

European-Swiss-Israeli consortium launches SMESEC project to support cybersecurity of SMEs

Windisch, June 26, 2018 – A European-Swiss-Israeli consortium of industry and university partners launched the **SMESEC** project (Protecting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises digital technology through an innovative cyber-SECurity framework).

The project is a three-year multi-disciplinary innovation action co-funded by the European Commission and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation in the context of Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The project started in June 2017. It is coordinated by Atos and involves the following partners: BitDefender (Romania), Citrix (Greece), Easy Global Market (France), FHNW University of Applied Sciences (Switzerland), Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (Greece), GridPocket (France), IBM Israel - Science and Technology (Israel), SCYTL Secure Electronic Voting (Spain), University of Patras (Greece), University of Utrecht (Netherlands), and WorldSensing (Spain).

SMESEC is an integral part of the “Digital Security: Cyber-security, Privacy and Trust” programme and addresses the issues related to cybersecurity awareness and protection for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

One of the primary motivations of the consortium is that SMEs do not only look at cyber-security as an obstacle but also understand the business opportunity beyond it.

SMESEC consortium develops a framework composed of specific cyber-security tools to support SMEs in managing cyberinformation security risks and threats, as well as in identifying opportunities for implementing secure, innovative technologies in the digital market. SMESEC will offer a cost-effective technical solution for detection, alerting, protection, and response. Additionally, the framework is supported by lightweight capability development, training courses, and awareness-building for employees, so the human and organisational aspects are also covered. Employees knowing about the dangers in the cyberspace is as critical as protecting a system.

Already at the project start, the SMESEC experts have participated in and spoken at numerous industry conferences and networking events to listen to the user voices, test the SMESEC concept, and establish links with SMEs and associations. In June 2018, swissuniversities has nominated SMESEC for the Swiss Innovation Forum 2018 as one of the top-three innovations coming from Swiss universities.

CYBERSECURITY FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

**a lightweight Cybersecurity
framework for thorough protection**

In this context, SMESEC launches a survey, the cybersecurity watch, to continuously monitor critical cyber threats and the status of SMEs concerning cybersecurity. While risks keep growing, updated figures are missing. SMESEC invites all SMEs to join the survey available at <https://smesec.eu/survey> and help in bringing together the facts.

Alicia García, Director of Research & Innovation at Atos, said: *"SMESEC represents a step forward for European citizens and business in their path towards Digital Security. In particular, small and medium enterprises will benefit from this cutting-edge approach to cybersecurity, enhancing their organisation privacy and trust capabilities. Also, it will improve their cybersecurity awareness, which is usually one key aspect they do not fulfil as should be nowadays - most of the times forced by their budget restrictions"*.

Dr. Samuel Fricker, Professor at FHNW, said: *"SMESEC represents the first systematic approach to address barriers to adoption of cybersecurity practices by small and medium-sized enterprises and the reasons for not adhering to these practices. We use SMESEC as a showcase of how requirements engineering makes technology relevant and practicable. We are glad that this effort has been acknowledged by the nomination of SMESEC by swissuniversities for the Swiss Innovation Forum 2018 as one of the top-three innovations coming from Swiss universities."*



www.smesec.eu

Press Contact

Prof. Dr. Samuel Fricker, FHNW, samuel.fricker@fhnw.ch, +41 79 196 9629

Follow us on Twitter @SMESEC_EU

More information about the project is available at www.smesec.eu