

CyberCon Romania 2023 Conference - Welcome Message

Professor Ioan C. Bacivarov, PhD

President of the Romanian Association for Information Security Assurance (RAISA)

Ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to extend to you, as President of the Romanian Association for Information Security Assurance, a warm welcome to the *CyberCon Romania 2023 Conference*.

I would like to express our special thanks for the support given in organizing *CyberCon Romania* to the Embassy of the United States of America in Romania, to the main national bodies involved in the field of cybersecurity, such as the Romanian National Cyber-Security Directorate, the Romanian National Cyberint Center, the Romanian Police, as well as all the other organizations involved in this sensitive and important area, whose names are mentioned on the [CyberCon website](#).



Special thanks are due to all the important experts in the field, who will present their views during the conference and will thus contribute to shaping a realistic picture of the challenges, risks and solutions in the field of cybersecurity, in the very difficult international period we are going through.

The *Romanian Association for Information Security Assurance (RAISA)* - the main organizer of this conference - is a professional, nonprofit and public benefit association,

founded a decade ago, as an initiative dedicated to disseminating the concept of cybersecurity and fighting against cybercrime.

The vision of RAISA is to promote research and education in information security field, to contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge and technology in this domain and to create a strong “*cybersecurity culture*” at national level.

Among the notable activities developed by RAISA, we mention the publishing of *International Journal of Information Security and Cybercrime (IJISC)*, a scientific journal indexed in international databases (and I would like to invite the specialists in the field to publish in this journal the results of their researches), awareness websites, workshops, research projects and studies in the field of cybersecurity.

We are aware that the achievement of a strong “*cybersecurity culture*” at national level can be obtained only through the joint effort of several entities from the public, private and academic sectors.



I am working as a Professor in the field of Quality and Dependability (reliability, security, survivability, resilience a.o.) at the Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technology of the most important Romanian technical university, the University Politehnica of Bucharest. From this position I coordinated several research and educational postgraduate programs in the field, programs in which to cyber-security is given a special position: I want to mention in this regard the Master program *Quality and Dependability in Electronics and Telecommunications*, which has been running successfully for 26 years. Several works developed by the students of this postgraduate program are included among the papers that will be presented in the scientific part of this conference, which counts more than 30 papers.

There is an important demand for highly trained cyber-security specialists, and the Master’s programs of this type can - of course - help to solve this problem. Moreover, the problem of training specialists in this key field will be another topic that will be analyzed with priority in the framework of *Cybercon 2023*.

Romania has a privileged position in the field of cybersecurity, and the competence of Romanian specialists in the field is recognized and appreciated. A proof of this is the choice of Romania as the host of the *European Cybersecurity Competence Center*, whose inauguration took place recently in Bucharest.

Mr. Thierry Breton, the EU Commissioner for the Internal Market, mentioned on this occasion: “*Cybersecurity is a critical priority, and safeguarding our digital sovereignty requires joint efforts. The European Cybersecurity Competence Centre brings together top-tier experts and resources from across the EU to develop innovative solutions to cyber threats and enhance our resilience against attacks. By working together, we can build a safer and more secure digital world for all Europeans.*”

Indeed, the *cooperation* of all the factors involved is the key word, if the development of a strong and efficient cybersecurity system is desired at the national level. And conferences like *Cybercon Romania* can facilitate the exchange of ideas and the establishment of partnerships in this important field. During the conference, challenges and future changes in the field of cyber-security will undoubtedly be analyzed. The most important of these refers, of course, to the increasingly intensive use of the *Artificial Intelligence* techniques in the field of cyber-security.

I would like to emphasize that the issue of cybersecurity is very important, at present, for *military* structures, but also for *civilian* ones. It is useful to mention that - seven years ago NATO recognized the cyberspace as an operational domain. A Cyberspace Operations Centre was created at the heart of the NATO military command structure, too.

All these comes to prove the topicality and importance of cybersecurity in the current period and to highlight the importance of scientific forums in which specialists in the field to debate and seek to find solutions to these pressing problems, as is the *CyberCon* conference. In recent years, we have witnessed increasingly intense digitization in all areas of economic and social life.

Due to the fact that this conference takes place in 6 locations, each belonging to a different sector, we wanted to emphasize the importance of cyber-security for each of these fields, the importance of implementing a cybersecurity culture, the importance of scientific research and the training of specialists in this essential field.

The conference *CyberCon Romania 2023* aims to raise the level of awareness, embodies the cybersecurity culture, and share best practices in fighting cybercrime.

Finally, we would like to thank all the authors who submitted their work, all experts participating in the panels, and all those who contributed to the Conference with their efforts and support. We hope that the *CyberCon Romania 2023 Conference* will be a both stimulating and enjoyable forum in which to share current results and trends in cybersecurity and we wish it every success.

More information about *CyberCon Romania 2023* Conference can be found on the webpage <https://cybercon.ro/>.