

CYBERSECURITY

in Small and Medium Enterprises

VV-MVP-24-0272

Principal Investigator:

Dr. Leoš Šafár, MSc., MBA

Funding Agency:

Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA)

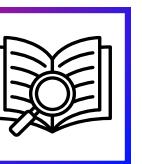
Funding:
223,427€

Project Duration:
March 2025 - December 2027

Project Annotation:

The exponential technological progress of recent years has brought new opportunities but also significant risks in the field of cybersecurity. The COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid shift to the online environment exposed the vulnerabilities of organizations, while several major incidents (e.g., attacks on Matej Bel University and Brno University Hospital) demonstrated the scale of potential damage. Despite legislative changes – including the implementation of the NIS2 Directive – most measures primarily target large enterprises and critical infrastructure. Yet SMEs represent more than 95% of Slovak companies and employ roughly three quarters of the active workforce. Their level of awareness, investment, and preparedness in cybersecurity remains insufficient. The project aims to develop, validate, and apply a methodology for determining the level of cybersecurity among SMEs and micro-enterprises in Slovakia, conduct a representative data collection, and analyse the relationships between awareness, preparedness, business demographic characteristics, and the potential impacts of cyber incidents.

Main Project Objectives:



Map the current state of cybersecurity among SMEs and micro-enterprises in Slovakia, including a literature review, assessment of awareness levels, and the role of cyber risk within SME risk management.



Identify and evaluate existing cybersecurity assessment methodologies for SMEs, and prepare and test a comprehensive questionnaire and a Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) for SMEs (in cooperation with Bison Cyber).



Conduct a representative nationwide data collection among SMEs through an external agency to obtain robust evidence for subsequent analyses.



Analyse collected data on cybersecurity awareness, investments, business demographics, and potential financial impacts of cyber incidents, and finalise a functional SAQ designed for simple self-assessment by SMEs.

Project Partners:



TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KOŠICE
Faculty of Economics



BisonCyber



FACULTY
OF ECONOMICS
MATEJ BEL UNIVERSITY
IN BANSKÁ BYSTRICA