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The Economic Impacts of Cyber Crime

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The E-CRIME consortium has recently completed an examination of current dominant policies, best practices, and regulatory and enforcement frameworks for countering cybercrime at the European level.

By its very nature cybercrime does not take into account national borders. As a result, for those investigating these crimes the data involved is often found extraterritorially. This in turn demands an effective legal framework and best practices policies that ensure proportionality when protecting privacy and conducting legitimate crime prevention activities. There are big differences in national enforcement legislation and approaches; not necessarily within the EU, but between the EU and third-countries where their national legal frameworks for the investigation of cybercrime do not meet European standards. Seeing as cybercrime is a global problem, this naturally becomes problematic when combatting cybercrime. Other issues negatively impacting enforcement include underreporting, rapid technological developments, and a lack of policing capacity and resources for gathering electronic evidence.

E-CRIME has identified the critical elements of consistent and effective cybercrime law enforcement. These being:

- An effective legal framework;
- Access to effective investigative tools and techniques;
- Sufficient training and technical capabilities for law enforcement;
- Best practice policies that ensure proportionality.

The scale of cybercriminal activity represents a considerable challenge to law enforcement agencies. Cybercrime forces law enforcement to rethink their skills when investigating a cybercrime case, especially the importance of security exercises, awareness, training, and information security standards. These best practices can be achieved through cooperation and information sharing in all areas and on all levels of enforcement, but in particular by specialised cybercrime units. This, however, requires commitment by all players involved to act in concert. Moreover, this requires all players involved to know all the other players in the field which might not always be the case due to their fragmentation and the secrecy surrounding many agencies.

Top level European experts from several scientific domains and different industrial sectors have started to investigate the economic impacts of cyber crime in Europe

The key objectives of **E- CRIME** are:

1. To measure the economic impact of cyber crime on non-ICT sectors
2. To analyse the criminal structures and economies behind such crimes
3. To develop concrete measures to deter such crimes

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