

**Promoting Cybersecurity**

**An Multi-Regional Project**

*These participants are invited on the International Visitor Leadership Program by the U.S. Department of State. World Learning arranged their program.*

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**Accompanied by:** TBA

**January 22 – February 12, 2022**

**PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES**

*The Department of State has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:*

• Examine the U.S. government’s efforts to manage cybersecurity risk and assess threats to critical infrastructure;

• Discuss U.S. policy and efforts to secure an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable cyberspace, including U.S. interagency functions;

• Explore cyber education, research, and development efforts;

• Assess the efficacy of Internet security legislation and explore protections for privacy rights and civil liberties;

• Evaluate the role of the private sector in promoting cybersecurity, including public-private information sharing and data protection;

• Explore economic and national security impacts of malevolent cyber activity; and

• Discuss strategies to collaborate and counter cyber threats.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Armenia** **Ms. Mari BARSEGHYAN**

Project Manager, CyHub Armenia Project, Enterprise Incubator Foundation

**Costa Rica** **Mr. Roberto LEMAITRE PICADO**

Director, Response Center for Cyber Incidents, Ministry of Science and Technology

**Czech Republic** **Mr. Tomas BEZOUSKA**

Cybersecurity Manager, Ministry of Health

**Czech Republic** **Mr. Michael MYKLIN**

Head, Analytical Unit, National Cyber and Information Security Agency

**Ecuador** **Mr. Juan Xavier JATIVA**

Cyber Defense Leader, Cyber Command, Ministry of Defense

**Fiji Mr. Domingo Bauro KABUNARE**

Senior Information Security Analyst, Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport, and Tourism Development

**Georgia** **Mr. Nikoloz GAGNIDZE**

Deputy Chairman, Digital Governance Agency, Ministry of Justice

**Kosovo, Republic of** **Mr. Tanzer ABAZI**

Information Security Administrator, Kosovo Police

**Kosovo, Republic of** **Ms. Laura AHMETI**

Head, Crime Scene Investigation Department, Kosovo Police

**Kuwait** **Mr. Ebrahim ALAHMAD**

Second Staff Officer, Cyber Threats IT Systems Directorate, Kuwait National Guard

**Kuwait** **Mr. Mohammad BUNASHI**

Deputy Liaison Officer, Kuwait State Security

**Malta** **Mr. Jonathan CASSAR**

Chief Technology Officer and Head of Information and Governance, Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA)

**Norway** **Mr. Alexander Zlatanos IBSEN**

Foreign Policy Adviser, Parliamentary Group of the Conservative Party

**Poland** **Mr. Wojciech LIS**

Police Officer, Cyber Crime Department, Polish National Police

**Poland** **Mr. Arkadiusz MARCHEWKA**

Member of Parliament, Sejm (Lower House)

**Republic of Mr. Vladislav BIDIKOV**

**North Macedonia** System Engineer, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering (FCSE), Saints Cyril and Methodius University

**South Africa** **Mr. Carl Heinz UYS**

Security Practitioner, Bowline Security

**Spain** **Ms. Beatriz GOMEZ HERMOSILLA**

Investigations Team Leader, Cybercrime Unit, Spanish National Police

**United Arab Emirates** **Mr. Nasser MATAR AL NEYADI**

Digital Services and Security Directorate Officer, Ministry of Interior

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

**Armenia**

*Name:* **Ms. Mari BARSEGHYAN**

*City:* Yerevan

*Present Position:* Project Manager, CyHub Armenia Project, Enterprise Incubator Foundation

*Concurrent Position:* Director, Innovation Center Foundation

*Languages:* Armenian (primary), English, German, Russian

*U.S. Travel:* California, Pennsylvania

*Professional Background:* Ms. Mari Barseghyan currently leads one of the largest cybersecurity initiatives in Armenia, CyHub Armenia, which aims to develop the country’s cybersecurity sector. A public-private partnership, the project established a cybersecurity laboratory, builds capacity through education, and raises public awareness and support for the development of cybersecurity strategy, policies, and laws to help Armenia manage cyberattacks. Ms. Barseghyan has led training courses on cybersecurity capacity building and public awareness. She also collaborates with U.S. universities to enhance the National Polytechnic University of Armenia’s cybersecurity curricula.

**Costa Rica**

*Name:* **Mr. Roberto LEMAITRE PICADO**

*City:* San José

*Present Position:* Director, Response Center for Cyber Incidents, Ministry of Science and Technology

*Concurrent Position:* University Professor, University of Costa Rica, National Technical University and CENFOTEC

*Languages:* Spanish (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* Washington, DC

*Professional Background:* Mr. Roberto Lemaitre Picado serves as the Director of Costa Rica’s National Computer Security Incident Response Team within the Ministry of Science and Technology’s Directorate of Digital Governance. He leads interagency efforts across the Costa Rican government to deter and respond to cybersecurity threats, while also playing a central role in setting cybersecurity policy. He has earned advanced degrees in law and cybersecurity, has played an active role in both capacities within the Ministry, and has been a contact of the United States Embassy over that time. Recently, Mr. Lemaitre Picado has pursued training opportunities for Costa Rican government IT agencies and has shared U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) alerts with those offices and the private sector.

**Czech Republic**

*Name:* **Mr. Tomas BEZOUSKA**

*City:* Zvole

*Present Position:* Cybersecurity Manager, Ministry of Health

*Concurrent Position:* President, Institute for Document Management

*Languages:* Czech (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* As a Cybersecurity Manager for the Ministry of Health, Mr. Tomas Bezouska is responsible for leading the ministry’s cybersecurity strategy and is involved in preparation of new legislation under provisions of the national cybersecurity law. As a result of cyber-attacks on critical hospitals in the country, the Czech government has begun to discuss including smaller hospitals and other critical infrastructure under the provisions of the cybersecurity law.

**Czech Republic**

*Name:* **Mr. Michael MYKLIN**

*City:* Brno

*Present Position:* Head, Analytical Unit, National Cyber and Information Security Agency

*Concurrent Position:* Observer, Ad Hoc Working Group on Cyber Threat Landscape

*Languages:* Czech (primary), English, German, Russian

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Mr. Michael Myklin serves as head of the National Cyber and Information Security Agency’s analytical unit, which produces reports for the Agency´s leadership, government decision-makers, and partners. Apart from analytical production, Mr. Myklin’s unit also manages information for several departments, providing him with unique insight into the complex state of cybersecurity of the Czech Republic. He spent one year in the Government CERT department, where he gained technical and hands-on experience with cyber incidents. He then co-led an initiative to develop the Agency’s inter-departmental Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform to enhance capabilities in preventing and mitigating cyberattacks.

**Ecuador**

*Name:* **Mr. Juan Xavier JATIVA**

*City:* Quito

*Present Position:* Cyber Defense Leader, Cyber Command, Ministry of Defense

*Languages:* Spanish (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* Florida, Nevada, New Jersey

*Professional Background:* Mr. Juan Xavier Jativa is the Cyber Defense Leader for the Ministry of Defense’s newly created Cyber Command (COCIBER), where he also serves as team leader for COCIBER’s Computer Security Incident Response Team and as a senior cyber analyst. The team is responsible for protecting Ecuador’s strategic state assets from cyberattacks. Mr. Jativa was also enlisted to serve on the Ministry’s Executive Committee to draft Ecuador’s new Cyber Defense Policy, giving him key insights into Ecuador’s national cyber-security strategy policies and framework. In 2018, Mr. Jativa led Ecuador’s national “cyber team,” which competed in international cyber security competitions.

**Fiji**

*Name:* **Mr. Domingo Bauro KABUNARE**

*City:* Tarawa

*Present Position:* Senior Information Security Analyst, Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport, and Tourism Development

*Languages:* English

*U.S. Travel:* Hawaii

*Professional Background:* Mr. Domingo Bauro Kabunare is a Senior Information Security Analyst with Fiji’s Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport, and Tourism Development. He serves as an advisor to the government on cybersecurity matters, including initiating the development of national strategies, policies, and legislation related to cybersecurity and ICT in general. He also serves on a nascent Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT). In addition to responding to cyberattacks, Mr. Kabunare works in close collaboration with law enforcement agencies to provide preliminary digital forensic investigative assistance and analysis.

**Georgia**

*Name:* **Mr. Nikoloz GAGNIDZE**

*City:* Tbilisi

*Present Position:* Deputy Chairman, Digital Governance Agency, Ministry of Justice

*Languages:* Georgian (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* Florida

*Professional Background:* With more than 10 years of experience in the cybersecurity sector, Mr. Nikoloz Gagnidze serves as the Deputy Chairman at the Digital Governance Agency for Georgia’s Ministry of Justice, where he manages e-governance, cybersecurity, and information security policy development and projects. He has demonstrated experience in developing cybersecurity requirements for the energy sector. Mr. Gagnidze’s participation in this IVLP program will benefit the Digital Governance Agency’s key areas such as development of information security and cybersecurity, facilitation of introducing digital governance principles to the public governance process, and overall contribute to the cyber field development in Georgia.

**Kosovo, Republic of**

*Name:* **Mr. Tanzer ABAZI**

*City:* Pristina

*Present Position:* Information Security Administrator, Kosovo Police

*Concurrent Position:* Founder, FINDBUG.io

*Languages:* Albanian (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* Arizona, Washington, DC

*Professional Background:* As an Information Security Administrator for the Kosovo Police, Mr. Tanzer Abazi is a cybersecurity expert and community builder in Kosovo, with over a decade of experience working for law enforcement agencies. He founded the Albanian Cyber Association, a civil society organization that works with Kosovan “white hat” (ethical) hackers to boost the resilience and defenses of private and public partners. He is also the founder of FINDBUG.io, a startup that is globally acknowledged for reporting security vulnerabilities by offering friendly bug bounty (a deal offered by websites, organizations, and software developers by which individuals can receive recognition and compensation for reporting bugs) for companies regardless of size or budget.

**Kosovo, Republic of**

*Name:* **Ms. Laura AHMETI**

*City:* Pristina

*Present Position:* Head, Crime Scene Investigation Department, Kosovo Police

*Languages:* Albanian (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* Florida

*Professional Background:* Ms. Laura Ahmeti is the Head of the Kosovo Police’s Crime Scene Investigation Department. In 2015, her work led to the resolution of a homicide case. In recognition of her accomplishments, the Kosovo Police in turn awarded her the Medal of Honor. Ms. Ahmeti was also selected to be part of the investigative group for cases undertaken by the Counter Terrorism (CT) Directorate. She continues to contribute to the Directorate with her expertise through the extraction of electronic data and examination of mobile devices, as well as enhancements of investigative video material to identify and locate suspects.

**Kuwait**

*Name:* **Mr. Ebrahim ALAHMAD**

*City:* Kuwait City

*Present Position:* Second Staff Officer, Cyber Threats IT Systems Directorate, Kuwait National Guard

*Languages:* Arabic (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* California, Florida, Nevada, Oregon

*Professional Background:* Mr. Ebrahim Alahmad serves as the Second Staff Officer for the Cyber Threats IT Systems Directorate for the Kuwait National Guard. He is responsible for discovering network security vulnerabilities and developing the appropriate plans to find solutions and to deter security threats.

**Kuwait**

*Name:* **Mr. Mohammad BUNASHI**

*City:* Kuwait City

*Present Position:* Deputy Liaison Officer, Kuwait State Security

*Languages:* Arabic (primary), English, French

*U.S. Travel:* Florida, New York, Washington, DC

*Professional Background:* Mr. Mohammad Bunashi is the Deputy Officer of the Liaison Division in Kuwait State Security and has periodically served as Acting Chief. In this role, he is the main interlocutor for law enforcement, investigations, and operations between the Kuwait State Security and the FBI.

**Malta**

*Name:* **Mr. Jonathan CASSAR**

*City:* Blata l-Bajda

*Present Position:* Chief Technology Officer and Head of Information and Governance, Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA)

*Languages:* Maltese (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* California, Hawaii

*Professional Background:* Mr. Jonathan Cassar serves as the Chief Technology Officer and Head of Information Security and Governance for the Malta Information Technology Agency. He sets the government’s technology strategy to meet Malta’s current and future needs. He has extensive experience in projects related to IT collaboration within the European Union’s Tax and Customs Union and Horizon 2020 projects. In recent years, cybercrime has been on the rise in Malta, with more people using the internet daily. From 2017 to 2020, the police opened 4,508 cybercrime investigations, in comparison to 50 cases in 2003.

**Norway**

*Name:* **Mr. Alexander Zlatanos IBSEN**

*City:* Oslo

*Present Position:* Foreign Policy Advisor, Parliamentary Group of the Conservative Party

*Concurrent Position:* Commentator and Member of the Editorial Board, *Morgenbladet* and *Minerva*

*Languages:* Norwegian (primary), English, Greek

*U.S. Travel:* Arizona

*Professional Background:* Mr. Alexaner Zlatanos Ibsen is a parliamentary advisor for Norway’s Conservative Party, where he plays an active and direct role in decision-making processes related to cybersecurity policies. Through this role, and through his regular columns, he is influential on a national level on a range of security and foreign policy issues, including NATO and cyber security.

**Poland**

*Name:* **Mr. Wojciech LIS**

*City:* Krakow

*Present Position:* Police Officer, Cyber Crime Department, Polish National Police

*Languages:* Polish (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* As an Officer in the Cyber Crime Department for the Polish National Police, Mr. Wojciech Lis develops training programs and standards for new recruits and works closely with other elements of the Polish National Police, Europol, Interpol, the Government Protection Bureau, and foreign law enforcement agencies to address both traditional and emerging criminal and transnational cyber threats. The Polish National Police plays a central role in identifying, preventing, and/or interdicting domestic and transnational cybercrime. The Cybercrime Department provides direction and is instrumental in developing programs, policies, and procedures to counter all manner of cybercrime.

**Poland**

*Name:* **Mr. Arkadiusz MARCHEWKA**

*City:* Warsaw

*Present Position:* Member of Parliament, Sejm (Lower House)

*Concurrent Position:* Member, Commission for Digitalization, Innovation and Modern Technologies, Sejm (Lower House)

*Languages:* Polish (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* Colorado, Washington, DC

*Professional Background:* Mr. Arkadiusz Marchewka is a member of the Commission for Digitization, Innovation and Modern Technologies within the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, the lower house of the bicameral parliament of Poland. He concurrently serves as a member of the Commission for Public Finances, the Deputy Chair of the Commission for Maritime Affairs, the Chair of the West Pomeranian Parliamentary Group, the Chair of the Civic Platform in West Pomeranian Region, and the Deputy Chair of the Civic Platform in Szczecin. He is interested in crafting stronger legislation to address cyber threats facing Poland.

**Republic of North Macedonia**

*Name:* **Mr. Vladislav BIDIKOV**

*City:* Skopje

*Present Position:* System Engineer, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering (FCSE), Saints Cyril and Methodius University

*Concurrent Position:* Expert, Ministry of Health

*Languages:* Macedonian (primary), English, Serbo-Croatian

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Mr. Vladislav Bidikov currently works as a system engineer at the Faculty for Computer Science and Engineering at Saints Cyril and Methodius University. He is also a security expert and cyber security specialist responsible for management of the Faculty Computer Center with the Ministry of Health. In the latter role, his focus is the maintenance and function of national computer systems, such as the national medical information system at the Ministry of Health and the national education information system of the Ministry of Education. The Computer Center hosts and enables operative functioning of their systems and is the first responder in cases of emergency. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Bidikov and his team were responsible for maintenance of the Ministry of Health’s system in preparation for coping with high numbers of visitors to the official web site and protecting it from cyberattacks. In addition to his role as a system engineer, Mr. Bidikov also serves as an assistant lecturer at the university. He mentors students and develops tasks for Hackathons organized by the department and partner organizations within the country and regionally.

**South Africa**

*Name:* **Mr. Carl Heinz UYS**

*City:* Durban

*Present Position:* Security Practitioner, Bowline Security

*Languages:* Afrikaans (primary), English, Zulu

*U.S. Travel:* California

*Professional Background:* Since 1999, Mr. Carl Henz Uys has been exploring the information technology technical sector, and in 2006, transferred to the security sector. After this move, he was exposed to successful government projects aimed at combating and preventing cybercrime. Since 2011, Mr. Uys has continued to work within the IT and Cyber Security sector servicing private and public organizations as a co-founder and cyber security practitioner of Bowline Security. He helped build an information security framework of policies and procedures for the petrochemical sector and published information security guidelines for the maritime sector to adopt. He was also a part of the national cyber security team for the 2014 South African National Government elections.

**Spain**

*Name:* **Ms. Beatriz GOMEZ HERMOSILLA**

*City:* Madrid

*Present Position:* Investigations Team Leader, Cybercrime Unit, Spanish National Police

*Languages:* Spanish (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* Washington, DC

*Professional Background:* Ms. Beatriz Gomez Hermosilla joined the international cybercrime unit of the Spanish National Police to lead one of their operational teams. She manages a group of investigators who are responsible fortransnational cyber investigations. She also assists the criminal investigative mission of the U.S. Secret Service and the mission of U.S. Embassy Madrid to combat transnational organized crime.

**United Arab Emirates**

*Name:* **Mr. Nasser MATAR AL NEYADI**

*City:* Abu Dhabi

*Present Position:* Digital Services and Security Directorate Officer, Ministry of Interior

*Languages:* Arabic (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Mr. Nasser Matar Alneyadi is a Digital Services and Security Directorate Officer serving as a Branch Director of Systems Operation and Database Security. He is interested in coordinating with the U.S. Embassy law enforcement agencies, specifically the Homeland Security Investigations office, on cybercrime cases.