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EU-UKRAINE COOPERATION IN CYBERSECURITY²

The full-scale war in Ukraine has caused significant challenges for the regional and global security systems. The armed conflict on the border with the European Union came as a surprise to the Union and revealed certain gaps in its security system. The Russian-Ukrainian war has shown the need to reform the European security system and introduce new initiatives. Today, one of the priority areas is cybersecurity. In the context of Russia's hybrid warfare, cyberattacks are a key element of its attack on the EU and Ukraine.

Russia's war against Ukraine and Ukraine's integration into the EU have strengthened our country's security cooperation with European partners. Cyber defence is a priority. Russia conducts constant cyberattacks on the digital infrastructure of the EU

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and Ukraine. Cooperation with European partners in this area is important for Ukraine. There are various formats of cooperation to strengthen cyber resilience.

One of the priority areas is institutional cooperation between European bodies and Ukrainian ones. The State Service for Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine, the National Coordination Centre for Cybersecurity of Ukraine, and the EU Agency for Cybersecurity have signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of cybersecurity. The Ukrainian state also maintains a constant dialogue with its European partners and coordinates efforts in the field of cybersecurity[2; 3]. In 2023, a relevant agreement on cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in the field of cybersecurity was signed[3].

Another important element of cooperation is the EU's ability to train Ukrainian colleagues in cyber defence skills. The EU conducts regular trainings and provides support to Ukrainian cybersecurity specialists. The parties are constantly exchanging best practices in cyberspace. Another important area is bringing Ukrainian legislation in this area in line with European standards.

In the context of full-scale cooperation, the EU strategically coordinates its actions with Ukraine and helps it counteract Russia's constant cyberattacks.

The priority areas of cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in the field of cyber security are:

1. Joint prevention of cyber attacks;
2. Exchange of best practices and experience;
3. Improving legislation in the field of cybersecurity;
4. Exchange of information about cybercriminals;
5. Ukraine's integration into the EU;
6. Jointly overcoming problems in the field of cyber defence;
7. Institutional cooperation between Ukraine and the EU.
8. Implementation of digital technologies in Ukraine;
9. Development of cybersecurity infrastructure in Ukraine.

It is worth highlighting the internal and external challenges to EU-Ukraine cooperation in cybersecurity:

Table 1

Internal and external challenges to EU-Ukraine cybersecurity cooperation

1	Internal factors	External factors
2	Weak infrastructure	Constant cyberattacks by Russia, Iran, and North Korea
3	Imperfect Ukrainian legislation in the cybersphere	Russian-Ukrainian war
4	Lack of qualified personnel	Rapid development of cybercrime
5	Outdated technologies in Ukraine	Obstacles to Ukraine's integration into the EU
6	Slow implementation of reforms in Ukraine	
7	Budget burdened by war expenses	

Analysing the internal and external challenges of EU-Ukraine cooperation in cybersecurity, we can conclude that the key problem is Russia's constant cyberattacks, as well as a significant number of internal factors that impede the development of Ukraine's cybersecurity system.

In order to strengthen the cyber resilience of the EU and Ukraine, we can propose the following measures[4]:

1. Establishment of joint cybersecurity focal points;
2. Strengthening the exchange of information on new forms of cybercrime and cybercriminals, new technologies;
3. Transfer of the latest European technologies and developments for Ukraine in the field of cybersecurity;
4. Accelerating the unification of Ukrainian legislation with European standards and requirements;
5. Increased EU funding for reforms in Ukraine's cybersphere;
6. Strengthening the training of specialists in the field of cyber defence;

7. Promoting international grants for the development of Ukrainian cybersecurity infrastructure;

8. Systematic training of Ukrainian specialists in best practices in the field of cybersecurity.

In summary, strengthening cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in the field of cybersecurity is an important step towards building a more resilient and secure digital environment not only for Ukraine but also for Europe as a whole. This demonstrates the growing importance of cybersecurity in international relations and the need for joint efforts to counter complex and evolving cyber threats. Priority areas of cooperation between the EU and Ukraine in the field of cybersecurity include the exchange of information and experience, countering Russian cyberattacks, and technology transfer to Ukraine. There are also many challenges and threats, the main ones being the Russian-Ukrainian war, a large number of cyberattacks on Ukrainian infrastructure, and the obsolescence of Ukrainian technologies. It is important to strengthen cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in the field of cybersecurity, Ukraine's integration into the EU, implementation of reforms, training of cyber defence specialists, strengthening institutional cooperation, development of the Ukrainian cyber industry, and reform of Ukrainian cybersecurity legislation.

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