

16-20 June

Tallinn Cyber Diplomacy Summer School

The rapidly evolving digital environment, the opportunities it creates, and the challenges it raises highlight the need for effective international cooperation and partnerships across sectors, disciplines and stakeholder groups. Cyber diplomacy emerged as a policy framework that provides conceptual frameworks and operational tools for navigating many of these complexities, including the nexus between cybersecurity and digitalisation, norms of responsible state behaviour, cybercrime, and the strategic impacts of emerging technologies like Al.

The need for cohesive global collaboration and governance has never been more critical. The Tallinn Cyber Diplomacy Summer School was established to support government officials in deepening their knowledge of key concepts and mastering the tools of modern diplomacy to become effective agents of change in their countries. Each year, the Summer School continues to foster a secure, resilient, and open cyberspace.

The sixth edition of The Tallinn Cyber Diplomacy Summer School will explore the most essential themes, providing a platform for diplomats, cyber experts and policymakers to enhance their understanding skills and build a cross-regional community of cyber diplomacy experts. It provides a dynamic, high-level program for young cyber professionals, diplomats, and public officials worldwide. Over five intensive days, participants will engage in expert-led sessions, hands-on exercises, and networking with peers and global thought leaders.

The Tallinn Cyber Diplomacy Summer School is part of the **EU-funded Tallinn Cyber Diplomacy Programme**, which promotes global cyber resilience capacity-building and aligns with the EU's core values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. It supports the EU's strategic commitment to inclusive multilateralism and a secure, open digital future.

The Summer School is **co-organised by the European Commission (DG INTPA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia**, e-Governance Academy (Estonia), and ESTDEV.











Topics and Agenda

Day O (15 June) - Icebreaker at 19:00 - 21:30

Location: Pop and Contemporary Art Museum POCO (Rotermanni 2, Tallinn)

Day 1 (16 June) — Digital and Cybersecurity Foundations. The evolution of emerging technologies (AI)

Location: Hotel Nordic Forum, Tallinn

Theme: The first day of the course will establish the context for the work of a cyber diplomat by covering the fundamentals of cybersecurity — not as an end in itself, but as an enabler for a functional digital society that benefits its people and economy. Why do states engage in digitalisation, and why does cybersecurity matter? What are the key threats and vulnerabilities, who are the threat actors, and how is cyberspace defended? What is the strategic impact of emerging technologies like AI? What are the current AI governance models, and how do they address the benefits and risks of AI? Discussions will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of how digital technologies impact cybersecurity practices and policy development, laying the foundation for further exploration into cyber diplomacy.

Moderator of the day: Tanel Sepp, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia

Morning session 9:00 - 14:00 Hotel Nordic Forum	
8:30 - 9:00	Registration and gathering
9:00 - 9:45	Opening remarks
	➤ Margus Tsahkna, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
	Burhan Gafoor, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations in New York (online)
	Camille Lalevée, Cybersecurity Policy Officer, Unit F5- Digital Transformation, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission
	➤ Hannes Astok, Executive Director and Chairman of the Management Board, e-Governance Academy













09:45 - 10:30	The case for digitalisation and cybersecurity as enablers
	Digitalisation and cybersecurity are two sides of the same coin. Understanding this nexus and dependencies is critical for sustainable digital transformation. In this session, the participants will learn what the environment is, why digitalisation matters, and why cybersecurity matters to digitalisation.
	➤ Johanna Weaver, Executive Director of the Tech Policy Design Institute, Australia
10:30 - 11:00	The strategic role of AI: How do emerging technologies like AI reshape the cyber domain? State of play with AI: How far have we come? What are the next developments?
	Topics to be covered: Al as an enabler and amplifier, positive use cases. Experts delve into Al's role in cybersecurity and disinformation, emphasizing its benefits and risks in the public and critical sectors.
	Prof. Gert Jervan, Dean of the School of IT, Centre for Dependable Computing Systems, Taltech, Estonia
	Prof Virginia Dignum, Professor in Responsible Artificial Intelligence and the Director of the AI Policy Lab, Umeå University (online)
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break & networking
11:30 - 12:30	Panel discussion: a policy-driven approach to address the challenges posed by emerging technologies like AI
	Topics to be covered: Al governance models to explore how cyber diplomats and international policy actors can shape and align global responses to the governance of Al. The session will also focus on the best governance, collaboration practices, challenges and areas of convergence while fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration.
	 Lucia Velasco, UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies Timothy Mwololo Waema, Professor of Information Systems, Computing & Informatics, University of Nairobi, Kenya Anna-Liisa Pärnalaas, Counsellor for Digital Affairs, Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU
12:30 - 13:30	The geopolitics of technology: how interdependencies in technology affect/shape politics (incl the role of critical infra) ** Luukas Kristjan Ilves, Former government CIO, Estonia













	Digging in: To unpack the layers of technological interdependence
	★ Alexander Martin, UK Editor for Recorded Future News
13:30 - 14:45	Lunch
Afternoon session	n 14:45 - 16:45 Hotel Nordic Forum
14:45 - 15:30	Global cyber threats and trends, role of AI in the threat landscape
	Topics to be covered: The Impact of Emerging Technologies on the Cyber Threat landscape: Al as an enabler, Al challenges, how to address the cyber threats posed by Al in critical sectors (e.g. healthcare): Insights from global defenders in industry.
	 Mathilde Maury, Director, Policy and Government Affairs, Global Policy and International Affairs, Nokia Nikolas Ott, Director for Cybersecurity & Defense Policy, European Government Affairs, Microsoft
15:30 - 16:00	National cyber threat landscape. Vulnerabilities and threats, actors and risks
	 Ege Tamm, Cyber Analytic, Estonia Peeter Marvet, NCP C3, Analyst of National Criminal Police, Estonian Police and Border Guard Board
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break & networking
16:30 - 17:00	Disinformation: How Al Is changing the game From faster fact-checking to deeper fakes - this session explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping the disinformation landscape. Experts will weigh the benefits and risks of Al in the public sector and media, and discuss what it means for trust, truth, and democracy.
	 Dr Adrian Venables, Cybersecurity Masters Programme Manager and Head of Space Centre, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia Franc Zylyftari, Head of Cyber Security Incident Response Team, National Agency of Information Society (AKSHI), Albania
Evening program	me 18:00 - 22:30 Nooda tee 8, Tallinn, Jahtklubi
18:00	Gathering at the Hotel lobby and transfer to Jahtklubi













18:30 - 19:30	Fireside chat session: Artificial intelligence and the internal processes of creativity
	➤ Dr. Jaan Aru, Associate Professor, University of Tartu, Estonia
19:30 - 21:45	Dinner at Jahtklubi and transfer back to the Hotel

Day 2 (17 June) — Cyber diplomacy and international cybersecurity frameworks

Location: Hotel Nordic Forum, Tallinn

Theme: Day 2 focuses on the existing international cybersecurity and stability frameworks and mechanisms that govern state actions. The goal is to provide cyber diplomats with a comprehensive overview of the cyber diplomacy environment and key concepts they can engage with, enabling them to participate in international discussions in a productive and impactful manner. Sessions will look into norms of responsible state behaviour, international law governing state cyber activities, and confidence-building measures. A panel discussion with cyber ambassadors will help operationalise how diplomats navigate these frameworks and how they can enhance their effectiveness on international platforms.

Moderator of the day: **René Värk**, Director of International Law Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia

Morning session 9:00 - 14:00 Hotel Nordic Forum	
9:00 - 9:30	Keynote: Cyber stability in a fragmented world - the role of cyber diplomacy This keynote explores the evolving international cyber stability framework: where it stands today, what challenges it faces, and how cyber diplomacy can help shape a more secure and cooperative digital environment.
	Pavel Mraz, Cybersecurity Researcher, Security & Technology Programme, UNIDIR
9:30 - 10:15	International law in cyberspace International law applicable to state cyber activities in peacetime and conflict. Liis Vihul, Chief Executive Officer, Cyber Law International
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee break & networking













10:45 - 11:30	Promoting human rights online and protecting human centric approach in the digital era
	This session explores how international frameworks and multistakeholder forums can help safeguard and advance human rights across both digital and physical spaces. It will highlight the roles of the Freedom Online Coalition (FOC), the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in shaping rights-based digital policies, addressing emerging threats, and fostering inclusive, equitable digital development.
	 Rasmus Lumi, Director General, Department of International Organisations and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia Aisha Simon, Head of Digital Governance and Team Lead, Cyber Governance Strategy and Engagement, Cyber Policy Department, UK
11:30 - 12:15	Countering cybercrime and commercial cyber intrusions: the global policy
	responses This session will spotlight key diplomatic and multilateral initiatives, such as the Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI), the UN Ad Hoc Committee on Cybercrime (Third Committee), and the Pall Mall Process, and explore how these efforts contribute to shaping effective, rights-based, and cooperative approaches to combating cybercrime while respecting international law and human rights.
	Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI)
	Rugile Katinaite, Cyber Security Advisor, Cyber Security and IT policy group, Ministry of National Defence, Lithuania
	International efforts in countering cybercrime: UN Ad Hoc Committee on Cybercrime
	➤ Claudio Peguero, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs, Dominican Republic
	Tackling the proliferation and irresponsible use of commercial cyber intrusion capabilities - the Pall Mall Process
	★ Leonard Rolland, Head of International Cyber Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
12:15	Family Photo
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
Afternoon session	n 13:30 - 15:30 Hotel Nordic Forum













13:30 - 14:30	Norms of responsible state behaviour and cyber security confidence
	 building measures Katherine Prizeman, Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (online) Szilvia Tóth, Cyber Security Officer, Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Claudio Peguero, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs, Dominican Republic
14:30 - 15:30	Navigating the future of global cyber ecosystem: proposals in perspective This session will provide an in-depth overview of the current status of discussions within the UN Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security in the use of ICTs, will present the content and goals of the Chair's recent compromise proposal, analysing the substance and intent behind the proposal, its potential implications for global cyber diplomacy, and how it compares to or complements the Programme of Action (PoA) initiative.
	 Helen Popp, Senior Expert, European External Action Service (EEAS) Leonard Rolland, Head of International Cyber Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France Daniela Ruiz Domínguez, Director for cybersecurity and arms control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico Amr Essam, Counsellor, Senior Political OfficerCounsellor, Senior Political Officer, Egypt Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York
15:45 - 17.30*	Gathering at the hotel lobby
	Guided City Tours. Explore the enchanting Old Town, featuring its medieval architecture, iconic landmarks, and rich history.
	*Pre-registration is required
Evening program	nme 18:30 - 22:30 PROTO
18:15	Gathering at the Hotel lobby and transfer to Proto
19:00 - 20:00	Fireside chat: How technology rules the world? Will technology dominate our future? Opportunities and challenges of technology today and in the future. Dilemmas for national security and approaches to futureproofing.
	Ambassadors panel: Cyber ambassadors' perspective, moderated by Patryk Pawlak , Part-time Professor, European University Institute; Visiting scholar, Carnegie Europe











	 Tanel Sepp, Ambassador-at-Large for Cyber Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia Johanna Weaver, Executive Director of the Tech Policy Design Institute, Australia Claudio Peguero, Ambassador for Cyber Affairs, Dominican Republic Daniela Ruiz Domínguez, Director for Cybersecurity and Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
20:00 - 22:00	Dinner at Proto and transfer back to the Hotel

Day 3 (18 June) — Cyber diplomacy in action: approaches, instruments and tools

Location: Hotel Nordic Forum, Tallinn

Theme: The third day will be dedicated to the implementation of cybersecurity frameworks, focusing on the implementation mechanisms for international law and cyber norms. The session will particularly look at the practical applications of state responsibility: what steps are needed to hold malicious actors accountable for their actions? How does attribution work in practice and what is the role of national cyber resilience? The goal is to help participants see how the existing cyber diplomacy tools and mechanisms can be applied effectively to prevent and manage cyber crises, and what architecture and processes are needed on the national level to operationalise the tools offered by the existing stability frameworks. The session will also introduce collective diplomatic and cyber defence frameworks of the EU and NATO.

Moderator of the day: **Dr Patryk Pawlak**, Part-time Professor, European University Institute; Visiting scholar, Carnegie Europe

Morning session 09:00 - 13:00 Hotel Nordic Forum	
09:00 - 09:30	Responsibility and accountability in cyber diplomacy What are they and why are they needed?
	★ Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Visiting Distinguished Fellow, GMF Technology Programme; Chair of IT Coalition Steering Group, Ukraine Defence Contact Group













09:30 - 10.30	Strengthening accountability in cyberspace: case studies from the EU and NATO
	 Helen Popp, Senior Expert, European External Action Service (EEAS) Thorwald-Eirik Kaljo, Senior Expert, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission Ben Hiller, Cyber and Hybrid Division, NATO HQ (online)
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break & networking
11:00 - 12:00	Diplomatic responses to malicious cyber activity: legal, technical and political considerations - weighting different response options
	 Johanna Weaver, Executive Director of the Tech Policy Design Institute, Australia Anders Lindell, Cyber Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU Ciaran Grant, Head of Cyber Deterrence, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
Afternoon sessio	n 13:00 - 14:45 Hotel Nordic Forum
13:00 - 13:45	How to write a national position on the applicability of International Law in cyberspace
	 Liis Vihul, Chief Executive Officer, Cyber Law International Agnes Kasper, Researcher, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (NATO CCDCOE)
	Case study: African Common Position
	Prof Nnenna Ajufo, Professor of Law and Technology at the Leeds Law School
13:45 - 14:15	Strengthening National Resilience: putting the UN framework into practice. Estonian national digital and cyber resilience ecosystem. Objectives, principles, and architecture of national cybersecurity from Estonian national perspective. Mitigating and responding to cyber crises
	Gert Auväärt, Head of the Cyber Security Centre (NCSC-EE), Information System Authority of Estonia (RIA)













Side visits 14:30 - 17.00 CR14 Foundation, Rävala pst 14, Tallinn		
14:30	Gathering at the Hotel lobby and transfer to the field visit	
14:45 - 17:00	 Defending the Digital Frontier X The Strategic Role of the Ministry of Defence X Cyber Command at the Forefront: Defending in the Digital Domain X Mission and mandate of the Cyber Defence League X Introduction of NATO CCDCOE activities X CR14 - Multiverse of Cyber Ranges 	
Evening programme 17:30 - 22:00 Estonian Open Air Museum, Vabaõhumuuseum		
17:30	Gathering at the Hotel lobby and transfer to the Estonian Open Air Museum	
18:00	Case study: Story of Estonia's reform through digitalisation and cybersecurity Siim Sikkut, Former Government CIO, Estonia Luukas Kristjan Ilves, Former Government CIO, Estonia	
19:00 - 22:00	Dinner in Kolu Kõrts, Open Air Museum and transfer back to the Hotel	

Day 4 (19 June) — Building cyber resilience through diplomacy: cyber norms implementation providing a vision for the cyber capacity building

Location: Hotel Nordic Forum, Tallinn

Theme: Building cyber resilience is key to maintaining and strengthening global and national security architectures. This day will offer practice-oriented insight on how to tap into cybersecurity capacity-building initiatives to improve national cyber and regional cyber resilience, what are the interlinkages between cyber capacity building, national cyber resilience and implementation of

international stability frameworks, and how cyber diplomacy relates to strengthening national cyber resilience through capacity building. The aim is to equip participants with knowledge and skills to help them maximise the benefit of capacity-building initiatives for their own countries.

Moderator of the day: **Merle Maigre**, Director of Cybersecurity Competence Centre, e-Governance Academy













Morning session 09:15 - 12:35 Hotel Nordic Forum	
09:15 - 09:45	Contextualising capacity building: aspects, approaches and strategies
	This session examines the key aspects and strategies of cyber capacity building and how different approaches can be tailored to specific contexts. It explores the links between cyber resilience, capacity building, and international cyber stability frameworks.
	■ Bart Hogeveen, Deputy Director, Cyber, Technology & Security, ASPI
09:45 - 10:45	Bridging the digital divide: access, infrastructure, supply chain and connectivity dilemmas
	This panel will explore how infrastructure projects, such as the Global Gateway initiative, play a key role in reducing the digital divide by providing secure connectivity while simultaneously addressing critical infrastructure protection. By focusing on secure, reliable connections, it aims to tackle both regional challenges and the global issue of cross-border dependencies in the cyber domain.
	Experts will discuss the practical aspects of cybersecurity capacity building, particularly in relation to secure connectivity and the protection of critical infrastructure. The session will also examine the growing vulnerabilities created by dependencies on CI technology providers and the complexities of securing global supply chains. The discussion will assess whether current approaches are sufficient or if new strategies are required to strengthen cybersecurity in an increasingly interconnected world. How can we better support infrastructure projects to ensure that they are secure and resilient in the face of evolving threats?
	 Camille Lalevée, Cybersecurity Policy Officer, Unit F5- Digital Transformation, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission Lilian Georgieva-Weiche, Strategic Advisor, Cyber Foreign Policy, German Federal Foreign Office Franc Zylyftari, Head of Cyber Security Incident Response Team, National Agency of Information Society (AKSHI), Albania
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break & networking
11:15 - 12:15	Bridging gaps in cybersecurity: cyber workforce, networks and PPPs
	In addition to Digital Infrastructure projects, how to ensure cyber resilience through comprehensive human capacity development in cybersecurity - such as training programs, educational studies, skills development, and creating













	networks and digital hubs. As most cyber expertise comes from the private sector, countries must also build relevant public-private partnerships.	
	This session will explore the vital elements of "soft" cybersecurity capacity building (CCB) — such as training, networks and stakeholder relations. With attention to infrastructure such as physical networks and systems, there is an increasing recognition of the need for comprehensive human capital development in cybersecurity.	
	Experts will discuss how soft CCB efforts - such as training programs, educational studies, skills development, and the creation of digital hubs, expert networks, and PPPs are essential for building sustainable national cyber resilience. In particular, we will examine how these initiatives complement and support the growth of digital infrastructure, focusing on the importance of local and regional programs to develop the next generation of cyber professionals.	
	Additionally, we will explore the role of different CCB programs and studies in shaping a robust cybersecurity workforce, addressing both short-term skills gaps and long-term strategic needs.	
	 Merili Soosalu, LAC regional program manager, EU CyberNet, LAC4 Bart Hogeveen, Deputy Director, Cyber, Technology & Security, ASPI Nayia Barmpaliou, Executive Director, Cyber Lab International 	
	Case studies: Engage participants during discussions to share their experience	
12:15 - 12:45	National Cyber Security Index: a strategic tool for cyber capacity building	
	This session offers a strategic view of the National Cyber Security Index (NCSI) as a tool to assess, understand, and strengthen national cyber capacities. Participants will explore how to leverage the NCSI to support policymaking, track progress, and align with international cyber stability and capacity-building efforts.	
	Marit Lani, Head of Governance and Engagement Competence Centre, e-Governance Academy, Estonia	
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch	
Afternoon session 13:45 - 14:45 Nordic Hotel Forum		
13:45 - 14:45	Case Study: Cyber Assistance to Ukraine - the role of public-private partnerships in building national cyber resilience: Tallinn Mechanism and IT-Coalition	
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	 Lauri Luht, Project manager, Tallinn Mechanism; Cyber Attaché, Estonian Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine Nikolas Ott, Director for Cybersecurity & Defense Policy, European Government Affairs, Microsoft Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Chair of IT Coalition Steering Group, Ukraine Defence Contact Group Lilian Georgieva-Weiche, Strategic Advisor, Cyber Foreign Policy, German Federal Foreign Office Ihor Malchenyuk, Director of Cyber Defense Department, SSSCIP, Ukraine (online)
17:00 — 22:00	Transfer to harbour and boat trip on Tallinn Bay and dinner on Aegna Island (optional)

Day 5 (20 June) — Practical workshop, exercise and wrap-up Location: Hotel Nordic Forum, Tallinn

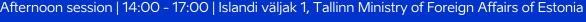
Theme: The final day is dedicated to applying the knowledge and skills learned through a practical workshop/exercise, so they are equipped not just to understand but also actively engage in the formulation and execution of cybersecurity policies within their respective national contexts. The workshop aims to bridge theoretical knowledge with practical skills, preparing participants to make informed, strategic decisions in cyber diplomacy. This capacity ensures they are well-equipped to handle real-world cyber challenges, influencing the formulation of national positions and the

international cybersecurity landscape.

The course concludes with a review of key insights and the handover of course diplomas.

Moderator of the day: **Tanel Sepp**, Ambassador-at-Large for Cyber Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

Morning session 09:00 - 12:30 Hotel Nordic Forum		
09:00 - 12:30	Practical workshop / Table-top exercise Including Coffee break & networking	
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	













14:15	Keynote speech X Jonatan Vseviov, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia
	Conclusions of the Tallinn Cyber Diplomacy Summer School
	 Tanel Sepp, Ambassador-at-Large for Cyber Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia Camille Lalevée, Policy Officer for Cybersecurity, Science, Technology, Innovation and Digitalisation, European Commission (DG INTPA) Hannes Astok, Executive Director and Chairman of the Management Board, e-Governance Academy
15:00	Handover of diplomas
15:30 — 17:00	Networking reception in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

Contacts:

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Organisational topics:

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