

Press Release

(for Immediate Release)

Athens, 16 January 2026

AI-Driven Cybersecurity for Financial Service Providers

1 January 2026: Marked as the official launch of CyberAid, a pioneering European initiative titled "AI-Driven Cybersecurity for Financial Service Providers". Funded by the DIGITAL EUROPE Programme and managed by the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC), this project is dedicated to safeguarding the financial sector as a vital European critical infrastructure. By developing a novel, intelligent AI-driven infrastructure, CyberAid will provide a unified shield for the digital assets and processes that underpin the European economy.

Context & Challenge

The European financial sector manages approximately €100 trillion in assets and processes more than 400,000 transactions daily. However, this vital infrastructure is under unprecedented pressure, with cyberattacks rising by 238% since 2020. Modern financial institutions are navigating a landscape of extreme complexity, struggling to integrate legacy systems with new cloud technologies while complying with strict new regulations like DORA and NIS2. Traditional, fragmented security tools often work in silos, creating vulnerabilities that sophisticated adversaries can exploit, thereby threatening market stability and public trust.

Project Objectives

CyberAid aims to transform this landscape from a reactive to a proactive posture through the following key goals:

- **Strengthening Cybersecurity Resilience:** Deploying a multi-layered defence that addresses the entire security lifecycle, from prediction to response.
- **Improving Prevention, Detection, and Response:** Using AI to dramatically reduce the time needed to identify threats and automate complex security tasks.
- **Supporting Regulatory Compliance:** Ensuring institutions achieve 100% alignment with EU mandates such as DORA, NIS2, and GDPR.
- **Enhancing European Technological Sovereignty:** Utilising EU-based AI models and cybersecurity tools to reduce dependency on non-European technology providers.

Technological Approach

The project introduces a breakthrough approach by using agentic Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models (LLMs) to act as an intelligent coordinator for security operations. Rather than operating as isolated tools, these AI agents integrate with existing SIEM and XDR technologies to provide advanced contextual awareness. The platform is secure-by-design and privacy-preserving, using advanced techniques such as federated learning to allow institutions to share threat intelligence without exposing sensitive raw data. While its immediate focus is on finance, CyberAId is built to be sector-agnostic, with the potential to protect other critical areas like energy or transport in the future.

Key Innovation & Added Value

The defining innovation of CyberAId is its integrated AI-based cybersecurity platform. While the average bank currently manages over 100 distinct security tools, CyberAId combines multiple disparate solutions into one intelligent infrastructure. This creates proactive and automated cybersecurity workflows where prediction, monitoring, and reporting systems communicate seamlessly. This integration provides a multiplicative benefit beyond individual solutions, allowing institutions to detect and contain threats significantly faster than traditional methods.

Consortium & European Dimension

The project's kick-off meeting, hosted by UBITECH set the stage for advancements in Athens, Greece, on January 15–16, 2026. The consortium came together to highlight their roles in this project and to point out their dedication to changing the Cybersecurity for Financial Service Providers landscape. CyberAId is driven by a consortium of multidisciplinary partners including industry leaders, cutting-edge technology providers, and renowned research institutions. This cross-European collaboration spans partners from Cyprus, Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Spain, and Germany. By uniting diverse expertise—from quantum-resistant cryptography to financial law, the consortium directly contributes to bolstering the EU's overall digital and cybersecurity capacity.

Impact & Expected Results

The successful implementation of CyberAId is expected to deliver:

- **Improved Protection of Financial Critical Infrastructures:** Robust defences against sophisticated fraud, ransomware, and data breaches.
- **Increased Trust in Digital Financial Services:** Restoration of public and institutional confidence in the security of digital banking.
- **Long-term Applicability:** A scalable blueprint for resilience that can be adopted by other critical industrial sectors.
- **A More Secure and Resilient Europe:** A significant reduction in financial fraud and associated economic losses across the Union.

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For more information about CyberAid, follow us on social media:

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