Technical Assistance for Developing Countries

Priorities for Improving Capacity of Public Sector and Civil Society Organizations

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Cyber Challenges in Developing Countries

New technologies, smart devices, internet have benefits and risks:

• May target individuals, business groups, governments and bring harm to a computer or a group of computers in one network

• Can be used for illegal activities to bring harm to users, CSOs and public sector

• May affect CSO operation (financial losses, breaches of sensitive data, failure of systems) and reputation
Cyber Challenges in Developing Countries

• May lead to hacking of websites, illegal online content or scammers

• Lack of regulations in area cybersecurity and consistency in cyber security regulation in different countries

• Lack of sufficient security measures to protect these technologies

• Security vulnerabilities/security holes in systems (weak authentication methods and passwords; lack of strict security models and policies) may allow a foothold inside the targeted environment
Cyber Threats in Developing Countries

- **Using computers or devises** for crimes
- **Individual Cyber Crimes** targeting individuals (phishing scam, cyberstalking)
- **Cyber Crimes** targeting CSOs incl. malware attacks and denial of service (DDOS) attacks
- **Property Cybercrimes** target intellectual property rights or financial information
- **Society Cybercrimes** the most dangerous form that includes cyber-terrorism
Cyber Threats for Civil Society in Developing Countries

- **Phishing Scam** (targeting and tracking user by sending fake messages to get sensitive information about the user)
- **Identity Theft** - cybercriminal uses another person’s personal data (credit card numbers or personal pictures) without their permission to commit a fraud or a crime
- **Ransomware Attack** (malware to encrypt company data for a ransom in order to renew access to the encrypted data)
- **Hacking/Misusing Computer Networks** (unauthorized access to computers or networks)
- **Internet Fraud** (banking frauds, etc.)
Cyber Threats for Civil Society in Developing Countries

• Cyber Bullying or internet bullying (incl. sending or sharing harmful and humiliating content about someone else which causes embarrassment)

• Cyber Stalking unwanted persistent content from someone targeting other individuals online with the aim of controlling and intimidating (e.g. unwanted continued calls and messages)

• Social Media Frauds use of social media fake accounts to perform any kind of harmful activities (e.g. impersonating other users, organizations or sending intimidating or threatening messages)

• Intellectual-property Infringements violation or breach of any protected intellectual-property rights (e.g. copyrights and industrial design)
Cyber Crimes Examples

Targeted phishing attacks with harmful software and attacks on media websites

Example: Whisper Gate malware coded access to data on Windows OS in systems of public and private entities + CSOs. Affected organisations received a request with the topic “Court Request No. from Sloviansks City Court” Emails were sent from the domen court[.]gov[.]ua. In the letter they were requested to provide financial information with the request to complete doc in pdf format to have possibility to manage the device.
Cyber Crimes Examples

• **DDoS and other attacks on public and media websites.** Attacks on websites of Institute of Mass Information or public institutions

• **Blocking of sensitive content for social media** (because of violence, killings, picture of dead people etc.) sometimes without any reasons

• **Cloning of webpages of charity in social media to collect funds** (e.g. fake accounts of Charities “Come Back Alive” and “Children Voices” in social media positioned as reserve profiles)
Cyber Crimes Examples

- **Surveillance** by criminals, authoritarian regimes, during wars (checking smartphones, social media, emails)

- **Propaganda** through social media (Facebook, Instagram) – empty pages “Only Truth”, “Strength in Truth”
Recommendations

- Adopt **Convention** to combat misuse of technologies for criminal purposes at the international level
- Support development of **guidelines for social media owners** to ensure moderation of content in countries under wars/conflicts/disasters etc. (e.g. inability to delete sensitive content)
- Develop **guidelines to Standards of Community** with exceptions from rules regarding violence, demonstration of nude body etc.
- Support **development of state legislation** to regulate use of technologies
Recommendations

Strengthen capacity of CSOs and public authorities in cyber security + Provide funding for:

• Equipment and up-to-date security software (antivirus and firewalls) or discounts
• Implementing the best security settings
• Trainings for public authorities and CSOs in cyber security
• Building regional partnerships for counteracting cyber crimes
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