



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF CYBERSECURITY  
CENTRES AND COMPETENCE HUB FOR  
INNOVATION AND OPERATIONS



# The gamification of Cyber Security



**Andrea Guarino**

Resp. Security Awareness & Training  
Cyber Security - Technology & Solutions  
Acea SpA

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The ECHO Project has received funding from the European Union's  
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## A LEADING INTEGRATED MULTIUTILITY IN THE ITALIAN MARKET

WE INVEST IN INNOVATION,  
DIGITISATION AND STRENGTHEN  
OUR COMMITMENT TO THE  
ENERGY TRANSITION PROCESS.



WHICH INVESTS IN SUSTAINABILITY,  
A PRIMARY FACTOR GUIDING THE  
GROUP'S BUSINESS STRATEGIES,  
COMBINING ECONOMIC GROWTH  
AND VALUE CREATION.

Leader in the integrated water sector and one of the leading operators in the electricity distribution, energy and environment sectors, it is a company that puts its business and expertise at the service of the territory and its citizens. The Group's industrial vocation also passes through the strategy of sustainable growth and innovation, cross-cutting development leverage applied to every business activity.





# Cybersecurity Challenges for the EU

Cybersecurity challenges have been identified by the EC for the upcoming years

1

## Retain and develop essential capacities

to secure its digital economy, infrastructures, society, and democracy

2

## Better align cybersecurity research, competences and investments

3

Step up investment in technological advancements to make EU's digital single market more cybersecurity and overcome fragmentation of research

4

Master relevant cybersecurity technologies from secure components to trustworthy interconnected IoT ecosystems and to self-healing software

5

Support industries and equip them with latest technologies and skills to develop innovative security products and services and protect their vital assets against cyberattacks

6

Contribute to the objective of European strategic autonomy



Let's ask to an expert:

# MR. ROBOT

« This is the world we live in. People relying on each other's mistakes to manipulate one another, use one another, even relate to one another. A warm, messy circle of humanity. »

« People are all just people, right? When it gets down to it, everyone's the same. They love something. They want something. They fear something. Specifics help, but specifics don't change the way that everyone is vulnerable. It just changes the way that we access those vulnerabilities. »



# Cybersecurity Challenges for the EU

**This Cybersecurity challenge is critical: we simply don't have enough security experts**

2

Better **align cybersecurity research, competences and investments**

- We lack cybersecurity professionals, but we have plenty of untrained and unaware users;
- “Human Factor” (mostly, misbehaving done by unprepared users) is the main cause of security breaches, data leaks, phishing and cyber-attack incidents;
- Humans have hard-wired exploitable vulnerabilities in their Mind OS;
- Humans tend to avoid or forget boring, repetitive trainings;
- Humans like to PLAY GAMES, especially if they can do it against other humans or competent AI;

**If we want to engage everyone (both users and professionals), we must gamify their User Experience and their training / awareness courses.**



# Some definitions of “game”

“[...] a word like “game” points to a somewhat diffuse “system” of prototype frames, among which some frame-shifts are easy, but others involve more strain” (Marvin Minsky, American cognitive and computer scientist)

“A structured experience with rules and goals that is fun.” (Amy Jo Kim, GameThinking coach and UX designer)

“The voluntary attempt to overcome unnecessary obstacles” (Bernard Suits, Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Philosophy)

“A series of meaningful choices” (Sid Meier, author of the videogames “Pirates!” and “Civilization”)

“A game is a problem-solving activity, approached with a playful attitude.” (Jesse Schell, Distinguished Professor of the Practice of Entertainment Technology, Videogame Designer)

“A game is a system in which players engage in an artificial conflict, defined by rules, that results in a quantifiable outcome.” (Eric Zimmerman and Katie Salen, game designers / game design theorists)

**“Play” becomes a “game” when you impose system-based rules and set explicit goals**



# What is “Gamification”?

(Gartner Hype Cycle, 2014)





# What is “Gamification”?

“Gamification is the use of game mechanics and experience design to **digitally** engage and motivate people to achieve their goals. It is important to distinguish gamification from video games and loyalty programs, as gamification uses techniques from behavioral science to “nudge” people into achieving their goals.”

**(Gartner definition)**

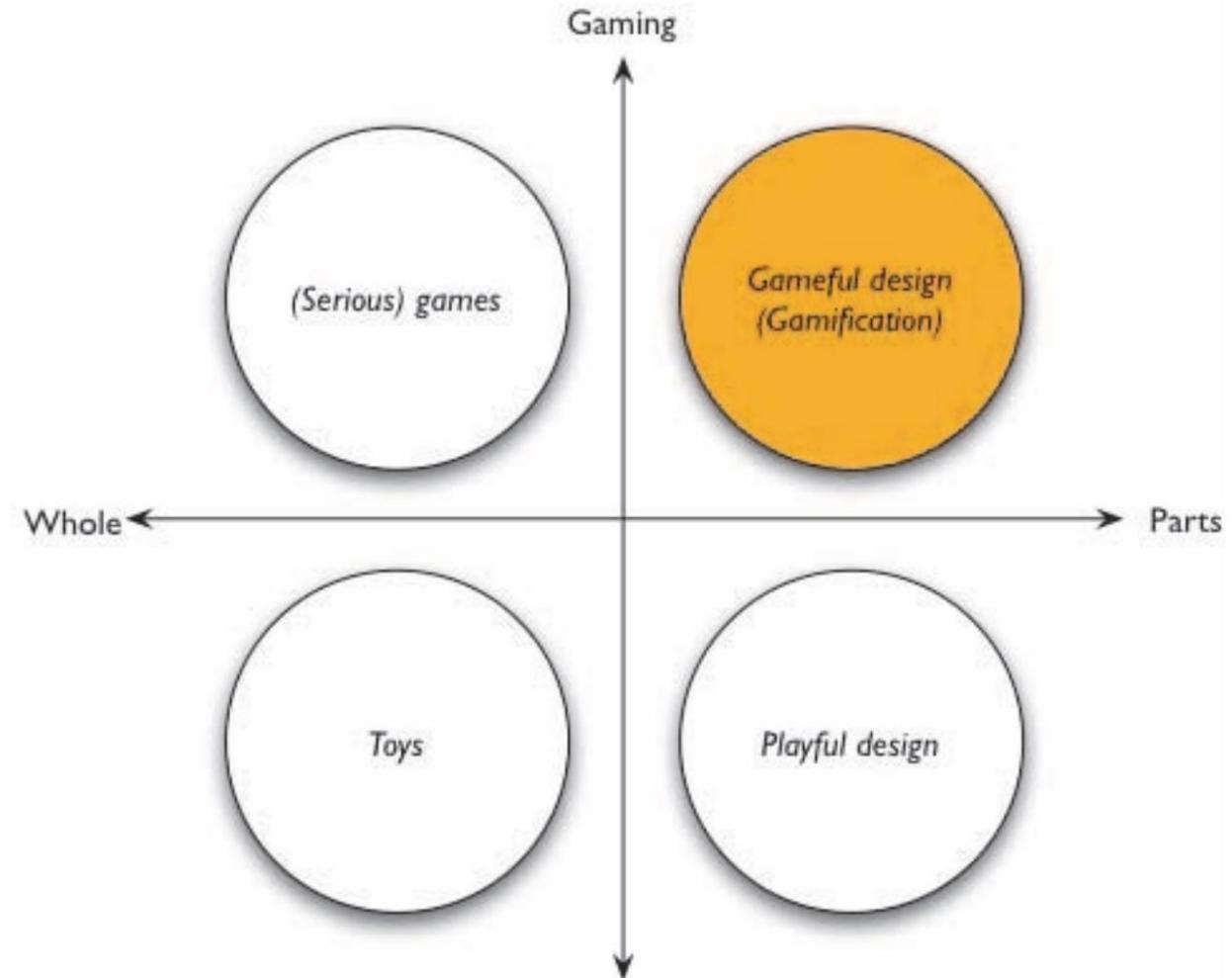


# “Gamification” is a serious matter, but not equal to “serious games”

“Gamification” refers to:

- the **use** (rather than the extension) **of**
- **design** (rather than game-based technology or other game related practices)
- **elements** (rather than full-fledged games)
- **characteristic for games** (rather than play or playfulness)
- **in non-game contexts** (regardless of specific usage intentions, contexts, or media of implementation).

[Deterding, Sebastian & Dixon, Dan & Khaled, Rilla & Nacke, Lennart. (2011). From Game Design Elements to Gamefulness: Defining Gamification]





# We need both to cover all the challenges

“Gamification” programs typically enable the use of rosters, prizes, experience points, badges and team competitions, without changing in a significant way the underlying systems. Good choice for general audience to upgrade UX.

“Serious games” are immersive, complex and exhaustive. They are difficult and costly to realize. Tabletop card-based games are well suited for small groups of managers and executives, particularly for breach and attack simulations.

Although “Serious Games” are used for training purposes, they still maintain the major advantage of being funny and interactive. They enable people to develop skills and thoughts through a fun and interactive way and they provide the needed adaptability and flexibility that a game requires to keep participants engaged.



# ECHO

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# Partners

## Project Coordination:

Royal Military Academy of Belgium (Wim Mees)

## Project Management:

RHEA System S.A. (Matteo Merialdo)

- 16 Millions budget
- 4 years (started Feb 2019)
- 30+7 partners
- 15 new partner engagements
- 13 existing competence centres
- 18 nations
- 9 industrial sectors
- 13 security disciplines
- 5 demonstration cases
- 6 technology roadmaps
- 3 multi-sector scenarios

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# Cybersecurity Challenges for the EU

ECHO consortium identified gaps in current cybersecurity technologies and operations in EU:



- Lack of effective means **to assess multi-sector technology requirements** across security disciplines
- Lack of effective means to **assess dependencies between different industrial sectors**
- Lack of **realistic simulation environments** for technology research and development, or efficient security test and certification



- Lack of an **up-to-date cyberskills framework** as a foundation for cybersecurity education and training
- Lack of effective **means to share knowledge and situational awareness** in a secure way with trusted partners
- These gaps **are particularly relevant for EU**

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# ECHO Main Objectives

The network of cyber research and competence centres, with a central competence hub has the following goals:



Demonstrate a **network of cyber research and competence centres, with a central competence hub**, having a mandate for increasing participation through a **new partner engagements model**, including collaboration with **other networks funded under the same call**

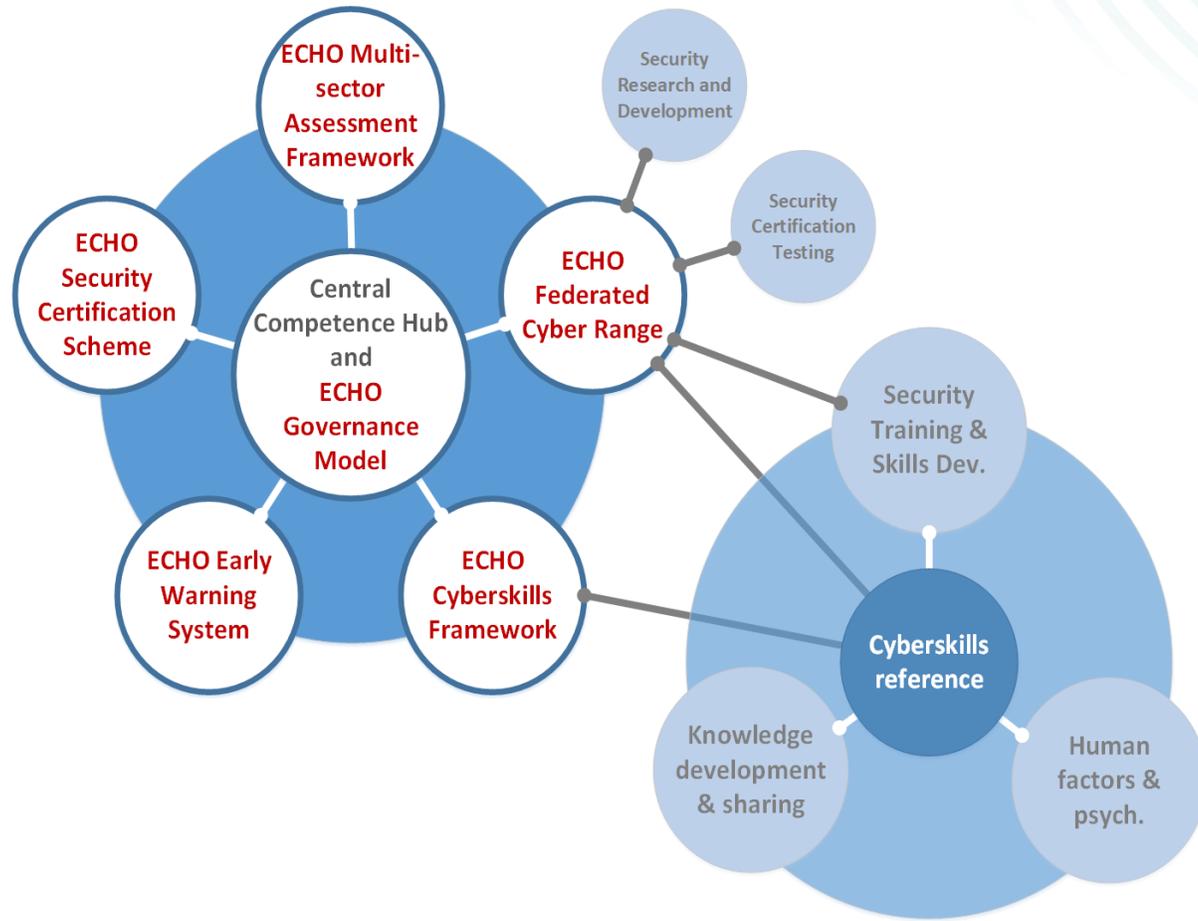


Address all the aforementioned gaps, developing an **adaptive model for information sharing** and collaboration among the network of cybersecurity centres, **supported by an early warning system** and a **framework for improved cyberskills development** and **technology roadmap delivery**, in a multiple-sector context



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# ECHO Cyberskills and Training Curricula



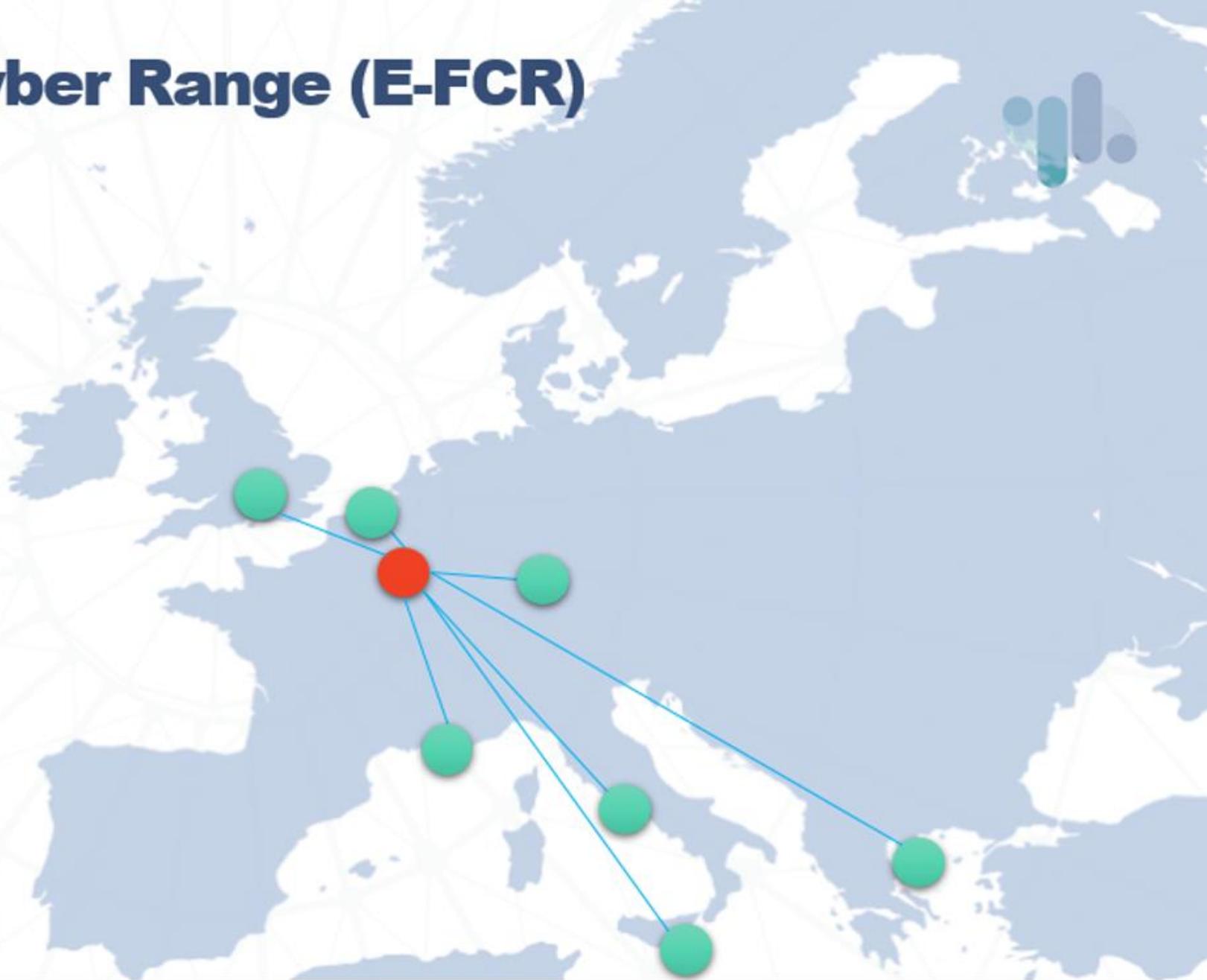
## ECHO Cyberskills framework

- Mechanism to improve the **human capacity** of cybersecurity across Europe
- Leverage a **common cyberskills reference**:
  - Derived and refined from ongoing and related work (e.g, ECSO, e-Competence Framework, European Qualification Framework)
- Design modular **learning-outcome based curricula**
- **Hands-on skills development** opportunities through realistic simulation (ECHO Federated Cyber Range)
- Lessons learned feed **knowledge sharing** (ECHO Early Warning System)



# ECHO Federated Cyber Range (E-FCR)

- We will need to deploy E-FCR Agents in the ECHO cyber ranges
- This will help also testing and validation of E-FCR



# The ECHO Federated Cyber Range (E-FCR)

## Concepts

Customers will have access to

- **Capacity and Capability Maps** of the federated ranges
- **Service Designer** -> collect User Requirements via a **Scenario Description Language** and its GUI
- **Marketplace** (Content Providers can upload contents/scenarios for a wider market)
- **Automated VPN connection** between ranges to provide technical federation

The screenshot displays the ECHO service marketplace interface. On the left is a navigation sidebar with the ECHO logo, 'Catalogue', 'My Requests', and 'Log out' options. The main content area shows search results for 'training'. A search bar at the top contains the text 'training'. Below it, a list of services is shown, including 'All services' and several 'Category 1' and 'Category 2' items. Two specific training services are highlighted with detailed descriptions and pricing tables.

### Firewall and Network filtering Training

Trainees (blue team) will have access to the Victim and the Attacker machine. In the first part of the hands-on session, trainees can generate traffic directed to the Victim machine, from the Attacker one. By checking which traffic is blocked, they can recognize which rules have been initially configured in the Victim machine. They can then produce their own rules to enable/disable certain kind of network traffic on the Victim machine. In the second part of the hands-on session, the trainer gives to trainees the instructions on which kind of network traffic they should block. After a certain amount of time, the trainer injects such malicious traffic into the network. The trainer will then check that the Victim machine has blocked the traffic correctly.

PROVIDER	LOCATION	NR OF END USERS	PRICE
GTCT	Estonia	5	500 EUR

### SQL Injection Training

For this hands-on session, trainees (red team) will have access to an Ubuntu workstation connected to a public network. They can connect to a public website containing a login form, without having any knowledge of the server which is hosting it. The first step is to evaluate if the website is vulnerable to SQL injection by recognizing that inputs have not been correctly sanitized. Then, in order to complete the exercise, they need to steal data stored in the website database. The SQL injection vulnerability is the only software weakness for this scenario.

PROVIDER	LOCATION	NR OF END USERS	PRICE
GTCT	Estonia	5	500 EUR



# E-FCR Marketplace



**ECHO**

- Catalogue
- My Requests

Log out

## Firewall and Network filtering Training

Service

**DESCRIPTION**

Trainees (blue team) will have access to the Victim and during the session, trainees can generate traffic directed to the Victim. If a rule is blocked, they can recognize which rules have been blocked and they can produce their own rules to enable/disable certain kind of traffic. During the hands-on session, the trainer gives to trainees the opportunity to produce their own rules. After a certain amount of time, the trainer injects such traffic to test that the Victim machine has blocked the traffic correctly.

**OBJECTIVE**

By the end of the hands-on session, trainees will gain the skills to work; Determining the meaning of each rule in an already configured firewall; be blocked; Additionally, trainees will gain the skills for configuring a firewall.

**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TRAINEES**

5

**REACHABILITY**

Physical  
Remote

**START DATE**

31/08/2020

**PRICE PER TRAINEE**

### NEW REQUEST

Service request name

Number of participants

Date  
DD/MM/YY

Reachability

Physical  Remote

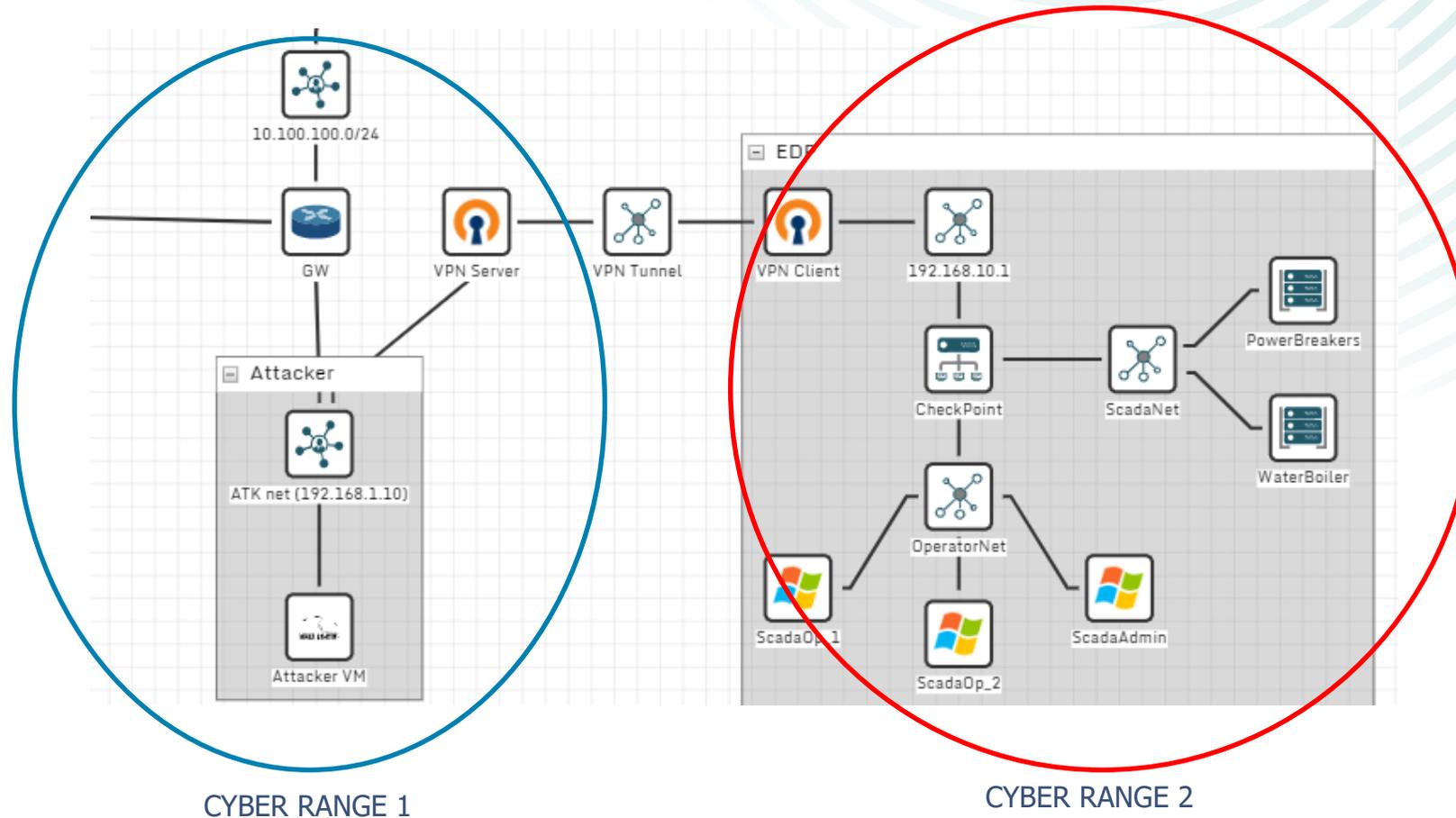
[Add customisation](#)

Submit request Save changes

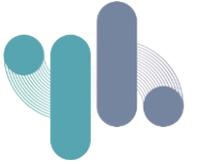


# Interconnection between Cyber Ranges

- The VPN Client/Server approach works perfectly, with a few limitations we consider negligible
- Tested with multiple CRs on **complex scenarios**



# Outcomes



- ECHO targets **practical use of outcomes** to offer technologies and services having increased cyber-resilience by sector and among inter-dependent partners
  - Use of E-FCR for **experimental simulation of cyber-attack scenarios**, pre-production testing, product evaluations, training
  - Combined use of E-FCR and E-Cybersecurity Certification Scheme (E-CCS) for **certified qualification testing** of potential technologies required to meet customer specification
  - Use of E-CCS as **benchmark of cybersecurity certification** to be obtained as a market differentiator
- Use of E-EWS to **share early warning of cybersecurity** related issues (e.g., vulnerabilities, malware, etc.), **potentially at EU level**
- Promotion of improved cyberskills through **leveraging diverse education and training options** made available by the E-Cybersecurity Skills Framework, particularly as it relates to security-by-design best practices
- Although not clear what will be the future of the 4 Pilot projects, it is expected the most relevant outcomes will be merged to create the **future EU cybersecurity competence centres network**





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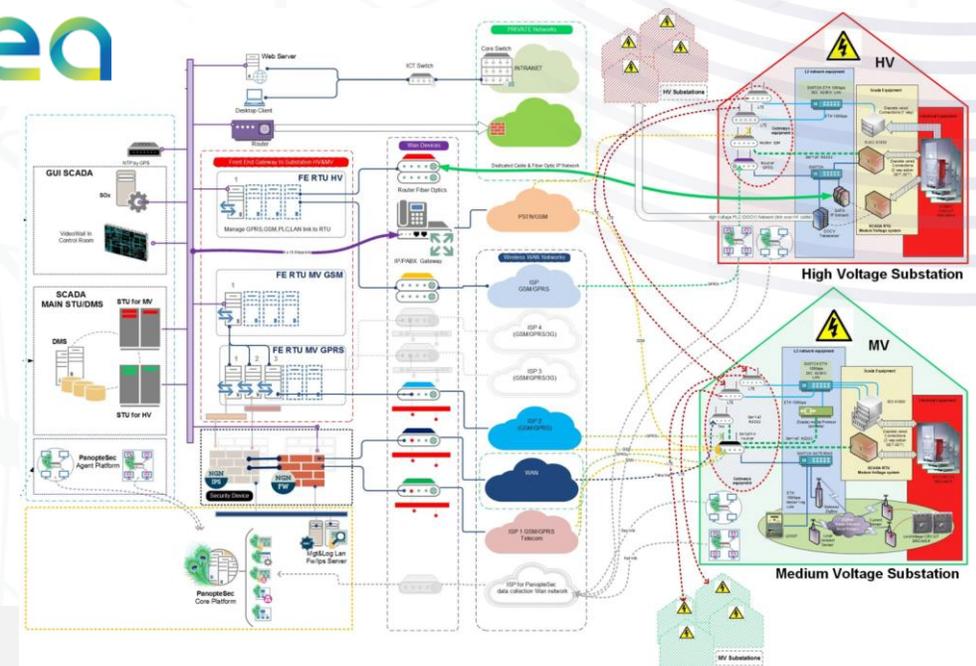


**The energy sector faces increasing and more sophisticated cyber threats** affecting both the IT and OT side

**Some use cases to be implemented**

- Attacks against the command-and-control systems of the energy provider
- Attacks to SCADA equipment/devices of the energy provider

**We are creating a sector-specific cyber range emulating a C&C Centre to support the Demonstration Cases**



# Demonstration cases for validation

Energy Sector

## A Closing quote

The world is a dangerous place, Elliott,  
not because of those who do evil,  
but because of those who look on and  
do nothing.

-Mr. Robot (Mr. Robot)



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[info@echonetwork.eu](mailto:info@echonetwork.eu)



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Andrea Guarino ([Andrea.Guarino@aceaspa.it](mailto:Andrea.Guarino@aceaspa.it))



[www.gruppo.acea.it](http://www.gruppo.acea.it)

