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WEM CYBER OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES IN ISTANBUL TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN CYBERSECURITY ACROSS EUROPE

The WEM Cyber project (*Widening Excellence and Mentoring in Cybersecurity*) officially launched last week on February 17, at its Kick-off Meeting hosted by Bilisim Vadisi in Istanbul.

Over two days, project partners gathered to align on objectives, implementation plans and collaboration mechanisms for the 36-month Horizon Europe initiative. The meeting marked the formal start of coordinated work to address gender imbalance in cybersecurity and to strengthen skills development and cross-sector collaboration across Europe.

The agenda included a detailed presentation of the project's objectives, deliverables, timeline and key performance indicators, followed by work package sessions covering project management, academia-industry secondments, entrepreneurship and employability enhancement, communication and dissemination, and ethics requirements.

Discussions focused on operational planning for the first project phase, including the implementation of structured secondments, mentoring activities and training actions designed to create practical entry points into cybersecurity careers. Particular attention was given to cooperation between academia and industry, ensuring that knowledge and skills circulate across sectors and countries. The second day of the meeting included a presentation on Communication and Dissemination, and Ethics Requirements.



“Today, we are not just launching a project, we are officially starting a 3-year mission. We call it WEM Cyber, but in reality, it is commitment to change the face of cybersecurity across Europe.”

– Sezen Gungor, WEM Cyber Project Coordinator

WEM Cyber is funded under the Horizon Europe programme and brings together a multidisciplinary consortium committed to strengthening excellence and mentoring in cybersecurity, with a particular focus on Widening countries participation and supporting women’s career progression in the field.

Consortium partners include:

- [Bilişim Vadisi](#)
- [Boğaziçi University](#)
- [Vilnius Gediminas Technical University](#)
- [University of Maribor](#)
- [Universitat Pompeu Fabra](#)
- [Université Paul Sabatier Toulouse III](#)
- [Women4Cyber Foundation](#)
- [UBITECH](#)

Affiliated entities include:

- [SecroMix](#)
- [SphereTech](#)
- [Cyberwhiz](#)
- [Cloudmetrik](#)
- [Cyberware \(Oninc\)](#)

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