

Proposal to establish a

# Programme Office on Cybercrime

of the Council of Europe  
in Bucharest, Romania

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## CoE and cybercrime: context and challenges

The Council of Europe is in a rather unique global position regarding cybercrime and the rule of law in cyberspace.

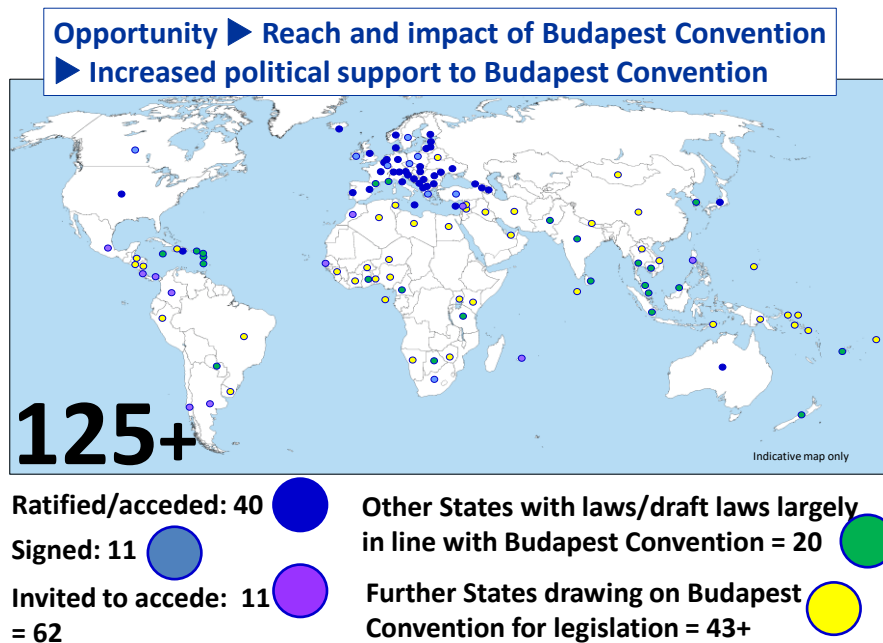
A momentum has been created to expand and take this role further.

This position is at risk and is not sustainable, primarily due to resource constraints.

The proposed Programme Office on Cybercrime should represent an innovative approach to address this challenge.

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## Context and challenges



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## Context and challenges

**Opportunity ► Stronger role of Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY)**

Since 2012:

- Assessment of implementation by Parties
- Guidance Notes
- Transborder access to data – towards a Protocol
- Coordination in international fora

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## Context and challenges

### Opportunity ► Increasing international focus on capacity building on cybercrime

- UN Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime 2013: “broad support” for capacity-building and technical assistance” – “diverse views” on other proposals
- Considerable experience of the CoE in capacity building on cybercrime (more than 400 activities since 2006) ► potential of attracting major funding

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## Context and challenges

### Challenges ► Resources and competitiveness

- Increased specialisation and allocation of resources for cybercrime by other organisations ► Risk of CoE losing out
- CoE cybercrime activities under-resourced ► Reliance on extra-budgetary funding
- More difficult to attract funding than for more “typical” CoE topics ► Need to explore new ways to attract funding
- Cybercrime is transnational crime ► Projects primarily regional/international ► Managed from Strasbourg ► Do not benefit from decentralisation (increased resource mobilisation, effective implementation of cooperation activities, cost savings and visibility)

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## C-PROC

### Objectives and functions

**Note:**  
Intergovernmental activities will remain in Strasbourg

- Ensure implementation of capacity building projects on cybercrime of the CoE
- Prepare additional projects and mobilise resources
- Assist the authorities of Romania in the preparation of projects aimed at capacity building in Romania or the region
- Engage in partnerships for capacity building with other organisations
- Support Strasbourg-based intergovernmental activities (T-CY)

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## Added value?

Reduction of administrative overheads ► Feasibility of smaller projects ► Facilitates resource mobilisation

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## Added value?

**Specialisation & operational credibility ► Competitiveness & visibility**

**Dedicated Programme Office on Cybercrime ► enhanced specialisation**

**Partnerships with other specialised institutions (Interpol GCI, Europol EC3, etc.)**

**Field- versus Headquarters-based Office ► More operational**

**Close links to specialised units (prosecution and police) and training institutions**

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## Why Romania?

- Offer by Prime Minister to SG to host office free of charge (March/April 2013)
- Feasibility confirmed
- Long-standing cooperation with Romanian authorities in cybercrime matters (Ministry of Justice, Prosecution Service, Cybercrime Unit of the National Police)
- Cybercrime a challenge in Romania for some time
- Expertise developed at early stage
- Romania among the first parties to Budapest Convention (2004)
- Romanian legislation serves as model for 3<sup>rd</sup> countries
- Partner in CoE capacity building projects
- Romania engaged in international efforts (T-CY, EU and OSCE)
- Specialisation, impact and visibility of a dedicated Programme Office on Cybercrime
- Romania “new” EU member state
- Geographical position, gateway to Eastern and South-eastern Europe
- Office will increase CoE presence in member States

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## Resourcing of the Office

- Office space to be made available free of charge by Government of Romania
- Office to implement multiple extra-budgetary projects
- Staffed with international and local project personnel and seconded experts
- The level of staffing and resources for operational activities depend on extra-budgetary project resources mobilised
- Head of Office appointed by Secretary General