In 2020, the Commission made a proposal for the revision of the NIS Directive\(^1\), which was adopted in 2021. Under this framework, medium and large firms across 15 economic sectors will be required to take cybersecurity measures. It will also ensure that important smaller companies take security measures. The new European Cybersecurity Competence Centre will develop a common agenda for cybersecurity technology development strategic areas, from which small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) would also benefit.

In September 2022, the Commission proposed the Cyber Resilience Act, which introduces cybersecurity requirements for hardware and software, facilitating the risk management of SMEs when it comes to their supply chain.

In 2021 and 2022, the Digital Europe Programme (DEP) and Horizon Europe\(^2\) (HE) will provide cybersecurity-related funding worth EUR 269 million and EUR 134.8 million respectively, available for entities in all Member States on a competitive basis. The DEP aims to improve the resilience of the EU and includes SMEs. The recent barometer confirms the Commission’s plans to stimulate the uptake of cybersecurity technologies by SMEs, in particular Security Operations Centre services. HE is supporting cybersecurity research.

As for the DEP, the first call for proposals related to cybersecurity closed in May 2022 and the Commission is proceeding with the evaluations, the outcome of which will be known in quarter 4 of 2022. As regards cybersecurity funding under HE, the first call for proposals closed in October 2021\(^3\). The Commission is finalising the grant signature stage of the award procedure with the beneficiaries retained for funding. The distribution of the funding will be made available after the signature of projects is complete.

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\(^2\) https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

\(^3\) https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home