

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## "CLOSING THE GAP"

A conference on cyber issues that connects disciplines, sectors, regions and generations

**11-12 May 2020**

Conference organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium  
Palais d'Egmont, Brussels, Belgium

### Rationale

As part of the European Cyber Diplomacy Initiative, the EU Cyber Direct project, Egmont Institute, and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with other research institutions (listed below) organise an international conference for scholars, policy analysts and practitioners working on cyber-related issues.

This two-day conference aims to:

- > Foster productive exchanges between different generations of scholars (emerging talents and established researchers), disciplines (law, political science, international relations, economics, geopolitics, IT, media studies), sectors (government, private sector, academia, NGOs) and regions (Global South-North);
- > Provide a platform for perspectives from Global South on key priorities;
- > Build the capacity of young scholars in required for key roles in policy making (or something akin).

We invite academics, researchers, and policy analysts to submit their cutting-edge research work on cyber-related topics, including, but not limited to:

- > Responsible state behaviour in cyberspace;
- > International cooperation against the cybercrime;
- > International law and stability in cyberspace;
- > Comparative analysis of national or regional approaches to build cyber resilience;
- > New technologies and cybersecurity.

We are particularly interested in paper proposals which approach the field in 'out of the box' ways and critically engage with existing policies and frameworks in a constructive, imaginative, and substantively well-informed manner. The conference organisers will then assign the selected paper proposals into concrete panels.

## Format

The conference will bring together about 40 researchers from around the world, out of which up to 30 will be selected on the basis of extended abstracts. In addition, government officials and private sector representatives will be invited. In total, we expect about 80 participants. We are particularly interested in the perspectives from the Global South which are currently underrepresented in cyber research and policy. The sessions throughout the conference will have different formats:

- > **Panels:** composed of upcoming and established scholars selected on the basis of the submitted abstracts;
- > **Roundtables:** policy-oriented discussions primarily focused on the most topical issues linked to cyber diplomacy and featuring a mixture of senior scholars, practitioners, and policymakers;
- > **Workshops:** interactive master-classes to develop concrete skills or provide new perspectives (e.g. how to write a funding proposal, how to collect and interpret data in research on cyber, cyber careers in private and governmental sectors; how to do fundraising; different genres of writing on cyber questions, such as academic, policy, op-eds).

## Process and timeline

On the basis of the submissions, the conference organisers will issue the invitations to selected researchers who are expected to deliver the draft papers at the conference. The submission should include:

- > A page with basic personal information (First and last name, date of birth, country of origin, address, institutional affiliation, contact information);
- > The extended abstracts (between 250 and 500 words) including:
  - > Definition of problem and research objectives;
  - > Questions that the paper addresses;
  - > Methodology;
  - > Initial (or expected) research results;
  - > Conclusions and/or policy recommendations.

The abstracts and personal information should be sent by email to [nathalie.vanraemdonck@iss.europa.eu](mailto:nathalie.vanraemdonck@iss.europa.eu) by 28 February 2020.

The EU Cyber Direct will provide funding and make travel arrangements for the authors of selected abstracts.

30 January	Call for papers
28 February	Deadline for submitting abstracts (250-500 words)
13 March	Information to selected authors
25 March	Announcement of the draft programme
4 May	Submission of draft papers
11-12 May	'Closing the gap' conference

The personal information collected for the purpose of this event will be handled in accordance with the [Privacy Statement](#) regarding events organised by EUISS.

# About EU Cyber Direct

The EU Cyber Direct project supports EU cyber diplomacy efforts and consequently contributes to the development of a secure, stable and rights-based international order in cyberspace through extensive dialogues with strategic partners from Brazil, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and the United States. EU Cyber Direct is funded by the European Commission under the Partnership Instrument, International Digital Cooperation project: Trust and Security in Cyberspace.

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