

## THE IMPORTANT ROLE REGIONS PLAY IN CREATING A SAFER SOCIETY

- ECSO has published a document highlighting the fundamental role played by inter-regional cooperation in cybersecurity.
- The Basque Country has been pinpointed as one of the «Smart Territories» - areas where the Government is actively supporting enterprise and innovation in cybersecurity.
- The Basque Country has a cutting-edge network of assets and advanced manufacturing services known as the BDIH (Basque Digital Innovation Hub).

At present we rely heavily on the technological know-how of places like the United States and Israel. In order to reduce this dependence and grow our own skills, the European authorities have recently been developing cooperation policies with suppliers, industry, centres for technological development and experts in the field.

### The important role regions play in cybersecurity.

The [European Cyber Security Organisation](#) (ECSO) published a document entitled [The Role of the Regions in strengthening the European Union's cyber security](#), where it sets out the argument that inter-regional cooperation is a key element in European cybersecurity, and highlights the work of European regions as fundamental to having a direct, privileged connection to local ecosystems.

To this end, the document recognises the Basque Country as one of these «**Smart Territories**» - areas where there is active support for enterprise and innovation linked to cybersecurity, and where both public and private agents work in a coordinated, collaborative way. At the same time, the document stresses the fact that there are currently over **100 organisations working in the cybersecurity sector, 16 of which are named for producing their own technology**. This information has been published in the [Basque Country White Paper on Cybersecurity](#).

According to recent estimates, the internal European market is worth over 25,000 million euros, and its industrial landscape is made up of 12,000 companies (74% of which are micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises) which supposes a great opportunity for both traditional and emerging suppliers.

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## The Basque Country, an ecosystem committed to new ventures

The Basque Country has a cutting-edge network of assets and advanced manufacturing services known as the [BDIH \(Basque Digital Innovation Hub\)](#), which supports training, research, testing and validation for Basque companies, and is led from the Basque Agency for Business Development ([SPRI](#)).

Last year the BCSC collaborated with the four agents on the committee of the [Basque Network for Science, Technology and Innovation](#) (Tecnalia, Vicomtech, Ikerlan and BCAM), and established the [cybersecurity hub](#) BDIH with the aim of fostering the development of R&D&I projects.

Said hub comprises 5 laboratories located throughout the Basque Country and inter-connected via the i2Basque network:

- Vicomtech (Donosti): focusing on Industry 4.0 and Blockchain.
- Ikerlan (Arrasate): specialised in testing and product certification, Industry 4.0 and Blockchain.
- BCAM (Bilbao): focusing on mathematical and simulation models.
- Tecnalia PTB (Zamudio): oriented towards Smart-grid, Automotion and Blockchain.
- Tecnalia PTA (Miñano): also known as Cyber Range, this lab is focused on training and up-skilling.

Alongside the **Cybersecurity** hub, there are also **Additive Manufacturing** and **Flexible Robotics** hubs, as well as plans for other hubs including **New Materials**, **Intelligent Connected Machines** and **Digital Solutions**.

The Basque Government is currently also pioneering other types of entrepreneurial initiatives, such as [BIND4.0](#) which is an international programme aimed at promoting and developing the best start-ups with solutions based on the new technologies present in Industry 4.0 (Big Data, Virtual / Augmented Reality, Collaborative Robotics, Cybersecurity, The Internet of Things, 3D Printing, etc.) and applied to the fields of advanced manufacturing, energy and health.

## International visibility

The BCSC participates in various international forums with a view to highlighting everything done here in the Basque Country in the sector.

- Part of the ECSO since early 2018. We have been particularly active in this forum since the outset and, in recognition, have the support of our international partners in the shape of two important appointments:

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- In June 2018, Javier Diéguez, the Head of the BCSC, was elected as the [European Regions' representative on the ECSO's Partnership Board](#). This is the perfect communication channel with the European Commission when debating work schedules related to cybersecurity.
- Over the final weeks of 2018, Javier Diéguez was also named [Co-Director of ECSO Work Group 2](#), set up to strengthen the rollout of the cybersecurity market, investment and international collaboration. This position supposed a new opportunity to show the world market the work being done on cybersecurity here in the Basque Country.
- Part of [Global EPIC](#), an initiative dedicated to fostering the international expansion of startups.

Likewise, we have recently been involved in several high-impact initiatives, including:

- [Meeting representatives from 15 embassies](#) to present the Cybersecurity skills present in the Basque Country's technological ecosystem.
- Participating alongside [12 Basque #cybersecurity organisations in the RSA Security Conference](#), to give visibility to the potentials inherent in the Basque ecosystem.
- Presenting the skills of the Basque Country that the research event held at the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\)](#).

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