienna, 26 November 2020

### CONFERENCE: SECURITY IN THE DIGITAL SPACES IN TIMES OF THE PANDEMIC

The International Digital Security Forum (IDSF), which takes place on 2 and 3 December in Vienna, strengthens alliances for more security in digitalisation.

The Corona pandemic relentlessly exposes vulnerabilities in our social and economic system. This also concerns problems that are emerging in the course of the pervasive digitalisation of all areas of life. The security of our digital systems is particularly affected: As digital communication has become a mainstay of life in the Corona crisis - keywords are teleworking, e-commerce, electronic media, social networks - the threats of cyber-crime and fake news have also grown.

How to counter these problems is the focus of this year's "International Digital Security Forum" (IDSF), which is organised by the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and WKÖ AUSSENWIRTSCHAFT AUSTRIA in cooperation with go-international, a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry for Digitalisation and Business Location and the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, and will take place on 2 and 3 December 2020 as an interactive online event due to Corona. The event, under the theme "Security in times of pandemics and major global events", aims to promote the international exchange of information and cooperation between research, companies, administration, and politics.

#### **International, open exchange on global problems of digitalisation in Austria**

The conference brings together numerous central organisations and personalities from authorities, science, and industry. The IDSF will be opened by Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister for Digitisation and Business Location Margarete Schramböck and Christian Weissenburger, Head of the Section "Presidency and International Affairs" and interim Head of the Section "Innovation and Technology" at the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, representing Federal Minister Leonore Gewessler. Karl Nehammer, Federal Minister of the Interior, will open the second day of the conference. Keynote speakers include Vladimir Voronkov from the Directorate General of the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) and Arne Schönbohm, President of the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI). Other guests include renowned scientists and high-ranking representatives of companies and authorities from all over the world.

The conference will focus on ten discussion panels dealing specifically with the topics of cybercrime, crisis and disaster management, virtual currencies, biometric sensor technologies, management at border checkpoints, secure artificial intelligence and complexity and resilience. Another focus is on the topic of the fight against disinformation and fake news, which has become even more explosive as a result of the Corona crisis: on the one hand, their significance for the social and political order will be discussed, and on the other hand, the new role of the media.

### **New partnerships on a global basis**

The IDSF will be accompanied by a virtual exhibition of Austrian and international organisations and companies such as ARGE Safety and Economy of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, ARES - Cyber Intelligence, Attingo data recovery, CYBERTRAP Software, Digital Factory der FH Vorarlberg, Huemer-IT, Ikarus, Kuratorium Sicheres Österreich (KSÖ), SBA Research, Softprom Distribution, Sparx Systems Central Europe, T3K-Forensics, World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS) and X-Net Services. The event is supported by Huawei, SAS Institute and T3K-Forensics.

### **Women in Cyber Security**

Special attention will also be given to the topic of women in cyber security in a breakout session discussing barriers to entry, opportunities and experiences of women in the sector. The webinar will be hosted by the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS).

### **Global exchange between authorities, science and industry**

The aim of the two-day security forum is to build collective knowledge on "lessons learned" and to form partnerships for combating and minimising damage from pandemics and major international events. Information and free registration here: <https://idsf.io/>

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