
DECISION No GB/2025/8
of
The Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research
Competence Centre
Adopting the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2025

THE GOVERNING BOARD,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/887 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres (hereinafter “the Regulation”),¹ and in particular Article 13(3)(d), Article 17(f) and Article 27;

Having regard to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/715 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies set up under the TFEU and Euratom Treaty and referred to in Article 70 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council,² in particular Article 48 thereof;

Whereas:

- 1) In order to report on the achievements and progress of the Authority in 2024, it is necessary to adopt a consolidated annual activity report for 2024.
- 2) According to Article 13(3)(d) of the Regulation, the Governing Board shall adopt the annual activity report on the progress made by the ECCC in the previous calendar year.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Sole Article

The consolidated annual activity report of the ECCC for the year 2024 is hereby adopted.

Done at Bucharest on 30/06,

For the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre

(e-signed)

Pascal Steichen

Chairperson of the Governing Board

¹ OJ L 202, 8.6.2021, p. 1-31

² 86, 11.7.2019, p. 21–56. 2 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/715 of 18 December 2018 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies set up under the TFEU and Euratom Treaty and referred to in Article 70 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council, C/2018/8599, OJ L 122, 10.5.2019, p. 1–38



ECCC Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2024

Adopted by ECCC GB, decision number 8/2025 of 30/06/2025

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This publication presents the annual activity report of the ECCC for 2024. The report is based on the ECCC Single Programming Document (SPD) 2024-2026 and Budget of 2024 as approved by the Governing Board in line with the Decision No GB/2023/8 and consolidated amendments as in Decision No GB/2024/12.

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GOVERNING BOARD'S ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

The Governing Board (GB) of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC) takes note of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) prepared by the ECCC for the year 2024, and submitted for adoption, in accordance with Article 13(3)(d) of the ECCC regulation. The GB provides here below its assessment of the CAAR as required by Article 48(1)(b) of the Framework Financial Regulation¹.

The GB, based on its analysis and assessment of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2024:

- Welcomes that the ECCC reached its financial autonomy in September 2024.
- Acknowledges that the ECCC prepared all necessary processes, including several additional Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and decisions to finalize its set-up and autonomy.
- Acknowledges the signature of the Host Agreement with the Romanian Government in September 2024 and the ratification of the Romanian Parliament early 2025.
- Welcomes the CAAR 2024 report of the ECCC and acknowledges that also during 2024 several activities continued to be delivered by the Commission Services, and a large part of the reporting is part of DG CONNECT reporting.
- Acknowledge the closing of the accounts for the last part of 2024, after the autonomy.
- The GB takes note of the results of the ECCC, and of the activities delivered during 2024:
 - The recruitment of the staff members of the ECCC, including its Executive Director, and the onboarding of the Head of Units early 2025; to reach about 30 staff members.
 - The evaluation of the calls for proposals, the signature of grants and the management of the projects retained for funding under the Digital Europe Programme; the support provided in the evaluation of proposals received under Horizon Europe Programme.
 - The work conducted to have an advance ECCC DEP WP for cybersecurity for 2025-2027.
 - The preparation and approval of programming documents SPD 2025-2027 and Draft SPD 2026-2028 of the ECCC; the amendments of the SPD 2024-2026 to reflect the changes due to reaching financial autonomy.

¹ Framework Financial Regulation (FFR) 715/2019 is implemented by ECCC with Decision No GB/2023/1 of the GB of the ECCC on the ECCC's Financial Rules; this assessment is reflecting also the Annex II of FFR, namely C(2020) 2297 final of 20.04.2020, covering the template for CAAR.

The GB remarks that the turnover of staff is high and the progress made during 2023 and 2024 are influenced by this and the need to re-fill positions as soon as possible.

The GB notes the progress made on the permanent premises in Bucharest during 2024 and acknowledges that the move to the permanent premises would take place during in April 2025.

The GB remarks that while not all tasks foreseen in the ECCC 2024 work program were delivered by the end of that year², that there are no critical issues to be reported by the ECCC.

The GB recognizes also for 2024 the instrumental role of the Commission Services, in particular DG CONNECT, in performing and delivering the initial ECCC activities and the development of its operational capacity and facilitating the process to the financial autonomy. The GB thanks the Commission Services and acknowledges the hard work of all Commission staff supporting the ECCC, which made possible the results described in this report.

The GB also welcomes the SLAs and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) prepared and signed until now by the ECCC with the aim to foster synergies and efficiency gains with different departments of the European Commission and with ENISA.

Furthermore, the GB acknowledges that the reporting requirements under Article 27 of the ECCC regulation were covered by the ECCC early this year and in addition the report is also included as an additional dedicated Annex IX in this CAAR.

The ECCC GB, having concluded the above assessment, taking account of the Article 27(3) of the ECCC regulation, and article 48 of FFR regulation, hereby instructs the Secretariat of the GB to finalize the process. Namely, to publish the annual activity report and to submit the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2024, together with this assessment, to the Court of Auditors, to the Commission, to the European Parliament and the Council as soon as possible.

For the Governing Board,
Pascal Steichen

Chairperson of the Government Board
30 June 2025

² The move to the permanent premises which took place early 2025, the set-up of the Strategic Advisory Group and the set-up of the Community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GOVERNING BOARD'S ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
PART I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024	10
1.1 ACHIEVED RESULTS IN ACTIVITY DOMAIN #1	10
1.2 ACHIEVED RESULTS IN ACTIVITY DOMAIN #2	12
1.3 ACHIEVED RESULTS IN ACTIVITY DOMAIN #3	16
1.4 ACHIEVED RESULTS IN ACTIVITY DOMAIN #4	17
PART II. MANAGEMENT	20
2.1. GOVERNING BOARD	20
2.2. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS	20
2.3. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	21
2.4. DELEGATION AND SUB-DELEGATION	21
2.5 HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) MANAGEMENT	21
2.6. STRATEGY FOR EFFICIENCY GAINS	22
2.7 ASSESSMENT OF AUDIT AND EX-POST EVALUATION RESULTS DURING THE REPORTING YEAR	23
2.8A FOLLOW UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS FOR AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS	23
2.8B FOLLOW UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS OF OLAF	23
2.9 FOLLOW UP OF OBSERVATIONS FROM DISCHARGE AUTHORITY	23
2.10 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT	23
2.11. ASSESSMENT BY MANAGEMENT	24
PART III. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS²⁵	
3.1 EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS	25

3.2 ASSESSMENT RESULT	26
Internal control strengths and deficiencies	26
Assessment of ICF components	26
3.2 CONCLUSIONS OF ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS	31
3.3 STATEMENT OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL COORDINATOR	32
PART IV. MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE	33
4.1 REVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ASSURANCE	33
4.2 RESERVATIONS	33
PART V. DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE	34
DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE	34
ANNEXES	35
ANNEX I. CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS	35
ANNEX II. STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	35
ANNEX III. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	40
ANNEX IV. ESTABLISHMENT PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	40
ANNEX V. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY ACTIVITY	41
ANNEX VI. CONTRIBUTION, GRANT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS	43
ANNEX VII. ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT	44
ANNEX VIII. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	44
ANNEX IX. ADDITIONAL DATA ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 27 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	46
ANNEX X. LIST OF ACRONYMS	51

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During September 2024 the ECCC embarked on a new phase in its history: it achieved financial autonomy and signed³ a Headquarter Agreement with the Host Country. This marks the first Annual Activity Report of the ECCC following these significant milestones.

The European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC) and the Network of National Coordination Centres (NCCs) were set up by Regulation (EU) 2021/887⁴ (the 'Founding Regulation') that entered into force on 28 June 2021. It aims in particular to strengthen the capacities of the cybersecurity technology community, better protect our economy and society from cyber incidents, increase excellence in research and innovation, and reinforce the competitiveness of EU cyber industry.

The ECCC⁵ is mandated to design and implement, with the support of relevant stakeholders, a common agenda for the development and growth of the European industrial, technological and research sector in the area of cybersecurity, including SMEs and in areas of public interest. For this purpose, the ECCC implements parts of the Digital Europe⁶ ('DEP') and Horizon Europe⁷ ('HEP') funding programmes. For DEP, the ECCC establishes and implements the work programme while for HEP implements the associated calls and projects without being involved directly in the drafting of the Work Programme. The ECCC aims to create a framework for strategic and coordinated investment in cybersecurity with contributions from the EU level, Member States and relevant cybersecurity constituencies, including industry and academia.

This report reflects the achievements of ECCC during 2024, a year full of event for a new EU body.

Looking back, 2024 marked a year of continued implementation of the operational tasks outlined in the founding Regulation of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC). The Centre also focused on strengthening its administrative and management structures while expanding its human and financial resources. Throughout the year, the ECCC made significant progress across all assigned tasks and successfully delivered on its mandate.

During the first three quarters, many activities were carried out with the support of the Commission Services⁸. However, in September 2024, the ECCC achieved its financial autonomy and signed a Host Agreement with its host country, Romania. This milestone further solidified its establishment and operational independence.

The ECCC continued in 2024 to carry all previous activities, including the implementation of the DEP and HEP work programmes 2021-2022, 2023-2024 as well as the evaluation of the calls for proposals, the signature of grants and the management of the projects retained for funding. The evaluation of calls for proposal

³ The Agreement was finally ratified by the Romanian Parliament in Q1/2025.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/887 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres (OJ L 202, 8.6.2021, p. 1), referred further in the document as founding/ECCC regulation.

⁵ https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/index_en

⁶ Digital Europe Programme established by Reg (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240 (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).

⁷ Horizon Europe Programme established by Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

⁸ Please see article 46 of the ECCC regulation (EU) 2021/887

involved significant workload over the course of 2022, 2023 and 2024⁹. However, in 2024, the ECCC started, in consultation with its GB the preparation¹⁰ of the first ECCC DEP WP for Cybersecurity for 2025-2027.

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) of ECCC for 2024 is more comprehensive than the previous CAAR dedicated to reporting the 2022 and 2023 activities of the Centre¹¹, when the activities were led by the European Commission (EC) services¹².

As for the present document, its structure follows the guidelines for Consolidated Annual Activity Report as detailed in C(2020) 2297 final¹³, Annex 2, of the Communication from the Commission on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation (EC) 2018/1046, and on the guidelines¹⁴ for the SPD and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report.

In addition, this report covers the requirements of Article 27 of the ECCC regulation and a more detailed overview of the results to address these requirements is provided in Section 1.2 and in Annex IX.

The main achievements of the ECCC during 2024 include:

- Setting up activities related to achieving financial autonomy, including preparations for recruitments:
 - Signature of the headquarter agreement with host country during September 2024.
 - Progress on premises related activities and agreement with the host country.
 - Continue the recruitment and onboarding of staff members in Bucharest, reaching of 80% of occupancy, including the finalisation of the Head of Operations and Head of Administration selection procedure.
 - Preparation and approval of the ECCC reporting and programming documents: CAAR 2022, SPD for 2024-2026 and draft SPD 2025-2027.
 - Award 2 contracts and initiate relevant Framework contracts for the administrative functioning of the ECCC.¹⁵
- Operational activities, delivering on the core tasks of the ECCC:
 - Preparatory work, consultations, drafting and agreement on the high level allocations with the ECCC GB for the first ECCC Cybersecurity DEP WP 2025-2027 that was finally adopted in March 2025.
 - Preparing the implementation of DEP, launching the relevant calls for proposals, calls for expressions of interest and joint procurements, evaluating the proposals received and signing grants agreement on several DEP topics.
 - Supporting the evaluation of proposals received under HE.
 - Running and monitoring projects under DEP and HEP.
- Strategic activities to empower the community and operationalize NCCs network.

⁹ Several evaluations took place, followed by the preparation and signature of the grant agreements. By now, many projects are already ongoing. Until the ECCC reached financial autonomy, EC services continued to act on behalf of the ECCC, contributing with the EC's own resources. This includes preparing DEP and HEP work programmes by EC, although gradually shifting role in launching and evaluating calls for proposals for both programs to ECCC while in parallel managing alongside ECCC the projects selected for funding.

¹⁰ Adopted and published in March 2025.

¹¹ ECCC CAAR 2022 and related GB decision at: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/system/files/2024-01/ECCC%20GB%20Decision%20No%202023_7%20ECCC%20CAAR%202022.pdf

¹² Please see article 46 of the ECCC regulation (EU) 2021/887.

¹³ In pursuance of FR 2018/1046 and FFR No 2019/715, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/715 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies set up under the TFEU and Euratom Treaty and referred to in Article 70 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L122, 10.5.2019, p. 1).

¹⁴ C(2020) 2297 final Annex 1, Annex to the Communication from the Commission on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and on the guidelines for the Single Programming Document and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report

¹⁵ List of procurement contracts awarded in 2024: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/document/778c6667-8260-4312-adef-4dc43600890b_en

- Adoption of the internal Action Plan implementing the Strategic Agenda of the ECCC.
- Results of the several working groups under the GB.
- Organization of 3 networking days for the Network of NCCs.

As can be seen from the bullets above, the ECCC increased its roles and responsibilities during 2024 and undertook many of the tasks foreseen in its founding Regulation. The ECCC, the NCCs and the Community will continue to steadily grow in the near future in view to deliver fully on their mission and objectives regarding cybersecurity investment, innovation and uptake, and thus help make the EU more cyber resilient and prosperous.

The ECCC operates in an evolving landscape of EU cybersecurity policy, including the recently adopted revision of the NIS Directive, the adoption of the Cyber Resilience Act and Cyber Solidarity Act early 2025, policy initiatives such as the Communications on cyber defence, on the Cyber Skills Academy or cybersecurity for hospitals and healthcare providers. The ECCC continues to support and manage the projects funded with the calls for proposals launched in 2022, 2023 and 2024 under HEP and DEP. The ECCC, together with the NCCs and the Community are an important component of this overall effort to enhance cybersecurity capabilities and resilience in the EU.

Luca Tagliaretti
Executive Director

PART I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024

The first part of this report details the objectives approved in the 2024 Work Programme¹⁶ and presents the achievements of the ECCC during 2024.

The next sections provide a view on the achievements or on the progress in the process of delivering these priorities. The structure of this Part I reflects the structure of the ECCC Work programme 2024, as adopted by the ECCC GB in the SPD 2024-2026 document and covers the achievements of the following activity domains:

- ✓ #1: Legal and operational activities of the ECCC,
- ✓ #2: Implementation of Digital Europe & Horizon Europe Programmes,
- ✓ #3: Adoption of the Agenda, the Multiannual Work Programme and the Annual Work Programme, and
- ✓ #4: Activities related to the NCCs and the Cybersecurity Competence Community.

1.1 Achieved results in ACTIVITY DOMAIN #1

Activity domain “#1: Legal and operational activities of the ECCC” is related to Objective #1 of the Multiannual Work Programme: “Consolidate the legal and operational autonomy of the ECCC”.

In September 2024 the ECCC become autonomous after successfully delivering the required governance structures, rules, procedures and infrastructure, etc. Another main focus for 2024 was the delivery of the operational activities of the ECCC, in particular implementation of part of DEP (see activity 2 below).

The table below provides an overview of the status of implementation of the section II.4 on Efficiency gains, of the multiannual planning 2024-2026. It should be noted that by the time of drafting of this report, the ECCC moved into its permanent premises.

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024, multiannual section)	Achieved results by end of 2024
Premises/ Infrastructure	Handover of the Permanent Premises of the ECCC in Bucharest	Ongoing. By the end of 2024, construction work on the Permanent Premises had reached an advanced stage, with significant progress on the two floors of the new premises. The substantial completion and handover of both floors are anticipated in Q1 2025.
	Ensure the necessary IT infrastructure for the ECCC operations	Completed. The ECCC's IT infrastructure is now operating independently and currently, the focus is on setting up the non-critical segments, fine-tunings configurations and enhancing cybersecurity.
Governance and management (structure, legal & procedural framework)	Assessment of the ECCC ED further to a probation period.	Completed. The ED took up duties as of 1/02/2024 and passed successfully its probation period. A GB decision on the probation and appraisal of the ECCC ED has been adopted based on Commission's formal agreement (Commissioner's decision adopted by empowerment procedure of the College).
	Adoption of programming documents	Completed. Programming documents were discussed and then adopted by the ECCC GB ¹⁷ (ECCC GB Decision No GB/2024/13 on SPD 2025-2027 and ECCC GB Decision No GB/2025/1 on Draft SPD 2026-2028). The GB of ECCC adopted amendments of SPD 2024-2026 to include financial

¹⁶ Part of the ECCC SPD 2024-2026, decisions 2023/8 and amendments decision 2024/12 available at: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/system/files/2024-01/ECCC%20GB%20Decision%20No%202023_8%20ECCC%20final%20SPD%202024-2026.pdf and at: <https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/system/files/2025-02/GB%20Decision%20%2B%20SPD.pdf>

¹⁷ Please find all ECCC GB decisions at: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/governing-board_en

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024, multiannual section)	Achieved results by end of 2024
		updates related to the autonomy process; consolidated version in ECCC GB Decision No GB/2024/12.) The ECCC with its GB it is at the time of writing this report on advance stage of delivery of DEP WP 2025-2027, covering ECCC funding from Priority 3 of DEP.
	Support the registration of members of the EU Cybersecurity Competence Community	Pending. In the absence of the final form, only pre-registration took place at MS level. Ongoing activities to clarify Data Protection issues.
	Implementation of a public communication and dissemination policy	The ECCC Public Communication and Dissemination Strategy was approved by the Governing Board in June 2024 and subsequently published on the ECCC website. This is a high-level and strategic document referring to the ECCC's objectives, actions, targets, and partners related to its public communication and dissemination activities. The communication and dissemination plan, developed in October 2024, outlines the main activities foreseen until the end of 2025 and is currently being implemented. So far, key communication activities were undertaken to ensure public awareness about the ECCC, its activities and the granting opportunities. The ECCC communication efforts took place at various levels with an overarching goal of communicating on its mission, to raise its visibility and support ECCC's overall objective of promoting research, innovation and deployment in the area of cybersecurity.
	Implementation of the Internal control framework	Completed. The Governing Board of the ECCC adopted the ECCC's Internal Control Framework (ICF) on 6 December 2023 ¹⁸ and the ECCC's revised Financial Rules on 15.04.2024 ¹⁹ . The ICF is a principle-based system consisting of five Internal Control Components (Control environment, Risk Assessment, Control Activities, Information and communication, Monitoring activities) and 17 Internal Control Principles. Its aim is to ensure robust internal controls with the necessary flexibility to adapt to specific characteristics and circumstances of the ECCC. On 15.04.2024, the ICF Implementation Plan was approved by the Executive Director. It is a document that lays down the ECCC's plan to ensure the timely, consistent and effective implementation of this framework. The actions were framed within the PDCA cycle (Plan, Do, Check, Act). The actions within the PDC areas were implemented effectively. The assessment of the ICF was recently concluded, and its results are presented in the present document. Improvement actions were defined, and the implementation has already started.
	Implementation of the Anti-fraud strategy	Completed. The ECCC's Anti-Fraud Strategy, together with its annexes, was adopted in June 2024 through the DECISION No GB/2024/8 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Governing Board on the Anti-Fraud Strategy 2024-2026 of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre. It has been developed in line with OLAF's Methodology and guidance for the anti-fraud strategies of EU decentralised agencies and Joint Undertakings and it followed a stand-alone Fraud Risk Assessment exercise. The associated Action Plan contains several actions that address the identified fraud risks. The implementation of the Action Plan is on-going.
	Implementation of the prevention, identification and resolution of conflicts of interest in respect of its members, bodies and staff, including the ED and the GB members, and SAC members	Completed. This activity is defined by DECISION No GB/2023/4 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre's Governing Board setting out rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest in respect of the staff members of the ECCC and by DECISION No GB/2022/15 of The Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Revision of DECISION No GB/2021/1 on Adopting its Rules of Procedure. The implementation is done through a Register of the potential Conflict of Interest (Col) situations, maintained by the Information and Compliance Officer. There are currently 5 records of potential Col reported by staff (4 from 2024, and 1 from 2025). For all of these, immediate measures were taken, that avoided the actual Col. A very positive point to highlight is the staff awareness of their obligations and their proactiveness in reporting the potential Col.

¹⁸ DECISION No GB/2023/12 of the Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre on the Internal Control Framework for effective management applicable to the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre, Ref.Ares(2024)157857-10/01/2024

¹⁹ DECISION No GB/2024/3 of the Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre - Revision of DECISION No GB/2023/1 on the ECCC's Financial Rules

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024, multiannual section)	Achieved results by end of 2024
	Implementation of the ECCC's Security rules	The ECCC's Security rules were adopted on 27 June 2024, through the DECISION No GB/2024/7 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Governing Board on the Security in the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre. Based on them, Security rules for the protection of Sensitive Non-Classified (SNC) and EU Classified Information (EUCI) have been drafted and were adopted by the GB on 10 October 2024. These decisions are the first steps towards the ECCC being authorized to handle and exchange EUCI with the Commission, Council and Parliament, and a pre-requisite for obtaining the necessary tools. The aim is exercise is that the ECCC is authorised to work with/ exchange R-UE/EU-R information by the end of 2025, and with C-UE/EU-C and S-UE/EU-S by the end of 2026. The timeline is indicative, and it depends on external factors (i.e. availability of the security inspectors) and internal factors (e.g. the resources allocated to the activity – the LSO/ Deputy LSO roles are fulfilled by temporary agents that currently fulfil multiple organisational roles).
Staff	Rules on the secondment of SNEs and the use of trainees	The rules and procedures governing the secondment of Seconded National Experts (SNEs) were drafted, and a proposed Governing Board decision has been prepared to facilitate the approval of these rules in the first quarter of 2025. Regarding traineeships, the Executive Director's Decision establishing the programme and implementing its rules was signed in November 2024, laying the foundation for structured traineeship opportunities within the ECCC.
	Approval of working arrangements between the ECCC and EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (e.g. ENISA, EEAS, JRC, REA, HADEA, Europol, EDA) and international organizations, where relevant	Done. The ECCC is part of the EU Agencies Network (EUAN), sharing know-how and lessons learnt with the colleagues from other EU agencies and bodies. SLAs are signed with: EPSO, HR, PMO, DIGIT, ENISA, CERT-EU and services of EC: BUDG, SG, CDT, RTD. The ECCC has an SLA and a MoU with ENISA and signed several SLAs with other EUIBAs on the path for financial autonomy (see annex VII)
	Continue the adoption of further HR-related legal framework (e.g. implementing rules to the Staff Regulations and to the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the EU)	Following HR related Governing Board decisions were adopted in the year 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ECCC GB Decision No 2024/1 Empowering Chair_ED appraisal ▪ ECCC GB Decision No 2024/2 Working Time and Hybrid Working ▪ ECCC GB Decision No 2024/5 Schooling policy for the education costs for children of ECCC staff members
	Continuing selection and recruitment of more staff members of the ECCC	In 2024, the Centre experienced a staff turnover rate of 14%, with four employees leaving during the year. By the end of 2024, the total number of active staff members had reached 27. To address staffing needs, five selection procedures were launched to create reserve lists for the roles of Programme Officer, Finance Officer, Administrative Assistant, Head of Operations and Head of Administration.
	Management and integration of newly recruited staff, including necessary trainings	The onboarding process involves communication coordinated by HR and the ECCC Secretariat for new employees as they begin their contracts. Newcomers receive necessary training tailored to their specific areas of work.

1.2 Achieved results in ACTIVITY DOMAIN #2

This section covers the activity domain “#2: *Implementation of Digital Europe and Horizon Europe Programmes*”. The activities delivered under this chapter are related to Objective #2 of the Multiannual Work Programme: “*Implement DEP and, where relevant, HEP*”.

The actions under Specific Objective 3 (Cybersecurity and Trust) of the Digital Europe Programme and the actions under Cluster 3 Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025 (Increased Cybersecurity Destination) are implemented primarily through the ECCC. In September 2024 ECCC reached its financial autonomy and it is fully responsible for the relevant programme implementation (launching calls, evaluation of proposals, signature of grants and management of projects awarded under the relevant DEP and HE Work Programmes).

Important actions undertaken in this activity area in 2024 include the following:

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024)	Achieved results by end of 2024
Programme implementation	ECCC implementing DEP calls for WP 2023-2024 (take financing decisions, launch calls, organise evaluations, conclude grant agreements)	<p>ECCC responsibilities for launching calls, organizing evaluations and concluding grant agreements.</p> <p>DIGITAL-ECCC-2023-DEPLOY-CYBER-04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 71 M EURO for 4 Topics - Nr proposals received: 28 - Nr proposals retained for funding: 12 - All grant agreements signed, and all projects started within 2024 <p>DIGITAL-ECCC-2023-DEPLOY-CYBER-06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 84 M EUR for 6 Topics - Nr proposals received: 65 - Nr proposals retained for funding: 22 - All grant agreements signed within 2024 and all projects started (latest start date 01/01/2025) <p>DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 65 M EUR - 1st cut-off date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nr proposals received: 8 o Nr proposals retained for funding: 5 (19,6 M EUR) o All grant agreements signed within 2024 and 4 projects started on 01/01/2025 (1 will start later in the year) - 2nd cut-off date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Deadline for submission 28/11/2024 o Evaluation period: December 2024 – January 2025 o Nr proposals received: 16 o Nr proposals retained for funding: 13 o Results announced: March 2025 o All grant agreements – to be signed by August 2025 <p>DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget: 102,8 M EUR for 6 Topics, plus 32 M EUR for joint procurement - Deadline for submission: 27 March 2025 - Evaluation period: April – May 2025 - Results to be announced: June - July 2025 - All grant agreements - to be signed by November 2025 <p>For the joint procurements the ECCC has launched on its website (deadline 27 March 2025) 2 Calls for Expression of interest. One for the National and one for the Cross-Border Cyber Hubs. For this purpose, a dedicated methodology (including artefacts) for evaluating the calls was defined by ECCC.</p>
	ECCC implementing HE calls for WP 2023-2025 (take financing decisions, launch calls, organise evaluations, conclude grant agreements)	<p>ECCC received in 2024 from EC DG CNECT 13 projects under the call HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 58.7 M EUR for 3 Topics - Total EU contribution for the 13 projects: 61,76 M EUR - All projects started within 2024 (except 1 from reserve list which started 01/01/2025). <p>HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-01</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 60.4 M EUR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Deadline for submission 20/11/2024 o Evaluation period: December 2024 – February 2025 o Nr proposals received: 152 o Nr proposals retained for funding: 12 o Results announced: March 2025 o All grant agreements will be signed within 2025
	Where necessary, adopting guidelines for proposals and projects, model grant agreement, methodology to calculate MS in-kind contribution	Completed at EC level (not at ECCC level). For both DEP and HE there are already approved MGAs by the EC for 2021-2027 programmes. Pending methodology for in-kind contribution. Postponed due to the status of progress on ECCC operations.
	Identify possible Joint Actions to be supported by contributions from some MS and by EU budget from DEP or HEP.	Pending. Postponed due to the status of progress on ECCC operations.

The ECCC Work Programme is funded from the Digital Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 for Cybersecurity.

The actions contained in the Digital Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 are aimed to build up advanced cybersecurity equipment, tools and data infrastructure. They support the development and best use of European knowledge and skills related to cybersecurity, promote the sharing of best practices and ensure a wide deployment of the state-of-the-art cybersecurity solutions across the European economy to guarantee the resilience, integrity and trustworthiness of the Digital Single Market.

The following tables summarises the ECCC calls and topics, under the Digital Europe Programme, opened in 2024.

TOPIC	Budget	Closing Date	Outcome
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH Novel applications of AI and Other Enabling Technologies for Security Operation Centres	30M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCRA Strengthening cybersecurity capacities of European SMEs in line with CRA requirements and obligations	22M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA Tools for compliance with CRA requirements and obligations	8M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-PQCINDUSTRY Deployment of Post Quantum Cryptography in systems in industrial sectors	22,25M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC Standardisation and awareness of the European transition to post-quantum cryptography	1M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-TRANSITIONEUPQC Roadmap for the transition of European public administrations to a post-quantum cryptography era	0,75M EUR	March 2024	Signed

For the topics under *DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06* call, which closed in 2024 (2 cut-off dates), the grants under the 1st cut-off date have been all signed and operations have started for all of them except one (which will start later in 2025), while those under the 2nd cut-off date will be signed within 2025.

TOPIC	Budget	Closing Date	Outcome
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION (2 cut-off dates)	EUR 65M	March 2024 (1 st cutoff)/November 2024 (2 nd cut-off)	Signed (1 st cut-off)/GAP phase (2 nd cut-off)

The following paragraphs provide insights on of the calls with the outcome available at the end of 2024:

- ✓ 22 DEP projects funded from the call *DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06*. From the overall EU contribution of € 80.962.570,55 it was provided already a pre-financing of € 64.143.419,83 (80%).

Topic	Id	Acronym	Start Date	End Date	Duration (months)	EU contribution (EUR)
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190156	CTI-AI	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	2524499
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC	101190512	PQCSA	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	998926.32
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCRA	101190325	SECURE	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	21921036.5
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190243	CRA-AI	01-01-2025	31-12-2026	24	2043272
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-TRANSITIONEUPQC	101190305	Q-PREP	01-01-2025	31-12-2026	24	749147.66
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190460	INTERCEPT	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	4919332.93
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190492	CRACY	01-12-2024	31-05-2027	30	2994536.24
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190193	CONFIRMATE	01-01-2025	30-06-2026	18	1191766
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190281	CYBERFORT	01-12-2024	31-05-2026	18	2646564.75
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190372	CURIUM	01-01-2025	30-06-2026	18	2488140.55
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190474	OCCTET	01-11-2024	31-10-2026	24	1772376.09
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190339	CAIOC	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	3068314.35
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190251	CYBERGUARD	01-12-2024	30-11-2027	36	3845125.25
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-PQCINDUSTRY	101190366	PIQASO	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	6597620
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190388	ISOCaaS	01-12-2024	30-11-2027	36	4999040

DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC	101190400	PQC4eMRTD	01-01-2025	31-12-2026	24	999019.41
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190545	AIPITCH	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	3991688.5
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190349	ALiEnS-SOC	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	4961911
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190248	ACSOC	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	1518865
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190370	SAFE	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	3999105.21
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190180	OSCRAT	01-12-2024	31-05-2026	18	2001634.29
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190232	aSIEMmetry	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	730649.5

- ✓ 5 DEP projects from the 1st cut-off date of the call *DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06* have been signed. From the overall EU contribution of € 19.637.528,83 it was provided already a pre-financing of € 15.710.023,06 (80%).

Topic	ID number	Acronym	Start Date	End Date	Duration (months)	Requested EU contribution (EUR)
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101194984	NCC-SK 2.0	01-06-2025	31-05-2029	48	4892575
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101195264	NCC-NL 2.0	01-01-2025	31-12-2028	48	4967207.5
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101195170	NCC-HR	01-01-2025	31-12-2028	48	3937151.13
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101194933	NCC-HU	01-01-2025	31-12-2026	24	2002250
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101195086	N4CY2	01-01-2025	31-12-2028	48	3838345.2

- ✓ 13 DEP projects from the 2nd cut-off date of the call *DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06* are currently in Grant Agreement Preparation phase and expected to be signed by August 2025.

About the implementation of the Cyber Solidarity Act, the ECCC, in cooperation with EU Commission and relevant MS, launched two joint procurements in Q2 2024 – for two cross border cyber hubs.

The ECCC implements also the Increased Cybersecurity Destination, under the Cluster 3 Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025 (Civil Security for Society). Proposals for topics under this Destination set out a credible pathway contributing to the following impact of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024: "Increased cybersecurity and a more secure online environment by developing and using effectively EU and Member States' capabilities in digital technologies supporting protection of data and networks aspiring to technological sovereignty in this field, while respecting privacy and other fundamental rights; this should contribute to secure services, processes and products, as well as to robust digital infrastructures capable to resist and counter cyber-attacks and hybrid threats".

The budget for the Cybersecurity Destination covered by the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 is EUR 119.1 M EUR, distributed as follows:

- A budget of EUR 28 million for actions related to Secure Computing Continuum (IoT, Edge, Cloud, Dataspaces).
- A budget of EUR 15,7 million for actions related to Privacy-preserving and identity management technologies.
- A budget of EUR 15 million for actions related to Security of robust AI systems.
- A budget of EUR 37 million for actions related to Approaches and tools for security in software and hardware development and assessment.
- A budget of EUR 23,4 million for actions related to Post-quantum cryptography transition.

The following tables summarises the ECCC calls and topics, under the Horizon Europe Programme, opened in 2023-2024.

For the topics under HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01 call which closed in 2023 and transferred from EC DG CNECT to ECCC in 2024, the grants have been all signed and operations have started.

TOPIC	Budget	Closing Date	Outcome
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01 Secure Computing Continuum (IoT, Edge, Cloud, Dataspaces)	EUR 28M EUR	November 2023	Signed
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02 Privacy-preserving and identity management technologies	EUR 15,7M EUR	November 2023	Signed
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03 Security of robust AI systems	EUR 15M EUR	November 2023	Signed

For the topics under HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01 call which closed in 2024, the grants are currently in Grant Agreement Preparation phase and expected to be signed within 2025.

TOPIC	Budget	Closing Date	Outcome
HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-01 Approaches and tools for security in software and hardware development and assessment	EUR 37M EUR	November 2024	GAP
HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-02 Post-quantum cryptography transition	EUR 23,4M EUR	November 2024	GAP

The following paragraphs provide insights on of the HORIZON 2023 and 2024 calls:

- ✓ 13 HE projects under the Increased Cybersecurity 2023 *HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01* call (3 topics) with an overall EU contribution € 58.7 million have been transferred in 2024 from EC DG CNECT to ECCC. All projects were transferred fully signed and started already within 2024 (except 1 from reserve list – RECITALS – which was transferred as ongoing GAP, processed and fully signed from ECCC and started on 01/01/2025).

Topic	ID number	Acronym	Start Date	End Date	Duration (months)	Requested EU contribution (EUR)
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101167904	CASTOR	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	5203611.25
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101167964	PRIVIDEMA	01-11-2024	31-10-2027	36	3133964.75
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101168011	CONSENTIS	01-11-2024	31-10-2027	36	3998855.36
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	101168067	GuardAI	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	4316775
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101168144	MIRANDA	01-09-2024	31-08-2027	36	5990612.5
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101168182	CyberNEMO	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	5999747.5
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101168311	LICORICE	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	3999029.31
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	101168407	cPAID	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	5514912.5
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101168438	INTACT	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	5644566.75
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101168465	MEDIATE	01-11-2024	31-10-2027	36	4061889.75
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101168467	TrustED	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	3961193.85
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	101168560	CoEvolution	01-11-2024	31-10-2027	36	5999688.75
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101168490	RECITALS	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	3935331.25

- ✓ 12 HE projects under the Increased Cybersecurity 2024 *HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01* call (2 topics) with an overall EU contribution € 67,34 € million have been selected for funding and are currently in Grant Agreement Preparation phase and it is expected to be signed in 2025.

Annex IX provides more detailed operational and financial reporting data regarding the calls, the SMEs and the MS applying for grants or receiving grants.

Concerning the implementation of the Cyber Solidarity Act, the ECCC, in cooperation with EU Commission and MS, launched two joint procurements in Q2 2024 – for two cross border cyber hubs.

1.3 Achieved results in ACTIVITY DOMAIN #3

This section covers the activity domain “#3: Adoption of the Agenda, the Multiannual Work Programme and the Annual Work Programme”. The activities described under this chapter are related to Objective #3 of the Multiannual Work Programme “Develop, implement and monitor the Agenda of the ECCC, the multiannual work programme and the annual work programme”.

The ECCC GB adopted the Strategic Agenda of ECCC as required by the article 2 point (8) of the Establishing Regulation in 2023. During 2023 and early 2024, based on the Strategic Agenda, an Action Plan was initiated and it was endorsed by the ECCC GB in March 2024 as working document, not to be distributed. The Action Plan provides a consolidated perspective of ECCC GB and MS on the actions and priorities for the research and innovation in the DE and HE programmes. The Action Plan – steamed from the Strategic Agenda – was used as a starting point in defining the priorities for the Digital Europe Work Programme for the part implemented by ECCC. Furthermore, it was used as input from the side of ECCC/NCCs Network for the priorities of the Horizon Europe programme. These work programmes will include, where relevant, joint actions between the ECCC and Member States. The annual work programmes of the ECCC are defined in accordance with the strategic Agenda and the Action Plan.

Important actions undertaken in this activity area during 2024 include the following:

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024)	Achieved results by end of 2024
Agenda	Adoption of the next agenda, following consultation with all relevant actors (EC, NCCs, Community, ENISA, SAG)	Completed. The Strategic Agenda that was adopted by the GB of ECCC in March 2023 ²⁰ and in March 2024 the GB of ECCC endorsed and Action Plan available only to a restricted community.
	Monitoring the implementation of the previous Agenda	In progress. Since the Strategic Agenda was adopted, the new/updated programming documents were aligned. For instance, draft DEP WP was built on the actions included for cybersecurity deployment in the Action Plan, that relies on the Strategic Agenda. Monitoring will follow in the next years.
	Dissemination of the Agenda to relevant stakeholders, including the HEP Program Committee.	Agenda is published on ECCC website and is referenced in almost all our communications.
Multiannual work programme & Annual work programme	Development, adoption and monitoring of the multiannual work programme and the annual work programme	Completed. SPD 2024-2026 was amended during Q3-Q4/2024. Draft SPD 2026-2028 and final SPD 2025-2027 were developed in consultation with GB and adopted by GB with decisions No 2025/01 and 2024/13 respectively. ECCC DEP WP 2025-2027 was in consultation with ECCC GB at the end of 2024.

1.4 Achieved results in ACTIVITY DOMAIN #4

This section covers the activity domain “#4: Activities related to the NCCs and the Cybersecurity Competence Community”. The activities described under this chapter are related to Objective #4 of the Multiannual Work Programme “Coordinate and further develop the NCCs and the Cybersecurity Competence Community”.

The Network of NCCs is composed of all the National Coordination Centres that are notified to the Governing Board by the Member States (Article 6.7 of the Regulation). They function as contact points at the national level for the Cybersecurity Competence Community and the ECCC (Article 7.1(a) of the Regulation). When preparing this report, all EU MS notified about the setup of the national NCCs. Furthermore, since 2024 Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are full members (without vote in the GB), contributing financially to ECCC activities and benefiting from them.

In 2024, the Network of NCCs had regular meetings and interactions, fulfilling its tasks as set out in the founding Regulation, and functioning as an integrated Network. In order to cover the areas of ECCC activities, a number of Working Groups (WG) of the GB have been established and some of them support the functioning of the NCC Network.

²⁰ The Strategic Agenda is available at: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/strategic-agenda_en

During 2024 a revision of the WGs took place. The following table lists the new WGs and provides an update of their activities and reflect the actions undertaken in 2024 in this activity area:

Meetings of the NCCs and activities of the (2024) GB Working Groups

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024)	Achieved results by end of 2024
Network of National Coordination Centres	Completion of the setting-up of the Network and smooth functioning as an integrated Network	Completed. By the end of 2023 all MS had notified their NCCs. The network meets regularly in a plenary format, at least on the margins of every Governing Board meeting. The Network has been provided with communication tools and channels (Mattermost platform and through mailing options). The Secretariat aims to regularly inform the broader network of relevant developments, be it related to governance documents or events of interest.
	Implement and update of the indicative “service catalogue” for NCCs	In progress. The tasks assigned to the NCCs by Article 7 of the ECCC Regulation are progressively being implemented.
	Further definition and implementation of modalities of interaction between the ECCC and the Network of NCCs (coordination mechanisms – alignment of activities – Organisation of workshops/recurrent meetings, etc.)	In progress, continuous. The NCC Day in October 2024 marked new election of the NCC Network Chair and Vice-Chairs, according to the NCC Network Rules of Procedure (RoP). A new modality for electing Network representatives was proposed, potentially requiring an amendment to the NCCs RoP. The change is to be discussed during the first NCC day in 2025. Following the conclusion of the ECCO project, the ECCC took over the secretariat of the Network. Solutions to previous NCCs requests (common calendar of events, storing space through Essential documents channels in Mattermost) continued to be provided. Responses to other needs identified by the NCCs (e.g. Possibility for collaborating together on documents) are being considered. It is expected that further changes will be implemented to the Mattermost space once the license will be owned by the ECCC, mid 2025. Other supporting materials, such as the Onboarding package, is also expected to be updated and made available. Access to the Mattermost platform continued to be provided, with an increase in access requests and increase of usage of the platform for communication (eg. notifying of upcoming events, informing about collaboration opportunities etc.). No downtime was noted following the handover of Mattermost administration. ECCC created a dedicated functional mailbox available to NCCs (ncc@eccc.europa.eu), through which NCCs can communicate with the ECCC but can also request the dissemination of their messages to the whole network. While a mailing lists for the NCCs exists at the ECCC level, procedure to share the mailing list with the whole network is being reviewed. All these developments allow for increased communication and collaboration among NCCs and with ECCC. Several NCC meetings were organized (see below “NCC meetings and interactions” table).
Cybersecurity Competence Community (stakeholders)	Community registrations and the evolution of the associated tools. Support new Community registrations, develop relevant tools and stimulate activities	In progress. The Atlas has been made available for new registrations NCCs had been provided with technical documentation and relevant support links to build national portals and connect them to the Atlas via the provided API. Several NCCs have completed development of their national portals and have successfully tested the connection with the Atlas. Atlas data protection/ privacy documentation required updating following the ECCC’s autonomy. The Data Sharing Agreement to be signed between NCCs and ECCC before starting registrations and the Atlas privacy notice have been updated with support by the ECCC DPO and JRC. NCCs have been tasked with developing privacy statements for their national portals. An updated Registration Form, following previous WG 1 conclusions and with support with ECCC DPO and JRC colleagues has been proposed to GB for approval.
	Community participation to the activities of the working groups, where relevant	In progress. The Community should involve a large, open, and diverse group of actors involved in cybersecurity technology, including in particular research entities, supply/demand-side industries and the public sector. The Community will be composed of entities registered in the European Cybersecurity Atlas. As required by Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/887 Technical developments regarding the Atlas have been finalised in order to allow Member States and participating countries to communicate the data of the entities they require to be registered. Reflections have started on the procedure for setting up the Strategic Advisory Group.
	Develop an EU “cybersecurity market observatory” in coordination with ENISA.	The Market Observatory has been in development by ECCO and it is transferred to the ECCC at the end of 2024.

WG	Focus area	Activities and status
WG 1	Community building	WG1 focuses on matters related to the operational aspects of the NCCs Network and on Community building and animation. The WG has met several times following its set-up in October 2024. During the first part of 2025, the WG has worked on the Annex clarifying its mandate and on its Workplan prioritising specific topics.
WG 2	Boost application Process Success	WG2 focuses on NCCs' task to provide technical assistance to stakeholders in the application phase for projects managed by the ECCC under Digital Europe and Horizon Europe Programmes, in view of reducing the administrative burden for participants, increasing the accessibility to and success rate of applications to the programs. The WG has met several times during the first part of 2025, proposed a Chair and a Vice - Chair for the group and worked together on finalising the Annex clarifying its mandate, as well as the work plan of activities.
WG 3	International Awareness	WG3 focuses on advising the ECCC and GB on exchanges and cooperation with the international community. So far, the WG has not met, however it is expected that the importance of cooperation with international partners would increase.
WG 4	Strategic Advice	WG4 seeks to advise the Governing Board and the ECCC on matters related to strategic advice and input, in line with the Regulation. The WG has met several times and produced a draft paper on the mandate and roles of the ECCC and ENISA.
WG 5	Cyber Skills	WG5 launched different surveys, requesting feedback on topics such as repositories on trainings and certifications and the mapping of funds for cybersecurity skills across the EU. The group meets monthly and regular points for discussion include skills attestation, Industry-Academia Network, and the European Cybersecurity Skills Framework. WG5 adopted its Annex 1 to ToRs in October 2024.

During 2024, the Network of NCCs had regular meetings and interactions, taking over its tasks as set out in the founding Regulation, and functioning as an integrated Network.

In particular, three NCC Days were held (see table below). NCC Days are meetings of the NCC representatives, usually held in connection to Governing Board meetings to allow networking and live discussion on common issues, as well as to increase visibility of EU cybersecurity expertise, products and services.

NCC 6th Meeting 13 March 2024, San Sebastian	NCCs discussed the state of play at the national level and main activities planned for 2023. NCCs were introduced to new ECCC ED and his vision on the Centre and cooperation with the Network.
NCC 7th Meeting 26 June 2024, Ireland	NCCs received an update from ENISA on: the NCC impact assessment workshop and framework; ENISA's activity in assessing cybersecurity R&I in the EU; ENISA's education activities. The main focus of the days were the Working Groups and proposed restructuring.
NCC 8th Meeting 9 October 2024, Munich	The NCC day saw the final reporting of the ECCO project and handover from ECCO tasks to the ECCC. Working groups were also in focus with the proposed restructuring being presented. The New Chair and vice-Chairs of the Network were elected.

PART II. MANAGEMENT

2.1. Governing Board

During 2024 three official meetings of the GB were organized and one additional Ad-Hoc meeting in November dedicated to the final consultation regarding DEP WP 2025-2027.

During these meetings a number of important decisions and topics were covered²¹ which are necessary for the functioning of the Centre. In particular, in 2024, the GB adopted the Anti-Fraud Strategy, Security Rules, the SPD 2025-2027, the draft SPD 2026-2028 and the associated budget. Other decisions covered the update of set-up of specific working groups of the GB dedicated to areas of interest as well as the update of the Financial Rules of the ECCC.

2.2. Major Developments

The Governing Board formally met 3 times and had one more Ad-Hoc meeting during 2024. The GB provided strategic guidance to the ECCC by adopting decisions necessary for the ECCC to operate, including guidance on the action plan to implement the Strategic Agenda and on building of the Cybersecurity DEP WP 2025-2027.

In 2024 the ECCC becoming financially autonomous from the European Commission, sign with the Romanian Government a Host agreement, and supported all the activities to move early 2025 to the permanent premises. In 2025 the Centre will reach cruising speed: managing more funding, recruiting a few more employees (the current establishment plan foresees 38 staff).

The establishment and setting up of the ECCC is taking place in a dynamic cybersecurity political context. The NIS Directive 2 is transposed in national laws in 2024 while the Cyber Resilience Act and Cyber Solidarity Act were agreed and ready to be published early 2025. Within this broader framework of EU policy priorities in cybersecurity, the ECCC will pool resources from the EU, MS and other constituencies to improve and strengthen technological and industrial cybersecurity capacities, enhancing the EU's open strategic autonomy, and offering a possibility to consolidate part of the cybersecurity-related activities funded under HEP and DEP.

The ECCC and the Network of NCCs will contribute to maximising the effects of investments to strengthen the EU's leadership and open strategic autonomy in the field of cybersecurity and support technological capacities, capabilities and skills, and to increase the EU's global competitiveness. They will do so with input from industry and academic communities in cybersecurity, including SMEs and research centres, which will benefit from a more systematic, inclusive and strategic collaboration, having regard to the cohesion of the EU and all of its MS. The ECCC, the Network and the Community will benefit from the experience and the collaboration of the relevant stakeholders.

21 For a complete list of decisions and minutes of GB meetings please visit the page dedicated to GB on ECCC website: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/governing-board_en

Furthermore, the ECCC shall cooperate with relevant EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, in particular with ENISA, in order to ensure consistency and complementarity while avoiding any duplication of effort.

In general, the objectives of ECCC and the work carried out by now by ECCC reflect the EU's policy priorities, while containing common, industrial, technology and research priorities which are based on the needs identified by MS in cooperation with the Community and which require the focus of EU financial support, including key technologies and domains for developing the EU's own capabilities in cybersecurity (Article 13 of the ECCC Regulation).

2.3. Budgetary and financial management

The ECCC gained its financial autonomy on 24 September 2024. DG CNECT of the European Commission was managing the ECCC budget execution in the period prior to the financial autonomy and the relevant budget of DG CNECT was transferred to ECCC. In 2024, the ECCC achieved 99,8 % rate of commitment appropriations implementation (excluding the appropriations arising from Horizon Europe which were provided in addition to the ECCC after the financial autonomy). Including HE, the commitment appropriations implementation amounted to an overall of 90,5%.

The rate of execution of payment appropriations (excluding HE) in 2024 was 82,1 % of the available funds (C1 fund source). Including HE, the budget consumption of payment appropriations amounted to 82,0%.

There were two budgetary amendments during 2024. In addition, the final payment appropriations for 2024 have been amended by a decrease of EUR 36.767.419 to reflect the final amount effectively transferred by the EU Commission to the ECCC as part of financial autonomy and as notified by the ECCC's Governing Board on December 12, 2024.

Administrative costs

The rates of implementation for title 1 in terms of commitment and payment appropriations were respectively 78,6% and 70,9%.

For title 2, the implementation rates for commitment and payment appropriations are respectively 83,8% and 27,1%.

Operational costs

The execution rate of the operational budget in both commitment and payment appropriations (including HE appropriations) was respectively 90,6% and 82,7%.

2.4. Delegation and sub-delegation

N/A.

2.5 Human Resources (HR) management

Staffing Overview and Staff-Related Decisions at ECCC in 2024

In 2024, the ECCC recorded an average occupancy rate of 73.7% of active employees relative to the establishment plan. At the end of 2024, the ECCC had 27 posts occupied.

The overall staff turnover rate was approximately 14%, with all departures occurring within the Contract Agent (CA) category.

For Temporary Agents (TAs), only 60% of positions were filled, with 6 out of 10 posts occupied. Contract Agents (CAs) show a higher occupancy rate, with 76% of posts filled (21 out of 27). Notably, the position for Seconded National Experts (SNEs) remains vacant, with a 0% occupancy rate (0 out of 1 post filled). The figures suggest that while the majority of core operational roles are staffed, recruitment and retention efforts must be intensified, particularly for specialised positions

Turnover rates in 2024 varied by category. Temporary Agents experienced no turnover, indicating stability within this group. However, the turnover rate for Contract Agents was 14%, pointing to ongoing challenges in retaining staff in these roles particularly for non-Romanian staff.

Occupancy Rates by Staff Category:

- Temporary Agents (TAs): 60% (6 out of 10 posts filled)
- Contract Agents (CAs): 76% (20 out of 27 posts filled)
- Seconded National Experts (SNEs): 0% (0 out of 1 post filled)

Staff-Related Decisions Adopted in 2024:

1. ECCC Executive Director Decision No.03/2024 on Physical Wellbeing – promoting health and wellbeing initiatives for staff.
2. ECCC GB Decision No.5/2024 on Schooling – addressing support for educational expenses.

Gender representation

	Female	Male	Grand Total
Count	17	10	27
Percent	63%	37%	100%

These developments reflect the ECCC’s ongoing efforts to support staff welfare and improve working conditions.

The ECCC faced the following main challenges:

- Attraction of Talent for CA Posts: Difficulty in attracting qualified candidates to fill Contract Agent positions effectively due also to the very low correction coefficient of Romania.
- Turnover Rate Impact: Employee turnover continues to pose challenges, including disruptions to team productivity.
- Geographical Balance: Ensuring equitable representation across different regions remains a priority, aligning with organisational goals for diversity and inclusion.
- Lack of Office Space and Permanent Premises: The absence of dedicated office space and permanent premises has further complicated operations and staff well-being.

2.6. Strategy for efficiency gains

The ECCC is committed to continuously implement measures to obtain efficiency gains in all activities.

Whenever possible, the ECCC will continue seeking synergies and the most efficient ways of action.

Since July 2022, the ECCC is an observer of the EU Agencies Network (EUAN, of which full membership requires financial autonomy), which gives access to a Network of agencies, JUs (Joint Undertakings) and other EU bodies, and the opportunity to exchange knowledge and best practices on horizontal issues for EU bodies. SLAs with EPSO, HR, PMO, DIGIT, DG BUDG, CERT-EU, SG, CDT and RTD are in place and they were signed during 2024 to support the financial autonomy process.

In 2023 the ECCC and ENISA signed a service level agreement (SLA) regarding shared services (i.e. Data Protection Officer and Accounting Officer services) that was afterwards extended. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with ENISA in October 2023 with the aim to synchronize cybersecurity related activities.

Please also see Annex VI for other SLAs signed or in preparation.

2.7 Assessment of audit and ex-post evaluation results during the reporting year

There were no audits or ex-post evaluations during the reporting period. The ex-post audits for Digital Europe Programme fall under the DEP Ex-post Audit Strategy (approved by the EU Commission and endorsed by all DEP implementing bodies) and HaDEA's DEP Ex-post Audit Work Programme. After the date of financial autonomy (24.09.2024), the ECCC received from DG CNECT a number of Horizon Europe projects. For Horizon Europe, the body responsible for the ex-post audits is the European Commission's Common Audit Service (CAS).

2.8a Follow up of recommendations and action plans for audits and evaluations

Not applicable. There were no audits or ex-post evaluations during the reporting period.

2.8b Follow up of recommendations issued following investigations of OLAF

Not applicable. There were no investigations of OLAF in the reporting period.

2.9 Follow up of observations from discharge authority

There are currently no observations from discharge authority. N/A until 2026, as this is the first CAAR after the financial autonomy.

2.10 Environment management

Not yet applicable. Please see Annex VII.

2.11. Assessment by management

The ECCC's operational and corporate activities were implemented in accordance with the 2024 work programme, with the necessary guidance and support of the Governing Board. The ECCC conducts its operations in compliance with relevant legal requirements in an open manner via the management team, which monitors the implementation of operational and corporate activities on a regular basis.

The ECCC's management has reasonable assurance that the internal controls put in place are appropriate and functioning as intended. The assessment of the ECCC's internal control framework did not reveal any significant weaknesses, while some areas for improvement have been identified. In 2024, some risks were identified and managed, as further confirmed by the results of both internal and external audits performed throughout the year.

PART III. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

3.1 Effectiveness of internal control systems

The Governing Board of the ECCC adopted the ECCC's Internal Control Framework (ICF) on 6 December 2023²² and the ECCC's revised Financial Rules on 15.04.2024²³.

The ICF is a principle-based system consisting of five Internal Control Components (Control environment, Risk Assessment, Control Activities, Information and communication, Monitoring activities) and 17 Internal Control Principles. Its aim is to ensure robust internal controls with the necessary flexibility to adapt to specific characteristics and circumstances of the ECCC.

All the internal control components and principles are interrelated and must be present and functioning at all levels of the organisation to be considered effective. Internal control monitoring criteria have been defined to ensure an adequate assessment of the presence and functioning of all internal control principles. The assessment is done at the level of principles, components, and the overall system.

In mid-2024, the ECCC developed Internal Control Framework (ICF) Indicators for monitoring the validity and effectiveness of its ICF²⁴.

The ECCC has formally assessed its control systems for the reporting year 2024 as part of the annual internal management system review and concluded that overall, the ICF principles are present, and work as intended. The results of the assessment show the presence and adequate functioning of all internal control components for the reporting year 2024.

The ECCC is currently in a period of growth, the development process for setting up the ICF is building its maturity, as the independency has been reached only 6 months ago (on 24.09.2024). In addition, a set of preliminary ICF indicators has been approved only in the middle of 2024, while for a majority of them complete assessment would be foreseen by end of 2025.

The first complete assessment of the ICF based on fine-tuned indicators is foreseen to be released in 2026 addressing the 2025.

22 DECISION No GB/2023/12 of the Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre on the Internal Control Framework for effective management applicable to the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre, Ref.Ares(2024)157857-10/01/2024

23 DECISION No GB/2024/3 of the Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre - Revision of DECISION No GB/2023/1 on the ECCC's Financial Rules

24 DECISION No ED/2024/1 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Executive Director on the List of Internal Control Framework (ICF) Indicators

3.2 Assessment result

Internal control strengths and deficiencies

The identification of the internal control strengths and deficiencies was performed by analysing several sources:

Self-assessment by the ECCC

The self-assessment resulted in 65.45% of internal control monitoring indicators achieved or partially achieved in 2024.

The relative low number is due to the fact that the indicators were only introduced in late 2024 and for many of them no results were available by the end of the reporting period.

Internal control monitoring indicators	2024	Percentage
Achieved	26	47.27%
Not achieved	4	7.27%
Partially achieved	10	18.18%
Not available	15	27.27%
Total numbers of indicators	55	100%

The results are justified by the phase of the implementation of the ECCC, which achieved its financial autonomy on 24 September 2024. Most of the efforts in 2024 were focused on this objective and included operational and support activities. The ECCC had to fulfil all the necessary activities, roles and functions with limited resources, which implied a clear prioritization of the things to be achieved.

Based on the Internal Control Monitoring Criteria, the Internal Control strengths and weaknesses were identified.

The table below highlights the main strengths and deficiencies/ actions to address them.

Assessment of ICF components

ICF components	Strengths	Actions to address deficiencies
I Control environment	Management sets the "tone at the top" and encourages staff to follow ethics training and compulsory "refresh" training. Internal control monitoring criteria (indicators) have been defined, together with their respective targets. Objectives are set for the most significant activities, and they are monitored. The Financial circuits ensure segregation of duties and respect of the "4-eyes" principle.	Revision of training Plan Establishing a procedure for the oversight responsibility management Establishing a procedure/ decision for Delegation from AO to AOD of the powers for the budget implementation Fine tuning of the job descriptions and individual objectives in Sysper for staff Establishing Mission statements specified for each unit.
II Risk assessment	Appointment of ECCC Accounting Officer Completion of the ECCC Anti-Fraud Strategy and its Action Plan, in line with the risks identified through the Fraud Risk Assessment.	Adoption of methodology for risk assessment (in line with the Risk Management Strategy) – this wasn't developed due to the limited time between financial autonomy and reporting period.
III Control activities	The ECCC's IT Officer keeps an inventory of the IT assets.	Enhanced risk management Finalization of the Internal Control Strategy – this wasn't fully implemented due to the limited time between financial autonomy and reporting period. IT risk assessment for 2025 and draft an IT strategy
IV Information and communication	Definition and implementation of an external communication strategy and its implementation plan. Design of the whistleblowing process and preparation of the Guidelines on Whistleblowing.	Draft a crisis communication strategy for the ECCC.
V Monitoring activities	Regular monitoring of non-conformities and follow-up.	Monitor participation/ attendance at ethics and integrity capabilities/ training session.

Weaknesses spontaneously reported by staff

There were no weaknesses spontaneously reported by staff.

Exceptions and non-compliance events

In 2024, there were 3 non-compliance events, and 2 exceptions registered. Out of these, 1 non-compliance event and 1 exception were registered after the ECCC's financial autonomy (24.09.2024).

For all the non-compliance events and the exceptions, the root cause analysis was performed, and corrections and corrective actions were defined and implemented.

Ongoing monitoring of the implementation of control and anti-fraud strategies

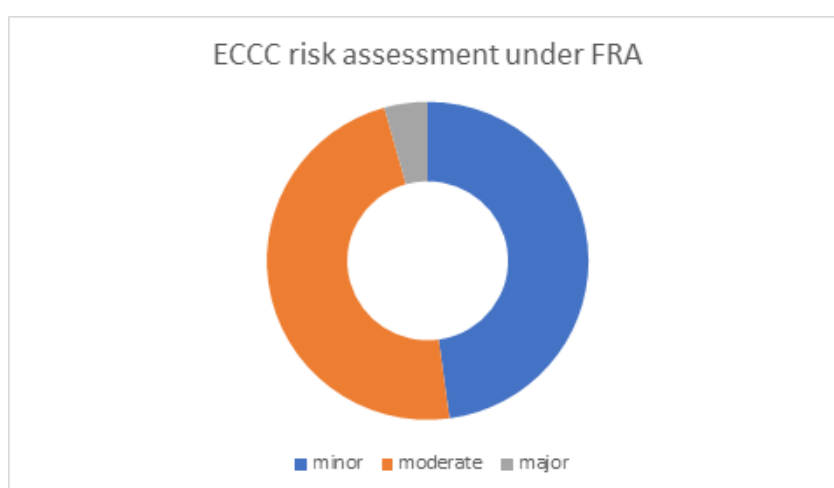
The ECCC's Anti-Fraud Strategy 2024-2026 and the related Action Plan were approved by the ECCC Governing Board on 27.06.2024. The Anti-fraud strategy 2024-2026 was drafted following completion of a dedicated Fraud Risk Assessment.

Following the Fraud Risk Assessment, 1 major deficiency, 17 moderate deficiencies and 5 minor deficiencies were identified, leading to a total of 23 internal control deficiencies related to the fraud risk.

The methodology for the Fraud Risk Assessment (FRA) involved all sectors in the ECCC and entailed the following steps:

- Identifying the team that coordinated the FRA (Core Team).
- Identifying the relevant functions that took part in the FRA (e.g. Activity Coordinators – Senior Programme Officers, Senior Policy Officer, Finance and Budget Officer, IT Officer/ LISO, Legal Officer, HR staff, Data Protection Officer).
- Appointment of the Core Team, of the FRA participants (Activity Coordinators) and definition of the timeline of the process.
- Kick-off meeting (including a hands-on training on FRA).
- Analysis of the potential fraud risks that could be applicable to the ECCC.
- Analysing the information that was already at the disposal of the ECCC including audit reports from external auditors (ECA, OLAF, IAS), materials from OLAF (e.g. final case reports, OLAF casebooks, and training material, strategic analysis reports), experience from other agencies and so on.
- Identifying potential risks through a list of guiding questions taken from the OLAF's draft Methodology and guidance for the antifraud strategies of EU decentralised agencies and Joint Undertakings. The list of guiding questions has been sent to the Activity Coordinators, for their comments and feedback.
- Identifying potential risks, together with their potential risk owners, from a list with examples provided in the OLAF's draft methodology and from the results of the point above.
- Identifying the controls that are already in place for each risk (if any) and estimating the residual level of risk.

- For the fraud risks with a residual level that is relevant, performed the Risk Assessment. The scores for the likelihood and impact have been provided in written by the participants in the FRA, to the Core Team, and have been discussed in a dedicated meeting.
- Ranking of fraud risks, based on the Total Risk Level (TRL).
- Decide the risks response options (Reduce, Transfer, Avoid, or Accept).
- Defining controls/ actions for addressing the fraud risks.



The Action Plan related to the Anti-Fraud Strategy was implemented as follows:

- Total actions: 23
- Completed actions: 11
- On-going actions: 1
- Not-started actions: 9
- Not applicable (no cases): 2

Audit conclusions, findings and recommendations

The ECCC reached its financial autonomy on 24.09.2024. There were no audits completed in 2024 for the ECCC.

Overall, the results of the 2024 assessment show that ECCC's internal control system is present, functioning and effective, although some improvements are needed (category 2).

I. CONTROL ENVIRONMENT

The control environment component comprises a set of standards of conduct, processes, and structures that provide the basis for carrying out internal control activities across an organization.

At the management level, the overall tone regarding the importance of internal controls, including expected standards of conduct, is set by the parent DG CNECT-European Commission, Governing Board, the Executive Director, and the rest of the top management.

The control environment component of the ICF is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (Category 2).

ECCC initiated its commitment to integrity and ethical values, in particular by highlighting the importance of the ethics training and identification of a compulsory “refresher” training.

On short term, ECCC is planning to establish a procedure for the oversight responsibility management (regular reviews by senior management to be framed) and procedure/ decision for Delegation from AO to AOD of the powers for the budget implementation.

Principle	Assessment
1. Demonstrates commitment to integrity and ethical values	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
2. Exercises oversight responsibility	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).
3. Establishes structure, authority and responsibility	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).
4. Demonstrates commitment to competence	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).
5. Enforces accountability	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).

II. RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is a dynamic and iterative process for identifying and assessing risks that could affect the achievement of objectives and for determining how such risks should be managed.

The risk assessment component of the ICF is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (Category 2).

In 2024, the ECCC has performed a targeted Fraud Risk Assessment, in view of drafting its Anti-Fraud Strategy and the associated Action Plan, which identifies 23 actions.

The implementation of the actions from the Anti-Fraud Action Plan will additionally strengthen internal controls in 2025.

The ECCC has taken part, as on Observer, to the EUAN Peer review risk assessment exercise.

In March 2024, the ECCC underwent important changes related to its leadership positions, particularly a change of Executive Director, from the interim DG CNECT ED to its official ECCC Executive Director and initiation of an ECCC stable Organigramme.

A point worth to be mentioned is the staff turnover, which in 2024 was 14,81% (4 staff members left, from a total of 31 total staff).

The Risk assessment was not fully performed due to the limited time between financial autonomy and reporting period.

In 2025, substantial efforts will be dedicated to performing an overall risk assessment for the ECCC, identifying the sensitive functions, integrating the IT risks based on a defined procedure aiming to draft its Risk Management Strategy.

Principle	Assessment
6. Specifies suitable objectives	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
7. Identifies and analyses risk	The principle is partially present and functioning; major improvements are needed (category 3).
8. Assesses fraud risk	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
9. Identifies and analyses significant changes	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).

III. CONTROL ACTIVITIES

Control activities ensure the mitigation of risks related to the achievement of policies, operational and internal control objectives. They are performed at all levels of the

organization, at various stages of business processes, and across the technology environment.

They may be preventive or detective, and they encompass a range of manual and automated activities, as well as segregation of duties. The control activities component of the ICF is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (Category 2).

This is largely due to the deficiencies that were identified as linked to the improvement in IT controls by drafting the IT strategy and establishment of an IT governance. the missing procedure on reporting the non-compliance events together with appropriate workflows and lack of a procedure on the business continuity.

ECCC started working on the internal control strategy, which will include a list of the main control activities and processes, as well as their owners, to be finalized by end 2025.

Principle	Assessment
10. Selects and develops control activities	The principle is partially present and functioning, major improvements are needed (category 3).
11. Selects and develops general control over technology	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).
12. Deploys through policies and procedures	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).

IV. Information and communication

Information delivered by means of internal and external communication is necessary for any organisation to carry out internal control activities and to support the achievement of objectives.

Internal communication provides staff with the information it needs to achieve its objectives and to carry out day-to-day controls, while external communication provides the public and stakeholders with information on the ECCC's policy objectives and actions. The information and communication component is present and functioning well (Category 1).

The ECCC's information and communication activities follow procedures that support the achievement of broader organizational objectives. In 2024, ECCC started to strengthen its controls on information management by adopting guidelines on public access to documents and will initiate the crisis communication strategy for the ECCC (target date: end 2025).

Principle	Assessment
13. Uses relevant information	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
14. Communicates internally	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
15. Communicates externally	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).

V. Monitoring activities

ECCC engages in continuous and specific assessments to ascertain whether each of the five ICF components is present and functioning. Continuous assessments, built into processes at different levels of the organization, provide timely information on any possible deficiencies.

ECCC regularly assesses all findings and promptly communicates and corrects deficiencies found.

The monitoring activities component is present and functioning well (Category 1). ECCC strengthened the monitoring and assessment of its internal controls which are based

on input from reporting activities, external audits, analysis of exceptions and non-compliance events, internal risk register, implementation of the anti-fraud strategy.

Principle	Assessment
16. Conducts ongoing and/or separate assessments	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
17. Assesses and communicates deficiencies	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).

The improvement measures have already started in 2024 and will be implemented in 2025 and beyond considering the ICF implementation planning deadlines. Progress will be monitored as part of the monitoring cycle.

Overall, in light with the results of the assessment, we can consider that the incipient ECCC’s controls system as a whole works as planned and adequately mitigates the main risks to the achievement of ECCC’s objectives.

Some moderate improvements are needed as mentioned above.

The monitoring of the functioning of ICF is continuous throughout the year (via specific assessment on parts of internal control which are riskier) and potential internal control deficiencies are discussed at the Management level.

In conclusion, management has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and work as intended.

3.2 Conclusions of assessment of internal control systems

The ECCC conducted its first annual assessment of the Centre’s Internal Control Framework for the period following its financial autonomy, based on the information available at the moment of the assessment. The ECCC is aware that additional relevant information should be used, as it becomes available (e.g. legality and regularity/ error rates, efficiency - time to grant, time to inform, time to pay, economy - cost of controls). Next year’s assessment will take this into account, after a complete year of operation of the ECCC.

The conclusion of the assessment for 2024 is that the ECCC is compliant with its Internal Control Framework. However, some deficiencies have been identified (as described above), and some areas for improvement. These deficiencies are justified by the maturity level of the organization (which achieved its financial autonomy on 24 September 2024 and operated independently for only three months in 2024), by the need to focus on achieving its autonomy and by the limited resources of the Centre, which required prioritization.

With regards to addressing the deficiencies and implementing the potential improvements identified in this exercise, a consolidated list of actions was established corresponding to each internal control principle (described above), which will be monitored throughout the year 2025.

3.3 Statement of the Internal Control Coordinator

Statement of the Internal Control Coordinator in charge of risk management and internal control

I, the undersigned,

Sorin Cursaru,

in my capacity as Internal Control Coordinator, in charge of risk management and internal control, declare that in accordance with the internal control framework adopted by the Governing Board of ECCC, I have reported my advice and recommendations on the overall state of internal control in the EU body to the Executive Director.

I hereby certify that the information provided in the present Consolidated Annual Activity Report and in its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Bucharest, 16.06.2025

(e-signed)

Sorin Cursaru

Internal Control Coordinator

PART IV. MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE

4.1 REVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ASSURANCE

The declaration of assurance, provided by the authorising officer, is mainly based on the following three pillars:

- Regular monitoring of the KPIs set for operational, administrative and financial tasks through the formal periodical management reporting,
- Effectiveness of the internal controls and processes to detect weaknesses and to identify areas for improvement,
- Assessment and reports from independent bodies (external evaluators, financial auditors (the ECA, complemented by a private audit firm), internal auditors (the IAS), etc.). As highlighted in the previous sections, by the operational, administrative and financial KPIs, and by the positive opinion of the ECA on the reliability of the provisional accounts and on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the provisional accounts, and as no critical risks have been formulated by the IAS, management has sufficient assurance that the ECCC is adequately managed so as to safeguard its financial resources and to pursue the tasks which it was entrusted with.

4.2 RESERVATIONS

Considering the results of the 2024 annual audit performed by the ECA and of the IAS Risk assessment, the 2024 results of the internal controls (ex post controls, review of the register of exceptions, the internal control framework assessment) and the 2024 results of the key financial and operational indicators, the authorising officer can conclude that the ECCC has operated in 2024 in such a way as to manage appropriately the risks.

In addition, the authorising officer has reasonable assurance that the allocated resources were used for their intended purpose, in compliance with the legal framework and in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

PART V. DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

I, the undersigned, Executive Director²⁵ of ECCC, in my capacity as authorising officer,

- Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view.*
- State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.*

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment and ex-post controls.

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the agency.

Bucharest, 16/06/2025

(e-signed)

Luca Tagliaretti

Executive Director

25 Mr. Luca Tagliaretti is the Executive Director of ECCC since 1 February 2024. Only since September 2024 the ECCC has the operational capacity to implement its own budget (Article 46 of ECCC founding Regulation (EU) 2021/887).

ANNEXES

ANNEX I. CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS

The Centre adopted in March 2023 its first strategic agenda for EU investment in cybersecurity, signed many new grants during 2024 and has just published a new call for proposals, which will be followed by other calls for more grants and joint procurements in 2025.

Member States and countries associated to the ECCC have set up their National Coordination Centres, in most cases supported by EU funding, which significantly increased their activity throughout 2023. In 2024 many NCCs applied again to top up their resources in the new call dedicated to NCCs. They have also structured cooperation amongst themselves through the Network of NCCs, which started to meet regularly in 2023 and continued to meet in 2024. The ECCC working groups (WGs) structure has been updated during 2024.

The Governing Board formally met 3 times in 2024 and held one more Ad-Hoc meeting in November 2024. The ECCC GB continue to provide strategic guidance to the ECCC and adopted decisions necessary for the ECCC to operate.

ANNEX II. STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

STATISTICS ON BUDGET MANAGEMENT

1. Budget Outturn Report

The 2024 outturn as calculated amounts to EUR 23 449 059. The details are presented in the table below:

in EUR	2024
Received revenue (from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024)	124.955.615
of which:	
EU Contribution – Administrative	1.330.722
EU contribution - Operational	123.624.893
Paid expenditure (from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024) (-)	-83.308.585
of which:	
Title 1 - Staff expenditure (-)	-573.079
Title 2 – Building, IT and other administrative expenditure (-)	-297.843
Title 3 - Operational expenditure (-)	-82.437.663
Carry-over of appropriations at year-end (-)	-18.283.430
of which:	
Title 1 - Staff expenditure (-)	-234.885
Title 2 – Building, IT and other administrative expenditure (-)	-802.236
Title 3 - Operational expenditure (-)	-17.246.309
Cancellation of appropriations carried over from year N-1 (+)	85.849
Exchange rate differences (+/-)	-390
Budget result	23.449.059

2. Unused appropriations

The unused appropriations (C1 fund source) 31 December 2024 are:

- For commitment appropriations: EUR 29.606.688,98 (out of which EUR 29.255.819,59 are attributed to Horizon Europe appropriations); and
- For Payment appropriations: EUR 18.283.430,08 (out of which EUR 14.098.043,92 are attributed to DEP and EUR 3.148.265,00 to Horizon Europe appropriations).

The amount of unused appropriations is related to the degree of budget implementation in the first period of ECCC's financial autonomy.

According to Article 12 of ECCC's Financial Rules, the cancelled appropriations may be entered into in the estimates of revenue and expenditure up to the following three financial years. Those appropriations must be used first.

3. Implementation of budget expenditure

3.1. Current year appropriations - C1 fund source

ECCC's budget implementation from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024 - C1 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	Commitment Appr.	Committed	in %	Non-committed	Payment Appr.	Paid	in %	Non-paid
		1	2	= (2) / (1)	= (1) - (2)	3	4	= (4) / (3)	= (3) - (4)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	293	227	77,5%	66	293	219	74,7%	74
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	326	311	95,4%	15	326	311	95,4%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	27	27	100,0%	-	27	12	44,4%	15
1151	Recruitment	42	25	59,5%	18	42	-	0,0%	42
1161	Trainings	20	-	0,0%	20	20	-	0,0%	20
1171	Mission expenses	78	40	51,3%	38	78	28	35,9%	50
1181	Social welfare	20	5	25,0%	15	20	3	15,0%	17
1182	Medical service and expenses	1	-	0,0%	1	1	-	0,0%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	807	635	78,7%	173	807	573	71,0%	234

2111	Rental of building and associated costs	33	33	100,0%	-	33	13	39,4%	20
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	682	567	83,1%	115	682	127	18,6%	555
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	2	-	0,0%	2	2	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	251	236	94,0%	15	251	151	60,2%	100
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	36	1	2,8%	35	36	-	0,0%	36
2161	Technical meetings	15	15	100,0%	-	15	-	0,0%	15
2162	Statutory meetings	29	19	65,5%	10	29	7	24,1%	22
2171	Studies	53	52	98,1%	1	53	-	0,0%	53
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.101	923	83,8%	178	1.101	298	27,1%	803
3111	Digital Europe Programme	214.852	214.852	100,0%	-	82.780	68.682	83,0%	14.098
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	96.495	67.239	69,7%	29.256	16.904	13.756	81,4%	3.148
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	311.347	282.091	90,6%	29.256	99.684	82.438	82,7%	17.246
Total budget		313.255	283.649	90,5%	29.607	101.592	83.309	82,0%	18.283

ECCC's commitment implementation for the 2024 financial year - C1 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	2024 commitment appropriations	Transfers, commitment appropriations	Total commitment appropriations in 2024	Committed before Autonomy - CNECT	Committed after autonomy - ECCC	Total committed in 2024	% Committed	Non-committed
		(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) + (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4) + (5)	= (6) / (3)	= (3) - (6)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	890	11	901	608	227	835	92,7%	66
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	500	896	1.396	1.070	311	1.381	92,7%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	100	(65)	36	8	27	35	92,7%	1
1141	Insurance against sickness, etc.	60	(60)	-	-	-	-	92,7%	-
1151	Recruitment	15	29	44	1	25	26	92,7%	18
1161	Trainings	140	(120)	20	-	-	-	92,7%	20
1171	Mission expenses	80	79	159	81	40	121	92,7%	38
1181	Social welfare	30	(10)	20	-	5	5	92,7%	15
1182	Medical service and expenses	12	(11)	1	-	-	-	92,7%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	1.827	749	2.577	1.768	635	2.403	92,7%	174

2111	Rental of building and associated costs	290	(256)	34	1	33	34	100,0%	-
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	290	442	732	50	567	617	84,3%	115
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	218	(216)	2	-	-	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	103	207	310	60	236	296	95,5%	14
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	150	(91)	59	23	1	24	40,7%	35
2161	Technical meetings	52	(37)	15	-	15	15	100,0%	-
2162	Statutory meetings	50	18	68	39	19	58	85,3%	10
2171	Studies	120	(67)	53	-	52	52	98,1%	1
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.273	-	1.273	173	923	1.096	86,1%	177
3111	Digital Europe Programme	215.731	(749)	214.982	130	214.852	214.982	100,0%	-
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	96.495	-	96.495	-	67.239	67.239	69,7%	29.256
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	312.226	(749)	311.477	130	282.091	282.221	90,6%	29.256
Total budget		315.326	-	315.327	2.071	283.649	285.720	90,6%	29.607

ECCC's payment implementation for the 2024 financial year - CI fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	2024 payment appropriations	Transfers, payment appropriations	Total payment appropriations in 2024	Paid before Autonomy - CNECT	Paid after autonomy - ECCC	Total paid in 2024	% paid	Unpaid
		(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) + (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4) + (5)	= (6) / (3)	= (3) - (6)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	890	11	901	608	219	827	91,8%	74
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	500	896	1.396	1.070	311	1.381	98,9%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	100	(65)	35	9	12	21	60,0%	14
1141	Insurance against sickness, etc.	60	(60)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1151	Recruitment	15	29	44	1	-	1	2,3%	43
1161	Trainings	140	(120)	20	-	-	-	0,0%	20
1171	Mission expenses	80	79	159	81	28	109	68,6%	50
1181	Social welfare	30	(10)	20	-	3	3	15,0%	17
1182	Medical service and expenses	12	(11)	1	-	-	-	0,0%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	1.827	749	2.576	1.769	573	2.342	90,9%	234

2111	Rental of building and associated costs	290	(256)	34	1	13	14	41,2%	20
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	290	442	732	50	127	177	24,2%	555
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	218	(216)	2	-	-	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	103	207	310	60	151	210	67,7%	100
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	150	(91)	59	23	-	23	39,0%	36
2161	Technical meetings	52	(37)	15	-	-	-	0,0%	15
2162	Statutory meetings	50	18	68	39	7	46	67,6%	22
2171	Studies	120	(67)	53	-	-	-	0,0%	53
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.273	-	1.273	173	298	470	36,9%	803
3111	Digital Europe Programme	155.753	(749)	155.004	72.224	68.682	140.906	90,9%	14.098
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	16.904	-	16.904	-	13.756	13.756	81,4%	3.148
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	172.657	(749)	171.908	72.224	82.438	154.662	90,0%	17.246
Total budget		175.757	-	175.757	74.166	83.309	157.474	89,6%	18.283

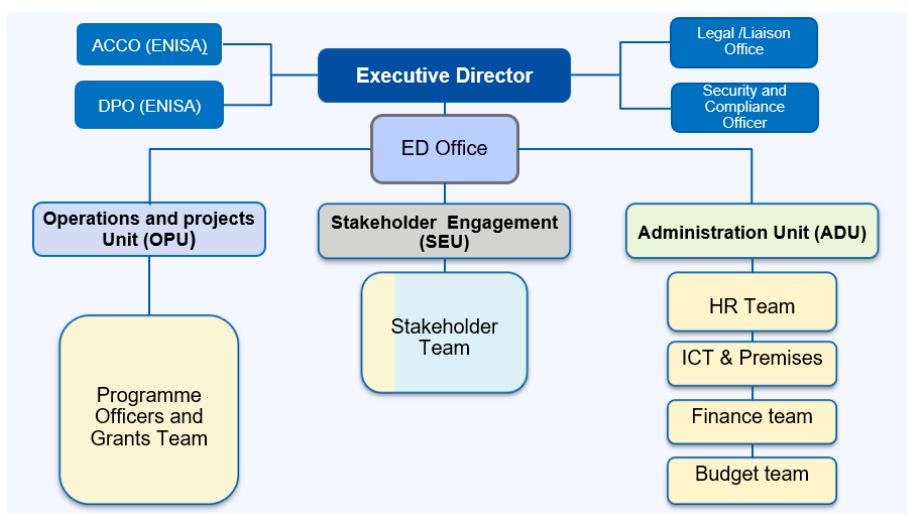
3.2. Previous year appropriations – C8 fund source

4. ECCC's budget implementation from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024 - C8 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	Commitment appropriations carried over	Committed	% Committed	Non-used in 2024	Payment appropriations carried forward	Paid	% Paid	Unpaid
		(1)	(2)	= (2) / (1)	= (1) - (2)	(3)	(4)	= (4) / (3)	= (3) - (4)
1171	Mission expenses	13	-	0,0%	13	13	-	0,0%	13
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	13	-	0,0%	13	13	-	0,0%	13
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	144	144	100,0%	-	144	144	100,0%	-
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	1	-	0,0%	1	1	-	0,0%	1
2141	Current administrative expenditure	113	45	39,8%	68	113	45	39,8%	68
2162	Statutory meetings	4	-	0,0%	4	4	-	0,0%	4
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	262	189	72,1%	73	262	189	72,1%	73
3111	Digital Europe Programme	242.343	242.343	100,0%	-	-	-	-	-
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	242.343	242.343	100,0%	-	-	-	-	-
Total budget		242.618	242.532	100,0%	86	275	189	68,7%	86

ANNEX III. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

An organisation chart has been proposed by the ED to ECCC GB in June 2024²⁶ and is presented here below.



ANNEX IV. ESTABLISHMENT PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

ECCC Establishment Plan 2024

The 2024 establishment plan included 10 TA posts.

Temporary Agents

Function group and grade	Establishment plan 2024	Posts filled 31.12.2024	Posts vacant
AD 16			
AD 15			
AD 14	1	1	
AD 13			
AD 12	2		2
AD 11	2		2
AD 10			
AD 9			
AD 8	3	3	
AD 7	2	2	
AD 6			
AD 5			
AD TOTAL	10	6	4

Contract Agents and Seconded National Experts

Function group and grade	Authorised budget 2024	Headcount 31.12.2024	Vacant
FGIV	21	16	5
FGIII	2	2	0
FGII	4	3	1
TOTAL	27	21	6
Seconded national experts	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2024	Executed FTE as of 31/12/2024	Headcount as of 31/12/2024
TOTAL	1	0	0

²⁶ Valid till Q1/2025.

ECCC benchmarking exercise

JOB TYPE CATEGORY	2024 (JOBS)	2024 (%)
Administrative support and Coordination	8	29.6%
Administrative support	5	18.5%
Coordination	3	11.1%
Operational	12	44.4%
Programme management and Implementation	10	37%
Top level Operational Coordination	-	-
General Operational	2	7.4%
Neutral	7	25.9%
Finance / Control	7	25.9%
Linguistics	0	0%

ANNEX V. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY ACTIVITY

Multi-annual staff policy plan 2025, 2026, 2027

Function group and grade	2023				2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Authorised Budget		Actually filled as of 31/12/2023		Authorised Budget		Envisaged		Envisaged		Envisaged	
	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts
AD 16												
AD 15												
AD 14		1		0		1		1		1		1
AD 13												1
AD 12		2		0		2		2		2		2
AD 11		2		0		2		2		2		1
AD 10												
AD 9										1		2
AD 8		3		3		3		3		3		3
AD 7		2		2		2		2		1		
AD 6												
AD 5												
AD TOTAL		10		5		10		10		10		10
AST 11												
AST 10												
AST 9												
AST 8												
AST 7												
AST 6												
AST 5												
AST 4												
AST 3												
AST 2												
AST 1												
AST TOTAL		0		0		0		0		0		0
AST/SC 6												
AST/SC 5												
AST/SC 4												
AST/SC 3												
AST/SC 2												
AST/SC 1												
AST/SC TOTAL		0		0		0		0		0		0
TOTAL		10		5		10		10		10		10
GRAND TOTAL		10		5		10		10		10		10

- External personnel

Contract Agents*

Contract agents	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2023	Executed FTE as of 31/12/2023	Headcount as of 31/12/2023	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2024	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2025	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2026	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2027
Function Group IV	21	18	18	21	23	23	23
Function Group III	2	2	2	2	4	4	4
Function Group II	4	2	2	4	0	0	0
Function Group I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	22	22	27	27	27	27

*For Contract Agents, for the years 2025-2027, while the total number is the same, the

function groups were revised and updated upwards, given the current context of the ECCC, its staffing and attraction challenges.

Seconded National Experts

Seconded National Experts	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2023	Executed FTE as of 31/12/2023	Headcount as of 31/12/2023	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2024	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2025	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2026	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2027
TOTAL	1	0	0	1	1	1	1

ECCC's commitment implementation for the 2024 financial year - C1 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	2024 commitment appropriations	Transfers, commitment appropriations	Total commitment appropriations in 2024	Committed before Autonomy - CNECT	Committed after autonomy - ECCC	Total committed in 2024	% Committed	Non-committed
		(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) + (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4) + (5)	= (6) / (3)	= (3) - (6)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	890	11	901	608	227	835	92,7%	66
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	500	896	1.396	1.070	311	1.381	92,7%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	100	(65)	36	8	27	35	92,7%	1
1141	Insurance against sickness, etc.	60	(60)	-	-	-	-	92,7%	-
1151	Recruitment	15	29	44	1	25	26	92,7%	18
1161	Trainings	140	(120)	20	-	-	-	92,7%	20
1171	Mission expenses	80	79	159	81	40	121	92,7%	38
1181	Social welfare	30	(10)	20	-	5	5	92,7%	15
1182	Medical service and expenses	12	(11)	1	-	-	-	92,7%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	1.827	749	2.577	1.768	635	2.403	92,7%	174
2111	Rental of building and associated costs	290	(256)	34	1	33	34	100,0%	-
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	290	442	732	50	567	617	84,3%	115
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	218	(216)	2	-	-	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	103	207	310	60	236	296	95,5%	14
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	150	(91)	59	23	1	24	40,7%	35
2161	Technical meetings	52	(37)	15	-	15	15	100,0%	-
2162	Statutory meetings	50	18	68	39	19	58	85,3%	10
2171	Studies	120	(67)	53	-	52	52	98,1%	1
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.273	-	1.273	173	923	1.096	86,1%	177
3111	Digital Europe Programme	215.731	(749)	214.982	130	214.852	214.982	100,0%	-
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	96.495	-	96.495	-	67.239	67.239	69,7%	29.256
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	312.226	(749)	311.477	130	282.091	282.221	90,6%	29.256
Total budget		315.326	-	315.327	2.071	283.649	285.720	90,6%	29.607

ECCC's payment implementation for the 2024 financial year - CI fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	2024 payment appropriations	Transfers, payment appropriations	Total payment appropriations in 2024	Paid before Autonomy - CNECT	Paid after autonomy - ECCC	Total paid in 2024	% paid	Unpaid
		(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) + (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4) + (5)	= (6) / (3)	= (3) - (6)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	890	11	901	608	219	827	91,8%	74
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	500	896	1.396	1.070	311	1.381	98,9%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	100	(65)	35	9	12	21	60,0%	14
1141	Insurance against sickness, etc.	60	(60)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1151	Recruitment	15	29	44	1	-	1	2,3%	43
1161	Trainings	140	(120)	20	-	-	-	0,0%	20
1171	Mission expenses	80	79	159	81	28	109	68,6%	50
1181	Social welfare	30	(10)	20	-	3	3	15,0%	17
1182	Medical service and expenses	12	(11)	1	-	-	-	0,0%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	1.827	749	2.576	1.769	573	2.342	90,9%	234
2111	Rental of building and associated costs	290	(256)	34	1	13	14	41,2%	20
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	290	442	732	50	127	177	24,2%	555
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	218	(216)	2	-	-	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	103	207	310	60	151	210	67,7%	100
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	150	(91)	59	23	-	23	39,0%	36
2161	Technical meetings	52	(37)	15	-	-	-	0,0%	15
2162	Statutory meetings	50	18	68	39	7	46	67,6%	22
2171	Studies	120	(67)	53	-	-	-	0,0%	53
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.273	-	1.273	173	298	470	36,9%	803
3111	Digital Europe Programme	155.753	(749)	155.004	72.224	68.682	140.906	90,9%	14.098
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	16.904	-	16.904	-	13.756	13.756	81,4%	3.148
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	172.657	(749)	171.908	72.224	82.438	154.662	90,0%	17.246
Total budget		175.757	-	175.757	74.166	83.309	157.474	89,6%	18.283

ANNEX VI. CONTRIBUTION, GRANT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

The ECCC does not receive any form of grant.

A Contribution Agreement, related to Horizon Europe Programme, has been signed for 2024.

Service-level agreement	Actual or expected date of signature	Total amount (EUR)	Duration	Counter-part	Short description
DG DIGIT	Signed	98.425,15	1 year (automatic renewal)	DIGIT	Global SLA for the provision of IT services
DG HR	signed	143.834,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	HR	SLA where DG HR provides implementation and operation of SYSPER and related services to ECCC.
PMO	Signed	12.000,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	PMO	SLA for general assistance and/or provision of applications for which the PMO is system owner
EPSO	Signed	25.000,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	EPSO	SLA providing to ECCC assistance and access to Job opportunities page, reserve lists, EPSO's planning, ex-post controls, 3 rd language testing and organisation of tailor-made selections.

Service-level agreement	Actual or expected date of signature	Total amount (EUR)	Duration	Counter-part	Short description
EUAN (EU Agencies Network)	Signed	1.000,00	Indefinite period of time	SG	SLA to mutualise the costs for the Shared Support Office
ENISA	Signed	54,604.32	1 year (automatic renewal)	ENISA	SLA for the provision of data protection officer services and accounting officer services. In addition, a MoU was signed in 2023 between ENISA and ECCC.
DG BUDG	Signed	128.220,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	DG BUDG	SLA for implementation and usage of ABAC.
e-Procurement +cloud services	Signed	30.000,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	DIGIT	Amendment to SLA for access to eProcurement tool and Cloud service
TESTA MoU	Signed	N/A	1 year (automatic renewal)	DIGIT	MoU for TESTA access/provision
CERT-EU	Signed	11.001,77	Rest of 2024, then yearly automatic renewal	DIGIT	Amendment to SLA for the use of CERT-EU
SG	Signed	19 040,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	SG	SLA for the provision of SG services (Migration to HAN)
CDT	Signed	30.102,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	CDT	Translation services and editing
RTD	Signed	N/A	1 year (automatic renewal)	RTD	eGrants (2024's amount covered by CNECT)
REA - Expert management and services	Signed	N/A	N/A	REA	No need for an SLA as we are under REA's mandate. Support of Expert management and Support services from REA

ANNEX VII. ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

An approach to address the environmental impact of ECCC will be developed after the move of ECCC in its permanent premises.

The ECCC headquarters are in Bucharest. The initial procedure for the selection of the building which was launched in 2021 was inconclusive. The Romanian Government offered a new solution for the temporary premises of the ECCC, available to serve the ECCC's needs from May 2023 and the permanent premises are expected to be available during Q1/2025. The process will follow the specific provisions regarding building projects as indicated in Article 266 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the EU.

ANNEX VIII. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Statement of financial position as at 31.12.2024

in EUR	Note	31.12.2024
I. NON-CURRENT ASSETS		112.895.827
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	Error! Reference source not found.	128.096
<i>Long term pre-financing given for operational grant</i>	Error! Reference source not found.	112.767.731
II. CURRENT ASSETS		139.273.074
<i>Short term pre-financing given for operational grant</i>	Error! Reference source not found.	95.984.092
<i>Exchange receivables and non-exchange recoverable</i>	Error! Reference source not found.	43.288.982
<i>Cash and cash Equivalents</i>	Error! Reference source not found.	0
TOTAL ASSETS (I. + II.)		252.168.901
III. NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		0
IV. CURRENT LIABILITIES		24.569.959
<i>Payables and other liabilities</i>	Error! Reference source not found.	24.333.806

	Error! Reference source not found.	
Accrued charges and deferred income		236.153
TOTAL LIABILITIES (III. + IV.)		24.569.959
V. NET ASSETS		227.598.941
	Error! Reference source not found.	
Contribution from owners		148.483.142
Accumulated surplus/deficit		0
Economic result of the year		79.115.799
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS (III. + IV. + V.)		252.168.901

Statement of financial performance from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024

in EUR	Note	24.09.2024 - 31.12.2024
Revenue		
I. Revenue from non-exchange transactions	Error! Reference source not found.	101.506.556
Recovery of expenses		101.506.556
Other non-exchange revenue		0
II. Revenue from exchange transactions	Error! Reference source not found.Error! Reference source not found.	0
Financial revenue		0
Other exchange revenue		0
III. TOTAL REVENUE (I. + II.)		101.506.556
Expenses		
Operating costs	Error! Reference source not found.	21.346.397
Staff costs	Error! Reference source not found.	561.882
Other expenses	Error! Reference source not found.	482.088
Financial expenses	Error! Reference source not found.	390
IV. TOTAL EXPENSES		22.390.757
ECONOMIC RESULT OF THE YEAR (III. - IV.)		79.115.799

Cash-flow statement from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024

in EUR	2024
Economic result of the year	79.115.799
<u>Operating activities</u>	
Depreciation and amortisation (+)	11.645
(Increase)/Decrease in pre-financing	-208.751.823
(Increase)/Decrease in exchange receivables and non-exchange	-43.288.982
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	24.333.806
Increase/(Decrease) in accrued charges & deferred income	236.154
Increase/(Decrease) in contribution from owners	148.483.142

<u>Investing activities</u>	
(Increase)/Decrease in intangible assets and property, plant, equipment	-139,741
Net Cashflow	0
Net Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	0
Cash and cash equivalents at year-end	0

ANNEX IX. ADDITIONAL DATA ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 27 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Annex IX provides quantitative data on submissions and selections and breakdown by participant type, including SMEs and Member States. For each of the 4 calls launched during 2024 there are 3 tables presenting the type of applicants, the SME participation and also the MS participation.

A. DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06

Applicants' activity type

Topic	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in retained for funding proposals	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC	3	3	3	0	8	2	0	0	1	0	15	5
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-TRANSITIONEUPQC	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	4	2
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCRA	2	0	2	1	11	2	4	3	12	3	31	9
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	2	0	3	2	72	20	8	3	7	5	92	30
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-PQCINDUSTRY	2	2	3	2	23	20	1	1	0	0	29	25
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	14	4	9	6	76	32	18	8	5	3	122	53
TOTAL	23	9	20	11	193	78	31	15	26	11	293	124

SME participation

Topic	Number of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Number of SMEs in retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC	5	978,176.88 €	1	107,002.14 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-TRANSITIONEUPQC	1	325,427.66 €	1	325,427.66 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	64	29,122,175.81 €	20	6,072,076.13 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	42	45,490,260.27 €	20	9,772,511.16 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-PQCINDUSTRY	14	3,735,263.00 €	13	3,456,528.00 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCRA	15	19,599,075.45 €	2	956,366.00 €
TOTAL	141	99,250,379.07 €	57	20,689,911.09 €

Country participation and share of requested EU contribution

Country Group	Country	N. Participations in evaluated proposals	N. Participations in retained for funding proposals	Requested EU contribution in evaluated proposals
Associated Countries	Norway	1	1	300,884.00 €
Associated Countries	Total	1	1	300,884.00 €
EU Member States	Austria	1	1	621,937.50 €
EU Member States	Belgium	24	7	6,249,318.95 €
EU Member States	Bulgaria	5	3	879,908.62 €
EU Member States	Croatia	5	3	6,599,063.97 €
EU Member States	Cyprus	17	8	5,136,336.55 €
EU Member States	Czechia	5	0	1,671,077.85 €
EU Member States	Denmark	2	2	2,551,917.80 €
EU Member States	Estonia	3	1	866,712.04 €
EU Member States	Finland	5	3	1,255,352.09 €
EU Member States	France	16	3	18,054,508.10 €
EU Member States	Germany	22	12	15,954,312.03 €
EU Member States	Greece	34	22	11,269,908.75 €
EU Member States	Ireland	6	1	1,435,021.94 €
EU Member States	Italy	30	18	39,422,041.52 €
EU Member States	Latvia	1	0	152,903.00 €
EU Member States	Lithuania	2	0	281,945.00 €
EU Member States	Luxembourg	8	4	21,578,048.00 €
EU Member States	Malta	1	0	999,915.00 €
EU Member States	Netherlands	8	2	27,264,317.35 €
EU Member States	Poland	7	3	7,293,382.15 €
EU Member States	Portugal	5	2	1,061,065.50 €
EU Member States	Romania	32	17	14,915,808.02 €
EU Member States	Slovakia	7	0	14,430,832.85 €
EU Member States	Slovenia	21	5	9,017,469.95 €
EU Member States	Spain	22	6	21,126,606.87 €
EU Member States	Sweden	3	0	436,025.00 €
EU Member States	Total	292	123	230,525,736.40 €
GRAND TOTAL		293	124	230,826,620.40 €

B. DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06

Applicants' activity type

Topic	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in retained for funding proposals	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	0	0	1	1	0	0	7	6	1	1	9	8
TOTAL	0	0	1	1	0	0	7	6	1	1	9	8

SME participation

Topic	Panel	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of evaluated proposals	Number of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of retained for funding proposals	Number of SMEs in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	9	27,245,568.83 €	0		8	23,245,568.83 €	0
TOTAL		9	27,245,568.83 €	0		8	23,245,568.83 €	0

Country participation and share of requested EU contribution

Country Group	Country	N. Participations in evaluated proposals	N. Participations in retained for funding proposals	Requested EU contribution in retained for funding proposals
EU Member States	Croatia	1	1	3,937,151.13 €
EU Member States	Cyprus	3	3	3,838,345.20 €
EU Member States	Finland	1	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Hungary	1	1	2,002,250.00 €
EU Member States	Netherlands	1	1	4,967,207.50 €
EU Member States	Romania	1	1	3,608,040.00 €
EU Member States	Slovakia	1	1	4,892,575.00 €
EU Member States	Total	9	8	23,245,568.83 €
GRAND TOTAL		9	8	23,245,568.83 €

C. HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01

Applicants' activity type

Topic	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in retained for funding proposals	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	218	16	147	8	575	47	21	1	44	2	1005	74
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	81	8	66	8	178	23	6	1	25	2	356	42
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	187	7	117	4	367	15	8	0	34	0	713	26
TOTAL	486	31	330	20	1120	85	35	2	103	4	2074	142

SME participation

Topic	Panel	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of evaluated proposals	Number of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of retained for funding proposals	Number of SMEs in retained for funding proposals
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	713	294,802,955.00 €	204	78,251,684.00 €	26	10,936,651.25 €	7
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	1005	381,497,899.94 €	328	112,512,063.75 €	74	22,119,202.75 €	26
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	356	122,538,674.27 €	114	37,226,571.18 €	42	15,093,045.10 €	16
TOTAL		2074	798,839,529.21 €	646	227,990,318.93 €	142	48,148,899.10 €	49

Country participation and share of requested EU contribution

Country Group	Country	N. Participations in evaluated proposals	N. Participations in retained for funding proposals	Requested EU contribution in retained for funding proposals
Associated Countries	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	Georgia	2	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	Israel	7	1	504,910.00 €
Associated Countries	Morocco	1	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	Norway	45	1	288,487.50 €
Associated Countries	Serbia	11	1	188,343.75 €
Associated Countries	Tunisia	1	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	Türkiye	26	2	549,337.50 €
Associated Countries	Ukraine	7	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	United Kingdom	92	4	1,771,027.50 €
Associated Countries	Total	194	9	3,302,106.25 €
EU Member States	Austria	50	6	1,991,735.95 €
EU Member States	Belgium	70	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Bulgaria	25	4	1,061,500.00 €
EU Member States	Croatia	8	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Cyprus	72	10	3,854,897.00 €
EU Member States	Czechia	19	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Denmark	7	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Estonia	21	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Finland	27	1	458,736.00 €
EU Member States	France	133	12	4,953,719.44 €
EU Member States	Germany	213	15	6,653,855.78 €
EU Member States	Greece	293	31	11,310,140.19 €
EU Member States	Hungary	17	1	350,875.00 €
EU Member States	Ireland	60	5	1,565,377.50 €
EU Member States	Italy	186	14	3,775,066.58 €
EU Member States	Latvia	2	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Lithuania	4	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Luxembourg	52	1	410,375.00 €
EU Member States	Netherlands	56	3	1,014,052.50 €
EU Member States	Poland	19	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Portugal	74	3	846,701.56 €
EU Member States	Romania	59	5	1,232,687.50 €
EU Member States	Slovakia	5	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Slovenia	20	1	331,849.00 €
EU Member States	Spain	258	14	5,035,223.85 €
EU Member States	Sweden	38	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Total	1788	126	44,846,792.85 €
Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to the MSs	Aruba	1	0	0.00 €
Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to the MSs	Total	1	0	0.00 €
Third countries	Canada	1	0	0.00 €
Third countries	Korea (Republic of)	2	0	0.00 €
Third countries	Switzerland	86	7	0.00 €
Third countries	Thailand	1	0	0.00 €
Third countries	United States	1	0	0.00 €
Third countries	Total	91	7	0.00 €
GRAND TOTAL		2074	142	48,148,899.10 €

D. DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06_cutoff

Applicants' activity type

Topic	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in retained for funding proposals	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	4	3	3	2	4	4	21	17	7	6	39
TOTAL	4	3	3	2	4	4	21	17	7	6	39

SME participation

Topic	Panel	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of evaluated proposals	Number of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	39	57,157,433.14 €	1	107,856.00 €	32	45,248,682.64 €	107,856.00 €
TOTAL		39	57,157,433.14 €	1	107,856.00 €	32	45,248,682.64 €	107,856.00 €

Country participation and share of requested EU contribution

Country Group	Country	N. Participations in evaluated proposals	N. Participations in retained for funding proposals	Requested EU contribution in retained for funding proposals
Associated Countries	Iceland	5	5	1,744,338.08 €
Associated Countries	Norway	3	3	2,499,028.34 €
Associated Countries	Total	8	8	4,243,366.42 €
EU Member States	Belgium	1	1	4,999,784.72 €
EU Member States	Czechia	2	2	2,499,172.25 €
EU Member States	Denmark	2	2	4,985,192.60 €
EU Member States	Estonia	3	3	2,682,019.20 €
EU Member States	Finland	1	1	3,996,270.24 €
EU Member States	France	6	6	5,427,469.00 €
EU Member States	Greece	2	2	3,319,140.00 €
EU Member States	Latvia	5	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Malta	1	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Portugal	3	3	2,425,839.80 €
EU Member States	Romania	1	1	3,608,040.00 €
EU Member States	Slovenia	1	1	2,068,390.25 €
EU Member States	Spain	2	2	4,993,998.16 €
EU Member States	Sweden	1	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Total	31	24	41,005,316.22 €
GRAND TOTAL		39	32	45,248,682.64 €

ANNEX X. LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABAC	Accrual-based accounting
AD	Administrator
AST	Assistant
BOA	Back Office Arrangements
CA	Contract agent
CAAR	Consolidated Annual Activity Report
CERT-EU	Computer Emergency Response Team for the EU institutions, bodies and agencies
CRA	Cyber Resilience Act
CSA	Cybersecurity Act
CSIRT	Computer Security Incident Response Team
CTI	Cyber Threat Intelligence
DEP	Digital Europe Programme
DG CONNECT	EC Directorate
DPO	Data Protection Officer
EC	European Commission
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECCC	European Cybersecurity Competence Centre
ECSC	European Cyber Security Organisation
ED	Executive Director
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIB	European Investment Bank
ENISA	European Union Agency for Cybersecurity
EU	European Union
EUAN	EU Agencies Network
FTE	Full-time equivalent
GB	Governing Board (of the ECCC)
HEP	Horizon Europe Programme
ICT	Information and communication technology
ISAC	Information Sharing and Analysis Centre
IT	Information technology
JCU	Joint Cyber Unit
JU	Joint Undertaking
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MS	Member State(s)
NCCs	National Coordination Centres
NIS	Networks and information systems
NIS CG	NIS Cooperation Group
NLO	National Liaison Officers
SAG	Strategic Advisory Group
SC	Secretary
SLA	Service-level agreement
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPD	Single Programming Document
TA	Temporary agent
TESTA	Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union



ECCC Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2024

Adopted by ECCC GB, decision number 8/2025 of 30/06/2025

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LEGAL NOTICE

This publication presents the annual activity report of the ECCC for 2024. The report is based on the ECCC Single Programming Document (SPD) 2024-2026 and Budget of 2024 as approved by the Governing Board in line with the Decision No GB/2023/8 and consolidated amendments as in Decision No GB/2024/12.

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GOVERNING BOARD'S ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

The Governing Board (GB) of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC) takes note of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) prepared by the ECCC for the year 2024, and submitted for adoption, in accordance with Article 13(3)(d) of the ECCC regulation. The GB provides here below its assessment of the CAAR as required by Article 48(1)(b) of the Framework Financial Regulation¹.

The GB, based on its analysis and assessment of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2024:

- Welcomes that the ECCC reached its financial autonomy in September 2024.
- Acknowledges that the ECCC prepared all necessary processes, including several additional Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and decisions to finalize its set-up and autonomy.
- Acknowledges the signature of the Host Agreement with the Romanian Government in September 2024 and the ratification of the Romanian Parliament early 2025.
- Welcomes the CAAR 2024 report of the ECCC and acknowledges that also during 2024 several activities continued to be delivered by the Commission Services, and a large part of the reporting is part of DG CONNECT reporting.
- Acknowledge the closing of the accounts for the last part of 2024, after the autonomy.
- The GB takes note of the results of the ECCC, and of the activities delivered during 2024:
 - The recruitment of the staff members of the ECCC, including its Executive Director, and the onboarding of the Head of Units early 2025; to reach about 30 staff members.
 - The evaluation of the calls for proposals, the signature of grants and the management of the projects retained for funding under the Digital Europe Programme; the support provided in the evaluation of proposals received under Horizon Europe Programme.
 - The work conducted to have an advance ECCC DEP WP for cybersecurity for 2025-2027.
 - The preparation and approval of programming documents SPD 2025-2027 and Draft SPD 2026-2028 of the ECCC; the amendments of the SPD 2024-2026 to reflect the changes due to reaching financial autonomy.

¹ Framework Financial Regulation (FFR) 715/2019 is implemented by ECCC with Decision No GB/2023/1 of the GB of the ECCC on the ECCC's Financial Rules; this assessment is reflecting also the Annex II of FFR, namely C(2020) 2297 final of 20.04.2020, covering the template for CAAR.

The GB remarks that the turnover of staff is high and the progress made during 2023 and 2024 are influenced by this and the need to re-fill positions as soon as possible.

The GB notes the progress made on the permanent premises in Bucharest during 2024 and acknowledges that the move to the permanent premises would take place during April 2025.

The GB remarks that while not all tasks foreseen in the ECCC 2024 work program were delivered by the end of that year², that there are no critical issues to be reported by the ECCC.

The GB recognizes also for 2024 the instrumental role of the Commission Services, in particular DG CONNECT, in performing and delivering the initial ECCC activities and the development of its operational capacity and facilitating the process to the financial autonomy. The GB thanks the Commission Services and acknowledges the hard work of all Commission staff supporting the ECCC, which made possible the results described in this report.

The GB also welcomes the SLAs and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) prepared and signed until now by the ECCC with the aim to foster synergies and efficiency gains with different departments of the European Commission and with ENISA.

Furthermore, the GB acknowledges that the reporting requirements under Article 27 of the ECCC regulation were covered by the ECCC early this year and in addition the report is also included as an additional dedicated Annex IX in this CAAR.

The ECCC GB, having concluded the above assessment, taking account of the Article 27(3) of the ECCC regulation, and article 48 of FFR regulation, hereby instructs the Secretariat of the GB to finalize the process. Namely, to publish the annual activity report and to submit the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2024, together with this assessment, to the Court of Auditors, to the Commission, to the European Parliament and the Council as soon as possible.

For the Governing Board,
Pascal Steichen

Chairperson of the Government Board
30 June 2025

² The move to the permanent premises which took place early 2025, the set-up of the Strategic Advisory Group and the set-up of the Community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GOVERNING BOARD'S ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
PART I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024	10
1.1 ACHIEVED RESULTS IN ACTIVITY DOMAIN #1	10
1.2 ACHIEVED RESULTS IN ACTIVITY DOMAIN #2	12
1.3 ACHIEVED RESULTS IN ACTIVITY DOMAIN #3	16
1.4 ACHIEVED RESULTS IN ACTIVITY DOMAIN #4	17
PART II. MANAGEMENT	21
2.1. GOVERNING BOARD	21
2.2. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS	21
2.3. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	22
2.4. DELEGATION AND SUB-DELEGATION	22
2.5 HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) MANAGEMENT	22
2.6. STRATEGY FOR EFFICIENCY GAINS	23
2.7 ASSESSMENT OF AUDIT AND EX-POST EVALUATION RESULTS DURING THE REPORTING YEAR	24
2.8A FOLLOW UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLANS FOR AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS	24
2.8B FOLLOW UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS OF OLAF	24
2.9 FOLLOW UP OF OBSERVATIONS FROM DISCHARGE AUTHORITY	24
2.10 ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT	24
2.11. ASSESSMENT BY MANAGEMENT	25
PART III. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS	26
3.1 EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS	26

3.2 ASSESSMENT RESULT	27
Internal control strengths and deficiencies	27
Assessment of ICF components	27
3.2 CONCLUSIONS OF ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS	32
3.3 STATEMENT OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL COORDINATOR	33
PART IV. MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE	34
4.1 REVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ASSURANCE	34
4.2 RESERVATIONS	34
PART V. DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE	35
DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE	35
ANNEXES	36
ANNEX I. CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS	36
ANNEX II. STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	36
ANNEX III. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	41
ANNEX IV. ESTABLISHMENT PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	41
ANNEX V. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY ACTIVITY	42
ANNEX VI. CONTRIBUTION, GRANT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS	44
ANNEX VII. ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT	45
ANNEX VIII. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	45
ANNEX IX. ADDITIONAL DATA ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 27 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	47
ANNEX X. LIST OF ACRONYMS	52

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During September 2024 the ECCC embarked on a new phase in its history: it achieved financial autonomy and signed³ a Headquarter Agreement with the Host Country. This marks the first Annual Activity Report of the ECCC following these significant milestones.

The European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC) and the Network of National Coordination Centres (NCCs) were set up by Regulation (EU) 2021/887⁴ (the 'Founding Regulation') that entered into force on 28 June 2021. It aims in particular to strengthen the capacities of the cybersecurity technology community, better protect our economy and society from cyber incidents, increase excellence in research and innovation, and reinforce the competitiveness of EU cyber industry.

The ECCC⁵ is mandated to design and implement, with the support of relevant stakeholders, a common agenda for the development and growth of the European industrial, technological and research sector in the area of cybersecurity, including SMEs and in areas of public interest. For this purpose, the ECCC implements parts of the Digital Europe⁶ ('DEP') and Horizon Europe⁷ ('HEP') funding programmes. For DEP, the ECCC establishes and implements the work programme while for HEP implements the associated calls and projects without being involved directly in the drafting of the Work Programme. The ECCC aims to create a framework for strategic and coordinated investment in cybersecurity with contributions from the EU level, Member States and relevant cybersecurity constituencies, including industry and academia.

This report reflects the achievements of ECCC during 2024, a year full of event for a new EU body.

Looking back, 2024 marked a year of continued implementation of the operational tasks outlined in the founding Regulation of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC). The Centre also focused on strengthening its administrative and management structures while expanding its human and financial resources. Throughout the year, the ECCC made significant progress across all assigned tasks and successfully delivered on its mandate.

During the first three quarters, many activities were carried out with the support of the Commission Services⁸. However, in September 2024, the ECCC achieved its financial autonomy and signed a Host Agreement with its host country, Romania. This milestone further solidified its establishment and operational independence.

The ECCC continued in 2024 to carry all previous activities, including the implementation of the DEP and HEP work programmes 2021-2022, 2023-2024 as well as the evaluation of the calls for proposals, the signature of grants and the management of the projects retained for funding. The evaluation of calls for proposal

³ The Agreement was finally ratified by the Romanian Parliament in Q1/2025.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/887 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres (OJ L 202, 8.6.2021, p. 1), referred further in the document as founding/ECCC regulation.

⁵ https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/index_en

⁶ Digital Europe Programme established by Reg (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240 (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).

⁷ Horizon Europe Programme established by Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

⁸ Please see article 46 of the ECCC regulation (EU) 2021/887

involved significant workload over the course of 2022, 2023 and 2024⁹. However, in 2024, the ECCC started, in consultation with its GB the preparation¹⁰ of the first ECCC DEP WP for Cybersecurity for 2025-2027.

The Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) of ECCC for 2024 is more comprehensive than the previous CAAR dedicated to reporting the 2022 and 2023 activities of the Centre¹¹, when the activities were led by the European Commission (EC) services¹².

As for the present document, its structure follows the guidelines for Consolidated Annual Activity Report as detailed in C(2020) 2297 final¹³, Annex 2, of the Communication from the Commission on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation (EC) 2018/1046, and on the guidelines¹⁴ for the SPD and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report.

In addition, this report covers the requirements of Article 27 of the ECCC regulation and a more detailed overview of the results to address these requirements is provided in Section 1.2 and in Annex IX.

The main achievements of the ECCC during 2024 include:

- Setting up activities related to achieving financial autonomy, including preparations for recruitments:
 - Signature of the headquarter agreement with host country during September 2024.
 - Progress on premises related activities and agreement with the host country.
 - Continue the recruitment and onboarding of staff members in Bucharest, reaching of 80% of occupancy, including the finalisation of the Head of Operations and Head of Administration selection procedure.
 - Preparation and approval of the ECCC reporting and programming documents: CAAR 2022, SPD for 2024-2026 and draft SPD 2025-2027.
 - Award 2 contracts and initiate relevant Framework contracts for the administrative functioning of the ECCC.¹⁵
- Operational activities, delivering on the core tasks of the ECCC:
 - Preparatory work, consultations, drafting and agreement on the high level allocations with the ECCC GB for the first ECCC Cybersecurity DEP WP 2025-2027 that was finally adopted in March 2025.
 - Preparing the implementation of DEP, launching the relevant calls for proposals, calls for expressions of interest and joint procurements, evaluating the proposals received and signing grants agreement on several DEP topics.
 - Supporting the evaluation of proposals received under HE.
 - Running and monitoring projects under DEP and HEP.
- Strategic activities to empower the community and operationalize NCCs network.

⁹ Several evaluations took place, followed by the preparation and signature of the grant agreements. By now, many projects are already ongoing. Until the ECCC reached financial autonomy, EC services continued to act on behalf of the ECCC, contributing with the EC's own resources. This includes preparing DEP and HEP work programmes by EC, although gradually shifting role in launching and evaluating calls for proposals for both programs to ECCC while in parallel managing alongside ECCC the projects selected for funding.

¹⁰ Adopted and published in March 2025.

¹¹ ECCC CAAR 2022 and related GB decision at: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/system/files/2024-01/ECCC%20GB%20Decision%20No%202023_7%20ECCC%20CAAR%202022.pdf

¹² Please see article 46 of the ECCC regulation (EU) 2021/887.

¹³ In pursuance of FR 2018/1046 and FFR No 2019/715, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/715 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies set up under the TFEU and Euratom Treaty and referred to in Article 70 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 122, 10.5.2019, p. 1).

¹⁴ C(2020) 2297 final Annex 1, Annex to the Communication from the Commission on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and on the guidelines for the Single Programming Document and the Consolidated Annual Activity Report

¹⁵ List of procurement contracts awarded in 2024: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/document/778c6667-8260-4312-ade4-4de43600890b_en

- Adoption of the internal Action Plan implementing the Strategic Agenda of the ECCC.
- Results of the several working groups under the GB.
- Organization of 3 networking days for the Network of NCCs.

As can be seen from the bullets above, the ECCC increased its roles and responsibilities during 2024 and undertook many of the tasks foreseen in its founding Regulation. The ECCC, the NCCs and the Community will continue to steadily grow in the near future in view to deliver fully on their mission and objectives regarding cybersecurity investment, innovation and uptake, and thus help make the EU more cyber resilient and prosperous.

The ECCC operates in an evolving landscape of EU cybersecurity policy, including the recently adopted revision of the NIS Directive, the adoption of the Cyber Resilience Act and Cyber Solidarity Act early 2025, policy initiatives such as the Communications on cyber defence, on the Cyber Skills Academy or cybersecurity for hospitals and healthcare providers. The ECCC continues to support and manage the projects funded with the calls for proposals launched in 2022, 2023 and 2024 under HEP and DEP. The ECCC, together with the NCCs and the Community are an important component of this overall effort to enhance cybersecurity capabilities and resilience in the EU.

Luca Tagliaretti
Executive Director

PART I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2024

The first part of this report details the objectives approved in the 2024 Work Programme¹⁶ and presents the achievements of the ECCC during 2024.

The next sections provide a view on the achievements or on the progress in the process of delivering these priorities. The structure of this Part I reflects the structure of the ECCC Work programme 2024, as adopted by the ECCC GB in the SPD 2024-2026 document and covers the achievements of the following activity domains:

- ✓ #1: Legal and operational activities of the ECCC,
- ✓ #2: Implementation of Digital Europe & Horizon Europe Programmes,
- ✓ #3: Adoption of the Agenda, the Multiannual Work Programme and the Annual Work Programme, and
- ✓ #4: Activities related to the NCCs and the Cybersecurity Competence Community.

1.1 Achieved results in ACTIVITY DOMAIN #1

Activity domain “#1: *Legal and operational activities of the ECCC*” is related to Objective #1 of the Multiannual Work Programme: “*Consolidate the legal and operational autonomy of the ECCC*”.

In September 2024 the ECCC become autonomous after successfully delivering the required governance structures, rules, procedures and infrastructure, etc. Another main focus for 2024 was the delivery of the operational activities of the ECCC, in particular implementation of part of DEP (see activity 2 below).

The table below provides an overview of the status of implementation of the section II.4 on Efficiency gains, of the multiannual planning 2024-2026. It should be noted that by the time of drafting of this report, the ECCC moved into its permanent premises.

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024, multiannual section)	Achieved results by end of 2024
Premises/ Infrastructure	Handover of the Permanent Premises of the ECCC in Bucharest	Ongoing. By the end of 2024, construction work on the Permanent Premises had reached an advanced stage, with significant progress on the two floors of the new premises. The substantial completion and handover of both floors are anticipated in Q1 2025.
	Ensure the necessary IT infrastructure for the ECCC operations	Completed. The ECCC's IT infrastructure is now operating independently and currently, the focus is on setting up the non-critical segments, fine-tunings configurations and enhancing cybersecurity.
Governance and management (structure, legal & procedural framework)	Assessment of the ECCC ED further to a probation period.	Completed. The ED took up duties as of 1/02/2024 and passed successfully its probation period. A GB decision on the probation and appraisal of the ECCC ED has been adopted based on Commission's formal agreement (Commissioner's decision adopted by empowerment procedure of the College).
	Adoption of programming documents	Completed. Programming documents were discussed and then adopted by the ECCC GB ¹⁷ (ECCC GB Decision No GB/2024/13 on SPD 2025-2027 and ECCC GB Decision No GB/2025/1on Draft SPD 2026-2028). The GB of ECCC adopted amendments of SPD 2024-2026 to include financial

¹⁶ Part of the ECCC SPD 2024-2026, decisions 2023/8 and amendments decision 2024/12 available at: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/system/files/2024-01/ECCC%20GB%20Decision%20No%202023_8%20ECCC%20Final%20SPD%202024-2026.pdf and at: <https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/system/files/2025-02/GB%20Decision%20%2B%20SPD.pdf>

¹⁷ Please find all ECCC GB decisions at: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/governing-board_en

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024, multiannual section)	Achieved results by end of 2024
		updates related to the autonomy process; consolidated version in ECCC GB Decision No GB/2024/12.) The ECCC with its GB it is at the time of writing this report on advance stage of delivery of DEP WP 2025-2027, covering ECCC funding from Priority 3 of DEP.
	Support the registration of members of the EU Cybersecurity Competence Community	Pending. In the absence of the final form, only pre-registration took place at MS level. Ongoing activities to clarify Data Protection issues.
	Implementation of a public communication and dissemination policy	The ECCC Public Communication and Dissemination Strategy was approved by the Governing Board in June 2024 and subsequently published on the ECCC website. This is a high-level and strategic document referring to the ECCC's objectives, actions, targets, and partners related to its public communication and dissemination activities. The communication and dissemination plan, developed in October 2024, outlines the main activities foreseen until the end of 2025 and is currently being implemented. So far, key communication activities were undertaken to ensure public awareness about the ECCC, its activities and the granting opportunities. The ECCC communication efforts took place at various levels with an overarching goal of communicating on its mission, to raise its visibility and support ECCC's overall objective of promoting research, innovation and deployment in the area of cybersecurity.
	Implementation of the Internal control framework	Completed. The Governing Board of the ECCC adopted the ECCC's Internal Control Framework (ICF) on 6 December 2023 ¹⁸ and the ECCC's revised Financial Rules on 15.04.2024 ¹⁹ . The ICF is a principle-based system consisting of five Internal Control Components (Control environment, Risk Assessment, Control Activities, Information and communication, Monitoring activities) and 17 Internal Control Principles. Its aim is to ensure robust internal controls with the necessary flexibility to adapt to specific characteristics and circumstances of the ECCC. On 15.04.2024, the ICF Implementation Plan was approved by the Executive Director. It is a document that lays down the ECCC's plan to ensure the timely, consistent and effective implementation of this framework. The actions were framed within the PDCA cycle (Plan, Do, Check, Act). The actions within the PDC areas were implemented effectively. The assessment of the ICF was recently concluded, and its results are presented in the present document. Improvement actions were defined, and the implementation has already started.
	Implementation of the Anti-fraud strategy	Completed. The ECCC's Anti-Fraud Strategy, together with its annexes, was adopted in June 2024 through the DECISION No GB/2024/8 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Governing Board on the Anti-Fraud Strategy 2024-2026 of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre. It has been developed in line with OLAF's Methodology and guidance for the anti-fraud strategies of EU decentralised agencies and Joint Undertakings and it followed a stand-alone Fraud Risk Assessment exercise. The associated Action Plan contains several actions that address the identified fraud risks. The implementation of the Action Plan is on-going.
	Implementation of the prevention, identification and resolution of conflicts of interest in respect of its members, bodies and staff, including the ED and the GB members, and SAG members	Completed. This activity is defined by DECISION No GB/2023/4 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre's Governing Board setting out rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest in respect of the staff members of the ECCC and by DECISION No GB/2022/15 of The Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Revision of DECISION No GB/2021/1 on Adopting its Rules of Procedure. The implementation is done through a Register of the potential Conflict of Interest (Col) situations, maintained by the Information and Compliance Officer. There are currently 5 records of potential Col reported by staff (4 from 2024, and 1 from 2025). For all of these, immediate measures were taken, that avoided the actual Col. A very positive point to highlight is the staff awareness of their obligations and their proactiveness in reporting the potential Col.

¹⁸ DECISION No GB/2023/12 of the Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre on the Internal Control Framework for effective management applicable to the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre, Ref.Ares(2024)157857-10/01/2024

¹⁹ DECISION No GB/2024/3 of the Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre - Revision of DECISION No GB/2023/1 on the ECCC's Financial Rules

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024, multiannual section)	Achieved results by end of 2024
	Implementation of the ECCC's Security rules	The ECCC's Security rules were adopted on 27 June 2024, through the DECISION No GB/2024/7 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Governing Board on the Security in the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre. Based on them, Security rules for the protection of Sensitive Non-Classified (SNC) and EU Classified Information (EUCI) have been drafted and were adopted by the GB on 10 October 2024. These decisions are the first steps towards the ECCC being authorized to handle and exchange EUCI with the Commission, Council and Parliament, and a pre-requisite for obtaining the necessary tools. The aim is exercise is that the ECCC is authorised to work with/ exchange R-UE/EU-R information by the end of 2025, and with C-UE/EU-C and S-UE/EU-S by the end of 2026. The timeline is indicative, and it depends on external factors (i.e. availability of the security inspectors) and internal factors (e.g. the resources allocated to the activity – the LSO/ Deputy LSO roles are fulfilled by temporary agents that currently fulfil multiple organisational roles).
Staff	Rules on the secondment of SNEs and the use of trainees	The rules and procedures governing the secondment of Seconded National Experts (SNEs) were drafted, and a proposed Governing Board decision has been prepared to facilitate the approval of these rules in the first quarter of 2025. Regarding traineeships, the Executive Director's Decision establishing the programme and implementing its rules was signed in November 2024, laying the foundation for structured traineeship opportunities within the ECCC.
	Approval of working arrangements between the ECCC and EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (e.g. ENISA, EEAS, JRC, REA, HADEA, Europol, EDA) and international organizations, where relevant	Done. The ECCC is part of the EU Agencies Network (EUAN), sharing know-how and lessons learnt with the colleagues from other EU agencies and bodies. SLAs are signed with: EPSO, HR, PMO, DIGIT, ENISA, CERT-EU and services of EC: BUDG, SG, CDT, RTD. The ECCC has an SLA and a MoU with ENISA and signed several SLAs with other EUIBAs on the path for financial autonomy (see annex VII)
	Continue the adoption of further HR-related legal framework (e.g. implementing rules to the Staff Regulations and to the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the EU)	Following HR related Governing Board decisions were adopted in the year 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ECCC GB Decision No 2024/1 Empowering Chair_ED appraisal ▪ ECCC GB Decision No 2024/2 Working Time and Hybrid Working ▪ ECCC GB Decision No 2024/5 Schooling policy for the education costs for children of ECCC staff members
	Continuing selection and recruitment of more staff members of the ECCC	In 2024, the Centre experienced a staff turnover rate of 14%, with four employees leaving during the year. By the end of 2024, the total number of active staff members had reached 27. To address staffing needs, five selection procedures were launched to create reserve lists for the roles of Programme Officer, Finance Officer, Administrative Assistant, Head of Operations and Head of Administration.
	Management and integration of newly recruited staff, including necessary trainings	The onboarding process involves communication coordinated by HR and the ECCC Secretariat for new employees as they begin their contracts. Newcomers receive necessary training tailored to their specific areas of work.

1.2 Achieved results in ACTIVITY DOMAIN #2

This section covers the activity domain “#2: *Implementation of Digital Europe and Horizon Europe Programmes*”. The activities delivered under this chapter are related to Objective #2 of the Multiannual Work Programme: “*Implement DEP and, where relevant, HEP*”.

The actions under Specific Objective 3 (Cybersecurity and Trust) of the Digital Europe Programme and the actions under Cluster 3 Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025 (Increased Cybersecurity Destination) are implemented primarily through the ECCC. In September 2024 ECCC reached its financial autonomy and it is fully responsible for the relevant programme implementation (launching calls, evaluation of proposals, signature of grants and management of projects awarded under the relevant DEP and HE Work Programmes).

Important actions undertaken in this activity area in 2024 include the following:

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024)	Achieved results by end of 2024
Programme implementation	ECCC implementing DEP calls for WP 2023-2024 (take financing decisions, launch calls, organise evaluations, conclude grant agreements)	<p>ECCC responsibilities for launching calls, organizing evaluations and concluding grant agreements.</p> <p>DIGITAL-ECCC-2023-DEPLOY-CYBER-04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 71 M EURO for 4 Topics - Nr proposals received: 28 - Nr proposals retained for funding: 12 - All grant agreements signed, and all projects started within 2024 <p>DIGITAL-ECCC-2023-DEPLOY-CYBER-06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 84 M EUR for 6 Topics - Nr proposals received: 65 - Nr proposals retained for funding: 22 - All grant agreements signed within 2024 and all projects started (latest start date 01/01/2025) <p>DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 65 M EUR - 1st cut-off date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nr proposals received: 8 o Nr proposals retained for funding: 5 (19,6 M EUR) o All grant agreements signed within 2024 and 4 projects started on 01/01/2025 (1 will start later in the year) - 2nd cut-off date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Deadline for submission 28/11/2024 o Evaluation period: December 2024 – January 2025 o Nr proposals received: 16 o Nr proposals retained for funding: 13 o Results announced: March 2025 o All grant agreements – to be signed by August 2025 <p>DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget: 102,8 M EUR for 6 Topics, plus 32 M EUR for joint procurement - Deadline for submission: 27 March 2025 - Evaluation period: April – May 2025 - Results to be announced: June - July 2025 - All grant agreements - to be signed by November 2025 <p>For the joint procurements the ECCC has launched on its website (deadline 27 March 2025) 2 Calls for Expression of interest. One for the National and one for the Cross-Border Cyber Hubs. For this purpose, a dedicated methodology (including artefacts) for evaluating the calls was defined by ECCC.</p>
	ECCC implementing HE calls for WP 2023-2025 (take financing decisions, launch calls, organise evaluations, conclude grant agreements)	<p>ECCC received in 2024 from EC DG CNECT 13 projects under the call HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 58.7 M EUR for 3 Topics - Total EU contribution for the 13 projects: 61,76 M EUR - All projects started within 2024 (except 1 from reserve list which started 01/01/2025). <p>HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-01</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call budget – 60.4 M EUR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Deadline for submission 20/11/2024 o Evaluation period: December 2024 – February 2025 o Nr proposals received: 152 o Nr proposals retained for funding: 12 o Results announced: March 2025 o All grant agreements will be signed within 2025
	Where necessary, adopting guidelines for proposals and projects, model grant agreement, methodology to calculate MS in-kind contribution	Completed at EC level (not at ECCC level). For both DEP and HE there are already approved MGAs by the EC for 2021-2027 programmes. Pending methodology for in-kind contribution. Postponed due to the status of progress on ECCC operations.
	Identify possible Joint Actions to be supported by contributions from some MS and by EU budget from DEP or HEP.	Pending. Postponed due to the status of progress on ECCC operations.

The ECCC Work Programme is funded from the Digital Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 for Cybersecurity.

The actions contained in the Digital Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 are aimed to build up advanced cybersecurity equipment, tools and data infrastructure. They support the development and best use of European knowledge and skills related to cybersecurity, promote the sharing of best practices and ensure a wide deployment of the state-of-the-art cybersecurity solutions across the European economy to guarantee the resilience, integrity and trustworthiness of the Digital Single Market.

The following tables summarises the ECCC calls and topics, under the Digital Europe Programme, opened in 2024.

TOPIC	Budget	Closing Date	Outcome
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH Novel applications of AI and Other Enabling Technologies for Security Operation Centres	30M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCRA Strengthening cybersecurity capacities of European SMEs in line with CRA requirements and obligations	22M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA Tools for compliance with CRA requirements and obligations	8M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-PQCINDUSTRY Deployment of Post Quantum Cryptography in systems in industrial sectors	22,25M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC Standardisation and awareness of the European transition to post-quantum cryptography	1M EUR	March 2024	Signed
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-TRANSITIONEUPQC Roadmap for the transition of European public administrations to a post-quantum cryptography era	0,75M EUR	March 2024	Signed

For the topics under *DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06* call, which closed in 2024 (2 cut-off dates), the grants under the 1st cut-off date have been all signed and operations have started for all of them except one (which will start later in 2025), while those under the 2nd cut-off date will be signed within 2025.

TOPIC	Budget	Closing Date	Outcome
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION (2 cut-off dates)	EUR 65M	March 2024 (1 st cutoff)/November 2024 (2 nd cut-off)	Signed (1 st cut-off)/GAP phase (2 nd cut-off)

The following paragraphs provide insights on of the calls with the outcome available at the end of 2024:

- ✓ 22 DEP projects funded from the call *DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06*. From the overall EU contribution of € 80.962.570,55 it was provided already a pre-financing of € 64.143.419,83 (80%).

Topic	Id	Acronym	Start Date	End Date	Duration (months)	EU contribution (EUR)
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190156	CTI-AI	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	2524499
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC	101190512	PQCSA	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	998926.32
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCRA	101190325	SECURE	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	21921036.5
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190243	CRA-AI	01-01-2025	31-12-2026	24	2043272
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-TRANSITIONEUPQC	101190305	Q-PREP	01-01-2025	31-12-2026	24	749147.66
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190460	INTERCEPT	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	4919332.93
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190492	CRACY	01-12-2024	31-05-2027	30	2994536.24
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190193	CONFIRMATE	01-01-2025	30-06-2026	18	1191766
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190281	CYBERFORT	01-12-2024	31-05-2026	18	2646564.75
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190372	CURIUM	01-01-2025	30-06-2026	18	2488140.55
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190474	OCCTET	01-11-2024	31-10-2026	24	1772376.09
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190339	CAIOC	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	3068314.35
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190251	CYBERGUARD	01-12-2024	30-11-2027	36	3845125.25
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-PQCINDUSTRY	101190366	PIQASO	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	6597620

DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190388	iSOCaaS	01-12-2024	30-11-2027	36	4999040
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC	101190400	PQC4eMRTD	01-01-2025	31-12-2026	24	999019.41
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190545	AIPITCH	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	3991688.5
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190349	ALiEnS-SOC	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	4961911
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190248	ACSOC	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	1518865
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190370	SAFE	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	3999105.21
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	101190180	OSCRAT	01-12-2024	31-05-2026	18	2001634.29
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	101190232	aSIEMmetry	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	730649.5

- ✓ 5 DEP projects from the 1st cut-off date of the call *DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06* have been signed. From the overall EU contribution of € 19.637.528,83 it was provided already a pre-financing of € 15.710.023,06 (80%).

Topic	ID number	Acronym	Start Date	End Date	Duration (months)	Requested EU contribution (EUR)
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101194984	NCC-SK 2.0	01-06-2025	31-05-2029	48	4892575
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101195264	NCC-NL 2.0	01-01-2025	31-12-2028	48	4967207.5
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101195170	NCC-HR	01-01-2025	31-12-2028	48	3937151.13
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101194933	NCC-HU	01-01-2025	31-12-2026	24	2002250
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	101195086	N4CY2	01-01-2025	31-12-2028	48	3838345.2

- ✓ 13 DEP projects from the 2nd cut-off date of the call *DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06* are currently in Grant Agreement Preparation phase and expected to be signed by August 2025.

About the implementation of the Cyber Solidarity Act, the ECCC, in cooperation with EU Commission and relevant MS, launched two joint procurements in Q2 2024 – for two cross border cyber hubs.

The ECCC implements also the Increased Cybersecurity Destination, under the Cluster 3 Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025 (Civil Security for Society). Proposals for topics under this Destination set out a credible pathway contributing to the following impact of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024: "Increased cybersecurity and a more secure online environment by developing and using effectively EU and Member States' capabilities in digital technologies supporting protection of data and networks aspiring to technological sovereignty in this field, while respecting privacy and other fundamental rights; this should contribute to secure services, processes and products, as well as to robust digital infrastructures capable to resist and counter cyber-attacks and hybrid threats".

The budget for the Cybersecurity Destination covered by the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 is EUR 119.1 M EUR, distributed as follows:

- A budget of EUR 28 million for actions related to Secure Computing Continuum (IoT, Edge, Cloud, Dataspaces).
- A budget of EUR 15,7 million for actions related to Privacy-preserving and identity management technologies.
- A budget of EUR 15 million for actions related to Security of robust AI systems.
- A budget of EUR 37 million for actions related to Approaches and tools for security in software and hardware development and assessment.
- A budget of EUR 23,4 million for actions related to Post-quantum cryptography transition.

The following tables summarises the ECCC calls and topics, under the Horizon Europe Programme, opened in 2023-2024.

For the topics under HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01 call which closed in 2023 and transferred from EC DG CNECT to ECCC in 2024, the grants have been all signed and operations have started.

TOPIC	Budget	Closing Date	Outcome
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01 Secure Computing Continuum (IoT, Edge, Cloud, Dataspace)	EUR 28M EUR	November 2023	Signed
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02 Privacy-preserving and identity management technologies	EUR 15,7M EUR	November 2023	Signed
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03 Security of robust AI systems	EUR 15M EUR	November 2023	Signed

For the topics under HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01 call which closed in 2024, the grants are currently in Grant Agreement Preparation phase and expected to be signed within 2025.

TOPIC	Budget	Closing Date	Outcome
HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-01 Approaches and tools for security in software and hardware development and assessment	EUR 37M EUR	November 2024	GAP
HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-02 Post-quantum cryptography transition	EUR 23,4M EUR	November 2024	GAP

The following paragraphs provide insights on of the HORIZON 2023 and 2024 calls:

- ✓ 13 HE projects under the Increased Cybersecurity 2023 *HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01* call (3 topics) with an overall EU contribution € 58.7 million have been transferred in 2024 from EC DG CNECT to ECCC. All projects were transferred fully signed and started already within 2024 (except 1 from reserve list – RECITALS – which was transferred as ongoing GAP, processed and fully signed from ECCC and started on 01/01/2025).

Topic	ID number	Acronym	Start Date	End Date	Duration (months)	Requested EU contribution (EUR)
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101167904	CASTOR	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	5203611.25
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101167964	PRIVIDEMA	01-11-2024	31-10-2027	36	3133964.75
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101168011	CONSENTIS	01-11-2024	31-10-2027	36	3998855.36
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	101168067	GuardAI	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	4316775
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101168144	MIRANDA	01-09-2024	31-08-2027	36	5990612.5
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101168182	CyberNEMO	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	5999747.5
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101168311	LICORICE	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	3999029.31
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	101168407	cPAID	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	5514912.5
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101168438	INTACT	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	5644566.75
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	101168465	MEDIATE	01-11-2024	31-10-2027	36	4061889.75
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101168467	TrustED	01-10-2024	30-09-2027	36	3961193.85
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	101168560	CoEvolution	01-11-2024	31-10-2027	36	5999688.75
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	101168490	RECITALS	01-01-2025	31-12-2027	36	3935331.25

- ✓ 12 HE projects under the Increased Cybersecurity 2024 *HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01* call (2 topics) with an overall EU contribution € 67,34 € million have been selected for funding and are currently in Grant Agreement Preparation phase and it is expected to be signed in 2025.

Annex IX provides more detailed operational and financial reporting data regarding the calls, the SMEs and the MS applying for grants or receiving grants.

Concerning the implementation of the Cyber Solidarity Act, the ECCC, in cooperation with EU Commission and MS, launched two joint procurements in Q2 2024 – for two cross border cyber hubs.

1.3 Achieved results in ACTIVITY DOMAIN #3

This section covers the activity domain “#3: Adoption of the Agenda, the Multiannual Work Programme and the Annual Work Programme”. The activities described under this chapter are related to Objective #3 of the Multiannual Work Programme “Develop,

implement and monitor the Agenda of the ECCC, the multiannual work programme and the annual work programme”.

The ECCC GB adopted the Strategic Agenda of ECCC as required by the article 2 point (8) of the Establishing Regulation in 2023. During 2023 and early 2024, based on the Strategic Agenda, an Action Plan was initiated and it was endorsed by the ECCC GB in March 2024 as working document, not to be distributed. The Action Plan provides a consolidated perspective of ECCC GB and MS on the actions and priorities for the research and innovation in the DE and HE programmes. The Action Plan – steamed from the Strategic Agenda – was used as a starting point in defining the priorities for the Digital Europe Work Programme for the part implemented by ECCC. Furthermore, it was used as input from the side of ECCC/NCCs Network for the priorities of the Horizon Europe programme. These work programmes will include, where relevant, joint actions between the ECCC and Member States. The annual work programmes of the ECCC are defined in accordance with the strategic Agenda and the Action Plan.

Important actions undertaken in this activity area during 2024 include the following:

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024)	Achieved results by end of 2024
Agenda	Adoption of the next agenda, following consultation with all relevant actors (EC, NCCs, Community, ENISA, SAG)	Completed. The Strategic Agenda that was adopted by the GB of ECCC in March 2023 ²⁰ and in March 2024 the GB of ECCC endorsed and Action Plan available only to a restricted community.
	Monitoring the implementation of the previous Agenda	In progress. Since the Strategic Agenda was adopted, the new/updated programming documents were aligned. For instance, draft DEP WP was built on the actions included for cybersecurity deployment in the Action Plan, that relies on the Strategic Agenda. Monitoring will follow in the next years.
	Dissemination of the Agenda to relevant stakeholders, including the HEP Program Committee.	Agenda is published on ECCC website and is referenced in almost all our communications.
Multiannual work programme & Annual work programme	Development, adoption and monitoring of the multiannual work programme and the annual work programme	Completed. SPD 2024-2026 was amended during Q3-Q4/2024. Draft SPD 2026-2028 and final SPD 2025-2027 were developed in consultation with GB and adopted by GB with decisions No 2025/01 and 2024/13 respectively. ECCC DEP WP 2025-2027 was in consultation with ECCC GB at the end of 2024.

1.4 Achieved results in ACTIVITY DOMAIN #4

This section covers the activity domain “#4: Activities related to the NCCs and the Cybersecurity Competence Community”. The activities described under this chapter are related to Objective #4 of the Multiannual Work Programme “Coordinate and further develop the NCCs and the Cybersecurity Competence Community”.

The Network of NCCs is composed of all the National Coordination Centres that are notified to the Governing Board by the Member States (Article 6.7 of the Regulation). They function as contact points at the national level for the Cybersecurity Competence Community and the ECCC (Article 7.1(a) of the Regulation). When preparing this report, all EU MS notified about the setup of the national NCCs. Furthermore, since 2024 Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are full members (without vote in the GB), contributing financially to ECCC activities and benefiting from them.

In 2024, the Network of NCCs had regular meetings and interactions, fulfilling its tasks as set out in the founding Regulation, and functioning as an integrated Network. In

²⁰ The Strategic Agenda is available at: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/strategic-agenda_en

order to cover the areas of ECCC activities, a number of Working Groups (WG) of the GB have been established and some of them support the functioning of the NCC Network. During 2024 a revision of the WGs took place. The following table lists the new WGs and provides an update of their activities and reflect the actions undertaken in 2024 in this activity area:

Objectives	Expected results (as adopted in WP2024)	Achieved results by end of 2024
Network of National Coordination Centres	Completion of the setting-up of the Network and smooth functioning as an integrated Network	Completed. By the end of 2023 all MS had notified their NCCs. The network meets regularly in a plenary format, at least on the margins of every Governing Board meeting. The Network has been provided with communication tools and channels (Mattermost platform and through mailing options). The Secretariat aims to regularly inform the broader network of relevant developments, be it related to governance documents or events of interest.
	Implement and update of the indicative “service catalogue” for NCCs	In progress. The tasks assigned to the NCCs by Article 7 of the ECCC Regulation are progressively being implemented.
	Further definition and implementation of modalities of interaction between the ECCC and the Network of NCCs (coordination mechanisms – alignment of activities – Organisation of workshops/recurrent meetings, etc.)	In progress, continuous. The NCC Day in October 2024 marked new election of the NCC Network Chair and Vice-Chairs, according to the NCC Network Rules of Procedure (RoP). A new modality for electing Network representatives was proposed, potentially requiring an amendment to the NCCs RoP. The change is to be discussed during the first NCC day in 2025. Following the conclusion of the ECCO project, the ECCC took over the secretariat of the Network. Solutions to previous NCCs requests (common calendar of events, storing space through Essential documents channels in Mattermost) continued to be provided. Responses to other needs identified by the NCCs (e.g. Possibility for collaborating together on documents) are being considered. It is expected that further changes will be implemented to the Mattermost space once the license will be owned by the ECCC, mid 2025. Other supporting materials, such as the Onboarding package, is also expected to be updated and made available. Access to the Mattermost platform continued to be provided, with an increase in access requests and increase of usage of the platform for communication (eg, notifying of upcoming events, informing about collaboration opportunities etc.). No downtime was noted following the handover of Mattermost administration. ECCC created a dedicated functional mailbox available to NCCs (ncc@eccc.europa.eu), through which NCCs can communicate with the ECCC but can also request the dissemination of their messages to the whole network. While a mailing lists for the NCCs exists at the ECCC level, procedure to share the mailing list with the whole network is being reviewed. All these developments allow for increased communication and collaboration among NCCs and with ECCC. Several NCC meetings were organized (see below “NCC meetings and interactions” table).
Cybersecurity Competence Community (stakeholders)	Community registrations and the evolution of the associated tools. Support new Community registrations, develop relevant tools and stimulate activities	In progress. The Atlas has been made available for new registrations NCCs had been provided with technical documentation and relevant support links to build national portals and connect them to the Atlas via the provided API. Several NCCs have completed development of their national portals and have successfully tested the connection with the Atlas. Atlas data protection/ privacy documentation required updating following the ECCC's autonomy. The Data Sharing Agreement to be signed between NCCs and ECCC before starting registrations and the Atlas privacy notice have been updated with support by the ECCC DPO and JRC. NCCs have been tasked with developing privacy statements for their national portals. An updated Registration Form, following previous WG 1 conclusions and with support with ECCC DPO and JRC colleagues has been proposed to GB for approval.
	Community participation to the activities of the working groups, where relevant	In progress. The Community should involve a large, open, and diverse group of actors involved in cybersecurity technology, including in particular research entities, supply/demand-side industries and the public sector. The Community will be composed of entities registered in the European Cybersecurity Atlas. As required by Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/887 Technical developments regarding the Atlas have been finalised in order to allow Member States and participating countries to communicate the data of the entities they require to be registered. Reflections have started on the procedure for setting up the Strategic Advisory Group.
	Develop an EU “cybersecurity market observatory” in coordination with ENISA.	The Market Observatory has been in development by ECCO and it is transferred to the ECCC at the end of 2024.

Meetings of the NCCs and activities of the (2024) GB Working Groups

WG	Focus area	Activities and status
WG 1	Community building	WG1 focuses on matters related to the operational aspects of the NCCs Network and on Community building and animation. The WG has met several times following its set-up in

		October 2024. During the first part of 2025, the WG has worked on the Annex clarifying its mandate and on its Workplan prioritising specific topics.
WG 2	Boost application Process Success	WG2 focuses on NCCs' task to provide technical assistance to stakeholders in the application phase for projects managed by the ECCC under Digital Europe and Horizon Europe Programmes, in view of reducing the administrative burden for participants, increasing the accessibility to and success rate of applications to the programs. The WG has met several times during the first part of 2025, proposed a Chair and a Vice - Chair for the group and worked together on finalising the Annex clarifying its mandate, as well as the work plan of activities.
WG 3	International Awareness	WG3 focuses on advising the ECCC and GB on exchanges and cooperation with the international community. So far, the WG has not met, however it is expected that the importance of cooperation with international partners would increase.
WG 4	Strategic Advice	WG4 seeks to advise the Governing Board and the ECCC on matters related to strategic advice and input, in line with the Regulation. The WG has met several times and produced a draft paper on the mandate and roles of the ECCC and ENISA.
WG 5	Cyber Skills	WG5 launched different surveys, requesting feedback on topics such as repositories on trainings and certifications and the mapping of funds for cybersecurity skills across the EU. The group meets monthly and regular points for discussion include skills attestation, Industry-Academia Network, and the European Cybersecurity Skills Framework. WG5 adopted its Annex 1 to ToRs in October 2024.

During 2024, the Network of NCCs had regular meetings and interactions, taking over its tasks as set out in the founding Regulation, and functioning as an integrated Network.

In particular, three NCC Days were held (see table below). NCC Days are meetings of the NCC representatives, usually held in connection to Governing Board meetings to allow networking and live discussion on common issues, as well as to increase visibility of EU cybersecurity expertise, products and services.

NCC 6th Meeting 13 March 2024, San Sebastian	NCCs discussed the state of play at the national level and main activities planned for 2024. NCCs were introduced to new ECCC ED and his vision on the Centre and cooperation with the Network.
NCC 7th Meeting 26 June 2024, Ireland	NCCs received an update from ENISA on: the NCC impact assessment workshop and framework; ENISA's activity in assessing cybersecurity R&I in the EU; ENISA's education activities. The main focus of the days were the Working Groups and proposed restructuring.
NCC 8th Meeting 9 October 2024, Munich	The NCC day saw the final reporting of the ECCO project and handover from ECCO tasks to the ECCC. Working groups were also in focus with the proposed restructuring being presented. The New Chair and vice-Chairs of the Network were elected.

PART II. MANAGEMENT

2.1. Governing Board

During 2024 three official meetings of the GB were organized and one additional Ad-Hoc meeting in November dedicated to the final consultation regarding DEP WP 2025-2027.

During these meetings a number of important decisions and topics were covered²¹ which are necessary for the functioning of the Centre. In particular, in 2024, the GB adopted the Anti-Fraud Strategy, Security Rules, the SPD 2025-2027, the draft SPD 2026-2028 and the associated budget. Other decisions covered the update of set-up of specific working groups of the GB dedicated to areas of interest as well as the update of the Financial Rules of the ECCC.

2.2. Major Developments

The Governing Board formally met 3 times and had one more Ad-Hoc meeting during 2024. The GB provided strategic guidance to the ECCC by adopting decisions necessary for the ECCC to operate, including guidance on the action plan to implement the Strategic Agenda and on building of the Cybersecurity DEP WP 2025-2027.

In 2024 the ECCC becoming financially autonomous from the European Commission, sign with the Romanian Government a Host agreement, and supported all the activities to move early 2025 to the permanent premises. In 2025 the Centre will reach cruising speed: managing more funding, recruiting a few more employees (the current establishment plan foresees 38 staff).

The establishment and setting up of the ECCC is taking place in a dynamic cybersecurity political context. The NIS Directive 2 is transposed in national laws in 2024 while the Cyber Resilience Act and Cyber Solidarity Act were agreed and ready to be published early 2025. Within this broader framework of EU policy priorities in cybersecurity, the ECCC will pool resources from the EU, MS and other constituencies to improve and strengthen technological and industrial cybersecurity capacities, enhancing the EU's open strategic autonomy, and offering a possibility to consolidate part of the cybersecurity-related activities funded under HEP and DEP.

The ECCC and the Network of NCCs will contribute to maximising the effects of investments to strengthen the EU's leadership and open strategic autonomy in the field of cybersecurity and support technological capacities, capabilities and skills, and to increase the EU's global competitiveness. They will do so with input from industry and academic communities in cybersecurity, including SMEs and research centres, which will benefit from a more systematic, inclusive and strategic collaboration, having regard to the cohesion of the EU and all of its MS. The ECCC, the Network and the Community will benefit from the experience and the collaboration of the relevant stakeholders.

²¹ For a complete list of decisions and minutes of GB meetings please visit the page dedicated to GB on ECCC website: https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/governing-board_en

Furthermore, the ECCC shall cooperate with relevant EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, in particular with ENISA, in order to ensure consistency and complementarity while avoiding any duplication of effort.

In general, the objectives of ECCC and the work carried out by now by ECCC reflect the EU's policy priorities, while containing common, industrial, technology and research priorities which are based on the needs identified by MS in cooperation with the Community and which require the focus of EU financial support, including key technologies and domains for developing the EU's own capabilities in cybersecurity (Article 13 of the ECCC Regulation).

2.3. Budgetary and financial management

The ECCC gained its financial autonomy on 24 September 2024. DG CNECT of the European Commission was managing the ECCC budget execution in the period prior to the financial autonomy and the relevant budget of DG CNECT was transferred to ECCC. In 2024, the ECCC achieved 99,8 % rate of commitment appropriations implementation (excluding the appropriations arising from Horizon Europe which were provided in addition to the ECCC after the financial autonomy). Including HE, the commitment appropriations implementation amounted to an overall of 90,5%.

The rate of execution of payment appropriations (excluding HE) in 2024 was 82,1 % of the available funds (C1 fund source). Including HE, the budget consumption of payment appropriations amounted to 82,0%.

There were two budgetary amendments during 2024. In addition, the final payment appropriations for 2024 have been amended by a decrease of EUR 36.767.419 to reflect the final amount effectively transferred by the EU Commission to the ECCC as part of financial autonomy and as notified by the ECCC's Governing Board on December 12, 2024.

Administrative costs

The rates of implementation for title 1 in terms of commitment and payment appropriations were respectively 78,6% and 70,9%.

For title 2, the implementation rates for commitment and payment appropriations are respectively 83,8% and 27,1%.

Operational costs

The execution rate of the operational budget in both commitment and payment appropriations (including HE appropriations) was respectively 90,6% and 82,7%.

2.4. Delegation and sub-delegation

N/A.

2.5 Human Resources (HR) management

Staffing Overview and Staff-Related Decisions at ECCC in 2024

In 2024, the ECCC recorded an average occupancy rate of **73.7%** of active employees relative to the establishment plan. At the end of 2024, the ECCC had 27 posts occupied.

The **overall staff turnover rate was approximately 14%**, with all departures occurring within the **Contract Agent (CA)** category.

For Temporary Agents (TAs), only 60% of positions were filled, with 6 out of 10 posts occupied. Contract Agents (CAs) show a higher occupancy rate, with 76% of posts filled (21 out of 27). Notably, the position for Seconded National Experts (SNEs) remains vacant, with a 0% occupancy rate (0 out of 1 post filled). The figures suggest that while the majority of core operational roles are staffed, recruitment and retention efforts must be intensified, particularly for specialised positions

Turnover rates in 2024 varied by category. Temporary Agents experienced no turnover, indicating stability within this group. However, the turnover rate for Contract Agents was 14%, pointing to ongoing challenges in retaining staff in these roles particularly for non-Romanian staff.

Occupancy Rates by Staff Category:

- **Temporary Agents (TAs):** 60% (6 out of 10 posts filled)
- **Contract Agents (CAs):** 76% (20 out of 27 posts filled)
- **Seconded National Experts (SNEs):** 0% (0 out of 1 post filled)

Staff-Related Decisions Adopted in 2024:

1. **ECCC Executive Director Decision No.03/2024 on Physical Wellbeing** – promoting health and wellbeing initiatives for staff.
2. **ECCC GB Decision No.5/2024 on Schooling** – addressing support for educational expenses.

Gender representation

	Female	Male	Grand Total
Count	17	10	27
Percent	63%	37%	100%

These developments reflect the ECCC's ongoing efforts to support staff welfare and improve working conditions.

The ECCC faced the following main challenges:

- **Attraction of Talent for CA Posts:** Difficulty in attracting qualified candidates to fill Contract Agent positions effectively due also to the very low correction coefficient of Romania.
- **Turnover Rate Impact:** Employee turnover continues to pose challenges, including disruptions to team productivity.
- **Geographical Balance:** Ensuring equitable representation across different regions remains a priority, aligning with organisational goals for diversity and inclusion.
- **Lack of Office Space and Permanent Premises:** The absence of dedicated office space and permanent premises has further complicated operations and staff well-being.

2.6. Strategy for efficiency gains

The ECCC is committed to continuously implement measures to obtain efficiency gains in all activities.

Whenever possible, the ECCC will continue seeking synergies and the most efficient ways of action.

Since July 2022, the ECCC is an observer of the EU Agencies Network (EUAN, of which full membership requires financial autonomy), which gives access to a Network of agencies, JUs (Joint Undertakings) and other EU bodies, and the opportunity to exchange knowledge and best practices on horizontal issues for EU bodies. SLAs with EPSO, HR, PMO, DIGIT, DG BUDG, CERT-EU, SG, CDT and RTD are in place and they were signed during 2024 to support the financial autonomy process.

In 2023 the ECCC and ENISA signed a service level agreement (SLA) regarding shared services (i.e. Data Protection Officer and Accounting Officer services) that was afterwards extended. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with ENISA in October 2023 with the aim to synchronize cybersecurity related activities.

Please also see Annex VI for other SLAs signed or in preparation.

2.7 Assessment of audit and ex-post evaluation results during the reporting year

There were no audits or ex-post evaluations during the reporting period. The ex-post audits for Digital Europe Programme fall under the DEP Ex-post Audit Strategy (approved by the EU Commission and endorsed by all DEP implementing bodies) and HaDEA's DEP Ex-post Audit Work Programme. After the date of financial autonomy (24.09.2024), the ECCC received from DG CNECT a number of Horizon Europe projects. For Horizon Europe, the body responsible for the ex-post audits is the European Commission's Common Audit Service (CAS).

2.8a Follow up of recommendations and action plans for audits and evaluations

Not applicable. There were no audits or ex-post evaluations during the reporting period.

2.8b Follow up of recommendations issued following investigations of OLAF

Not applicable. There were no investigations of OLAF in the reporting period.

2.9 Follow up of observations from discharge authority

There are currently no observations from discharge authority. N/A until 2026, as this is the first CAAR after the financial autonomy.

2.10 Environment management

Not yet applicable. Please see Annex VII.

2.11. Assessment by management

The ECCC's operational and corporate activities were implemented in accordance with the 2024 work programme, with the necessary guidance and support of the Governing Board. The ECCC conducts its operations in compliance with relevant legal requirements in an open manner via the management team, which monitors the implementation of operational and corporate activities on a regular basis.

The ECCC's management has reasonable assurance that the internal controls put in place are appropriate and functioning as intended. The assessment of the ECCC's internal control framework did not reveal any significant weaknesses, while some areas for improvement have been identified. In 2024, some risks were identified and managed, as further confirmed by the results of both internal and external audits performed throughout the year.

PART III. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

3.1 Effectiveness of internal control systems

The Governing Board of the ECCC adopted the ECCC's Internal Control Framework (ICF) on 6 December 2023²² and the ECCC's revised Financial Rules on 15.04.2024²³.

The ICF is a principle-based system consisting of five Internal Control Components (Control environment, Risk Assessment, Control Activities, Information and communication, Monitoring activities) and 17 Internal Control Principles. Its aim is to ensure robust internal controls with the necessary flexibility to adapt to specific characteristics and circumstances of the ECCC.

All the internal control components and principles are interrelated and must be present and functioning at all levels of the organisation to be considered effective. Internal control monitoring criteria have been defined to ensure an adequate assessment of the presence and functioning of all internal control principles. The assessment is done at the level of principles, components, and the overall system.

In mid-2024, the ECCC developed Internal Control Framework (ICF) Indicators for monitoring the validity and effectiveness of its ICF²⁴.

The ECCC has formally assessed its control systems for the reporting year 2024 as part of the annual internal management system review and concluded that overall, the ICF principles are present, and work as intended. The results of the assessment show the presence and adequate functioning of all internal control components for the reporting year 2024.

The ECCC is currently in a period of growth, the development process for setting up the ICF is building its maturity, as the independency has been reached only 6 months ago (on 24.09.2024). In addition, a set of preliminary ICF indicators has been approved only in the middle of 2024, while for a majority of them complete assessment would be foreseen by end of 2025.

The first complete assessment of the ICF based on fine-tuned indicators is foreseen to be released in 2026 addressing the 2025.

²² DECISION No GB/2023/12 of the Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre on the Internal Control Framework for effective management applicable to the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre, Ref.Ares(2024)157857-10/01/2024

²³ DECISION No GB/2024/3 of the Governing Board of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre - Revision of DECISION No GB/2023/1 on the ECCC's Financial Rules

²⁴ DECISION No ED/2024/1 of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Executive Director on the List of Internal Control Framework (ICF) Indicators

3.2 Assessment result

Internal control strengths and deficiencies

The identification of the internal control strengths and deficiencies was performed by analysing several sources:

Self-assessment by the ECCC

The self-assessment resulted in 65.45% of internal control monitoring indicators achieved or partially achieved in 2024.

The relative low number is due to the fact that the indicators were only introduced in late 2024 and for many of them no results were available by the end of the reporting period.

Internal control monitoring indicators	2024	Percentage
Achieved	26	47.27%
Not achieved	4	7.27%
Partially achieved	10	18.18%
Not available	15	27.27%
Total numbers of indicators	55	100%

The results are justified by the phase of the implementation of the ECCC, which achieved its financial autonomy on 24 September 2024. Most of the efforts in 2024 were focused on this objective and included operational and support activities. The ECCC had to fulfil all the necessary activities, roles and functions with limited resources, which implied a clear prioritization of the things to be achieved.

Based on the Internal Control Monitoring Criteria, the Internal Control strengths and weaknesses were identified.

The table below highlights the main strengths and deficiencies/ actions to address them.

Assessment of ICF components

ICF components	Strengths	Actions to address deficiencies
I Control environment	Management sets the "tone at the top" and encourages staff to follow ethics training and compulsory "refresh" training. Internal control monitoring criteria (indicators) have been defined, together with their respective targets. Objectives are set for the most significant activities, and they are monitored. The Financial circuits ensure segregation of duties and respect of the "4-eyes" principle.	Revision of training Plan Establishing a procedure for the oversight responsibility management Establishing a procedure/ decision for Delegation from AO to AOD of the powers for the budget implementation Fine tuning of the job descriptions and individual objectives in Sysper for staff Establishing Mission statements specified for each unit.
II Risk assessment	Appointment of ECCC Accounting Officer Completion of the ECCC Anti-Fraud Strategy and its Action Plan, in line with the risks identified through the Fraud Risk Assessment.	Adoption of methodology for risk assessment (in line with the Risk Management Strategy) – this wasn't developed due to the limited time between financial autonomy and reporting period.
III Control activities	The ECCC's IT Officer keeps an inventory of the IT assets.	Enhanced risk management Finalization of the Internal Control Strategy – this wasn't fully implemented due to the limited time between financial autonomy and reporting period. IT risk assessment for 2025 and draft an IT strategy
IV Information and communication	Definition and implementation of an external communication strategy and its implementation plan. Design of the whistleblowing process and preparation of the Guidelines on Whistleblowing.	Draft a crisis communication strategy for the ECCC.
V Monitoring activities	Regular monitoring of non-conformities and follow-up.	Monitor participation/ attendance at ethics and integrity capabilities/ training session.

Weaknesses spontaneously reported by staff

There were no weaknesses spontaneously reported by staff.

Exceptions and non-compliance events

In 2024, there were 3 non-compliance events, and 2 exceptions registered. Out of these, 1 non-compliance event and 1 exception were registered after the ECCC's financial autonomy (24.09.2024).

For all the non-compliance events and the exceptions, the root cause analysis was performed, and corrections and corrective actions were defined and implemented.

Ongoing monitoring of the implementation of control and anti-fraud strategies

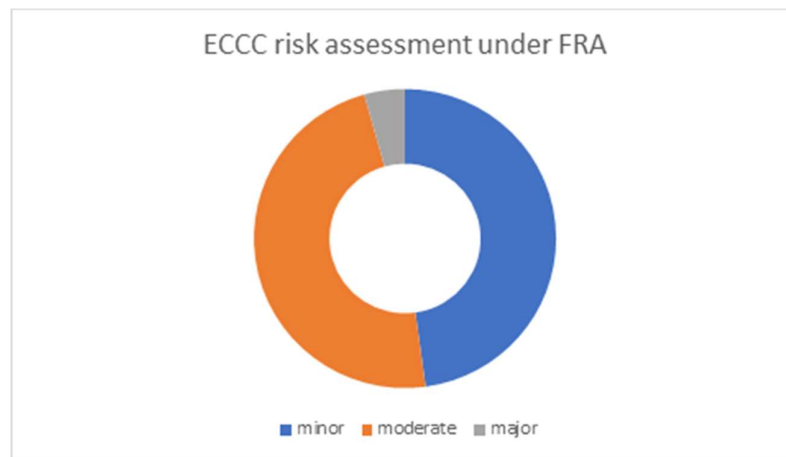
The ECCC's Anti-Fraud Strategy 2024-2026 and the related Action Plan were approved by the ECCC Governing Board on 27.06.2024. The Anti-fraud strategy 2024-2026 was drafted following completion of a dedicated Fraud Risk Assessment.

Following the Fraud Risk Assessment, 1 major deficiency, 17 moderate deficiencies and 5 minor deficiencies were identified, leading to a total of 23 internal control deficiencies related to the fraud risk.

The methodology for the Fraud Risk Assessment (FRA) involved all sectors in the ECCC and entailed the following steps:

- Identifying the team that coordinated the FRA (Core Team).
- Identifying the relevant functions that took part in the FRA (e.g. Activity Coordinators – Senior Programme Officers, Senior Policy Officer, Finance and Budget Officer, IT Officer/ LISO, Legal Officer, HR staff, Data Protection Officer).
- Appointment of the Core Team, of the FRA participants (Activity Coordinators) and definition of the timeline of the process.
- Kick-off meeting (including a hands-on training on FRA).
- Analysis of the potential fraud risks that could be applicable to the ECCC.
- Analysing the information that was already at the disposal of the ECCC including audit reports from external auditors (ECA, OLAF, IAS), materials from OLAF (e.g. final case reports, OLAF casebooks, and training material, strategic analysis reports), experience from other agencies and so on.
- Identifying potential risks through a list of guiding questions taken from the OLAF's draft Methodology and guidance for the antifraud strategies of EU decentralised agencies and Joint Undertakings. The list of guiding questions has been sent to the Activity Coordinators, for their comments and feedback.
- Identifying potential risks, together with their potential risk owners, from a list with examples provided in the OLAF's draft methodology and from the results of the point above.
- Identifying the controls that are already in place for each risk (if any) and estimating the residual level of risk.

- For the fraud risks with a residual level that is relevant, performed the Risk Assessment. The scores for the likelihood and impact have been provided in written by the participants in the FRA, to the Core Team, and have been discussed in a dedicated meeting.
- Ranking of fraud risks, based on the Total Risk Level (TRL).
- Decide the risks response options (Reduce, Transfer, Avoid, or Accept).
- Defining controls/ actions for addressing the fraud risks.



The Action Plan related to the Anti-Fraud Strategy was implemented as follows:

- Total actions: 23
- Completed actions: 11
- On-going actions: 1
- Not-started actions: 9
- Not applicable (no cases): 2

Audit conclusions, findings and recommendations

The ECCC reached its financial autonomy on 24.09.2024. There were no audits completed in 2024 for the ECCC.

Overall, the results of the 2024 assessment show that ECCC's internal control system is present, functioning and effective, although some improvements are needed (category 2).

I. CONTROL ENVIRONMENT

The control environment component comprises a set of standards of conduct, processes, and structures that provide the basis for carrying out internal control activities across an organization.

At the management level, the overall tone regarding the importance of internal controls, including expected standards of conduct, is set by the parent DG CNECT-European Commission, Governing Board, the Executive Director, and the rest of the top management.

The control environment component of the ICF is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (Category 2).

ECCC initiated its commitment to integrity and ethical values, in particular by highlighting the importance of the ethics training and identification of a compulsory “refresher” training.

On short term, ECCC is planning to establish a procedure for the oversight responsibility management (regular reviews by senior management to be framed) and procedure/ decision for Delegation from AO to AOD of the powers for the budget implementation.

Principle	Assessment
1. Demonstrates commitment to integrity and ethical values	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
2. Exercises oversight responsibility	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).
3. Establishes structure, authority and responsibility	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).
4. Demonstrates commitment to competence	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).
5. Enforces accountability	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).

II. RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is a dynamic and iterative process for identifying and assessing risks that could affect the achievement of objectives and for determining how such risks should be managed.

The risk assessment component of the ICF is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (Category 2).

In 2024, the ECCC has performed a targeted Fraud Risk Assessment, in view of drafting its Anti-Fraud Strategy and the associated Action Plan, which identifies 23 actions.

The implementation of the actions from the Anti-Fraud Action Plan will additionally strengthen internal controls in 2025.

The ECCC has taken part, as on Observer, to the EUAN Peer review risk assessment exercise.

In March 2024, the ECCC underwent important changes related to its leadership positions, particularly a change of Executive Director, from the interim DG CNECT ED to its official ECCC Executive Director and initiation of an ECCC stable Organigramme.

A point worth to be mentioned is the staff turnover, which in 2024 was 14,81% (4 staff members left, from a total of 31 total staff).

The Risk assessment was not fully performed due to the limited time between financial autonomy and reporting period.

In 2025, substantial efforts will be dedicated to performing an overall risk assessment for the ECCC, identifying the sensitive functions, integrating the IT risks based on a defined procedure aiming to draft its Risk Management Strategy.

Principle	Assessment
6. Specifies suitable objectives	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
7. Identifies and analyses risk	The principle is partially present and functioning; major improvements are needed (category 3).
8. Assesses fraud risk	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
9. Identifies and analyses significant changes	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).

III. CONTROL ACTIVITIES

Control activities ensure the mitigation of risks related to the achievement of policies, operational and internal control objectives. They are performed at all levels of the

organization, at various stages of business processes, and across the technology environment.

They may be preventive or detective, and they encompass a range of manual and automated activities, as well as segregation of duties. The control activities component of the ICF is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (Category 2).

This is largely due to the deficiencies that were identified as linked to the improvement in IT controls by drafting the IT strategy and establishment of an IT governance. the missing procedure on reporting the non-compliance events together with appropriate workflows and lack of a procedure on the business continuity.

ECCC started working on the internal control strategy, which will include a list of the main control activities and processes, as well as their owners, to be finalized by end 2025.

Principle	Assessment
10. Selects and develops control activities	The principle is partially present and functioning, major improvements are needed (category 3).
11. Selects and develops general control over technology	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).
12. Deploys through policies and procedures	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).

IV. Information and communication

Information delivered by means of internal and external communication is necessary for any organisation to carry out internal control activities and to support the achievement of objectives.

Internal communication provides staff with the information it needs to achieve its objectives and to carry out day-to-day controls, while external communication provides the public and stakeholders with information on the ECCC's policy objectives and actions. The information and communication component is present and functioning well (Category 1).

The ECCC's information and communication activities follow procedures that support the achievement of broader organizational objectives. In 2024, ECCC started to strengthen its controls on information management by adopting guidelines on public access to documents and will initiate the crisis communication strategy for the ECCC (target date: end 2025).

Principle	Assessment
13. Uses relevant information	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
14. Communicates internally	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
15. Communicates externally	The principle is present and functioning, but some improvements are needed (category 2).

V. Monitoring activities

ECCC engages in continuous and specific assessments to ascertain whether each of the five ICF components is present and functioning. Continuous assessments, built into processes at different levels of the organization, provide timely information on any possible deficiencies.

ECCC regularly assesses all findings and promptly communicates and corrects deficiencies found.

The monitoring activities component is present and functioning well (Category 1). ECCC strengthened the monitoring and assessment of its internal controls which are based

on input from reporting activities, external audits, analysis of exceptions and non-compliance events, internal risk register, implementation of the anti-fraud strategy.

Principle	Assessment
16. Conducts ongoing and/or separate assessments	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).
17. Assesses and communicates deficiencies	The principle is present and functioning well (category 1).

The improvement measures have already started in 2024 and will be implemented in 2025 and beyond considering the ICF implementation planning deadlines. Progress will be monitored as part of the monitoring cycle.

Overall, in light with the results of the assessment, we can consider that the incipient ECCC's controls system as a whole works as planned and adequately mitigates the main risks to the achievement of ECCC's objectives.

Some moderate improvements are needed as mentioned above.

The monitoring of the functioning of ICF is continuous throughout the year (via specific assessment on parts of internal control which are riskier) and potential internal control deficiencies are discussed at the Management level.

In conclusion, management has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and work as intended.

3.2 Conclusions of assessment of internal control systems

The ECCC conducted its first annual assessment of the Centre's Internal Control Framework for the period following its financial autonomy, based on the information available at the moment of the assessment. The ECCC is aware that additional relevant information should be used, as it becomes available (e.g. legality and regularity/ error rates, efficiency - time to grant, time to inform, time to pay, economy - cost of controls). Next year's assessment will take this into account, after a complete year of operation of the ECCC.

The conclusion of the assessment for 2024 is that the ECCC is compliant with its Internal Control Framework. However, some deficiencies have been identified (as described above), and some areas for improvement. These deficiencies are justified by the maturity level of the organization (which achieved its financial autonomy on 24 September 2024 and operated independently for only three months in 2024), by the need to focus on achieving its autonomy and by the limited resources of the Centre, which required prioritization.

With regards to addressing the deficiencies and implementing the potential improvements identified in this exercise, a consolidated list of actions was established corresponding to each internal control principle (described above), which will be monitored throughout the year 2025.

3.3 Statement of the Internal Control Coordinator

Statement of the Internal Control Coordinator in charge of risk management and internal control

I, the undersigned,

Sorin Cursaru,

in my capacity as Internal Control Coordinator, in charge of risk management and internal control, declare that in accordance with the internal control framework adopted by the Governing Board of ECCC, I have reported my advice and recommendations on the overall state of internal control in the EU body to the Executive Director.

I hereby certify that the information provided in the present Consolidated Annual Activity Report and in its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Bucharest, 16.06.2025

(e-signed)

Sorin Cursaru

Internal Control Coordinator

PART IV. MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE

4.1 REVIEW OF THE ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ASSURANCE

The declaration of assurance, provided by the authorising officer, is mainly based on the following three pillars:

- Regular monitoring of the KPIs set for operational, administrative and financial tasks through the formal periodical management reporting,
- Effectiveness of the internal controls and processes to detect weaknesses and to identify areas for improvement,
- Assessment and reports from independent bodies (external evaluators, financial auditors (the ECA, complemented by a private audit firm), internal auditors (the IAS), etc.). As highlighted in the previous sections, by the operational, administrative and financial KPIs, and by the positive opinion of the ECA on the reliability of the provisional accounts and on the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the provisional accounts, and as no critical risks have been formulated by the IAS, management has sufficient assurance that the ECCC is adequately managed so as to safeguard its financial resources and to pursue the tasks which it was entrusted with.

4.2 RESERVATIONS

Considering the results of the 2024 annual audit performed by the ECA and of the IAS Risk assessment, the 2024 results of the internal controls (ex post controls, review of the register of exceptions, the internal control framework assessment) and the 2024 results of the key financial and operational indicators, the authorising officer can conclude that the ECCC has operated in 2024 in such a way as to manage appropriately the risks.

In addition, the authorising officer has reasonable assurance that the allocated resources were used for their intended purpose, in compliance with the legal framework and in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

PART V. DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

I, the undersigned, Executive Director²⁵ of ECCC, in my capacity as authorising officer,

- Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view.*
- State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.*

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment and ex-post controls.

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the agency.

Bucharest, 16/06/2025

(e-signed)

Luca Tagliaretti

Executive Director

²⁵ Mr. Luca Tagliaretti is the Executive Director of ECCC since 1 February 2024. Only since September 2024 the ECCC has the operational capacity to implement its own budget (Article 46 of ECCC founding Regulation (EU) 2021/887).

ANNEXES

ANNEX I. CORE BUSINESS STATISTICS

The Centre adopted in March 2023 its first strategic agenda for EU investment in cybersecurity, signed many new grants during 2024 and has just published a new call for proposals, which will be followed by other calls for more grants and joint procurements in 2025.

Member States and countries associated to the ECCC have set up their National Coordination Centres, in most cases supported by EU funding, which significantly increased their activity throughout 2023. In 2024 many NCCs applied again to top up their resources in the new call dedicated to NCCs. They have also structured cooperation amongst themselves through the Network of NCCs, which started to meet regularly in 2023 and continued to meet in 2024. The ECCC working groups (WGs) structure has been updated during 2024.

The Governing Board formally met 3 times in 2024 and held one more Ad-Hoc meeting in November 2024. The ECCC GB continue to provide strategic guidance to the ECCC and adopted decisions necessary for the ECCC to operate.

ANNEX II. STATISTICS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

STATISTICS ON BUDGET MANAGEMENT

1. Budget Outturn Report

The 2024 outturn as calculated amounts to EUR 23 449 059. The details are presented in the table below:

in EUR	2024
Received revenue (from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024)	124.955.615
of which:	
EU Contribution – Administrative	1.330.722
EU contribution - Operational	123.624.893
Paid expenditure (from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024) (-)	-83.308.585
of which:	
Title 1 - Staff expenditure (-)	-573.079
Title 2 – Building, IT and other administrative expenditure (-)	-297.843
Title 3 - Operational expenditure (-)	-82.437.663
Carry-over of appropriations at year-end (-)	-18.283.430
of which:	
Title 1 - Staff expenditure (-)	-234.885
Title 2 – Building, IT and other administrative expenditure (-)	-802.236
Title 3 - Operational expenditure (-)	-17.246.309
Cancellation of appropriations carried over from year N-1 (+)	85.849
Exchange rate differences (+/-)	-390
Budget result	23.449.059

2. Unused appropriations

The unused appropriations (C1 fund source) 31 December 2024 are:

- For commitment appropriations: EUR 29.606.688,98 (out of which EUR 29.255.819,59 are attributed to Horizon Europe appropriations); and
- For Payment appropriations: EUR 18.283.430,08 (out of which EUR 14.098.043,92 are attributed to DEP and EUR 3.148.265,00 to Horizon Europe appropriations).

The amount of unused appropriations is related to the degree of budget implementation in the first period of ECCC's financial autonomy.

According to Article 12 of ECCC's Financial Rules, the cancelled appropriations may be entered into in the estimates of revenue and expenditure up to the following three financial years. Those appropriations must be used first.

3. Implementation of budget expenditure

3.1. Current year appropriations - C1 fund source

ECCC's budget implementation from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024 - C1 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	Commitment Appr.	Committed	in %	Non-committed	Payment Appr.	Paid	in %	Non-paid
		1	2	= (2) / (1)	= (1) - (2)	3	4	= (4) / (3)	= (3) - (4)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	293	227	77,5%	66	293	219	74,7%	74
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	326	311	95,4%	15	326	311	95,4%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	27	27	100,0%	-	27	12	44,4%	15
1151	Recruitment	42	25	59,5%	18	42	-	0,0%	42
1161	Trainings	20	-	0,0%	20	20	-	0,0%	20
1171	Mission expenses	78	40	51,3%	38	78	28	35,9%	50
1181	Social welfare	20	5	25,0%	15	20	3	15,0%	17
1182	Medical service and expenses	1	-	0,0%	1	1	-	0,0%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	807	635	78,7%	173	807	573	71,0%	234

2111	Rental of building and associated costs	33	33	100,0%	-	33	13	39,4%	20
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	682	567	83,1%	115	682	127	18,6%	555
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	2	-	0,0%	2	2	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	251	236	94,0%	15	251	151	60,2%	100
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	36	1	2,8%	35	36	-	0,0%	36
2161	Technical meetings	15	15	100,0%	-	15	-	0,0%	15
2162	Statutory meetings	29	19	65,5%	10	29	7	24,1%	22
2171	Studies	53	52	98,1%	1	53	-	0,0%	53
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.101	923	83,8%	178	1.101	298	27,1%	803
3111	Digital Europe Programme	214.852	214.852	100,0%	-	82.780	68.682	83,0%	14.098
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	96.495	67.239	69,7%	29.256	16.904	13.756	81,4%	3.148
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	311.347	282.091	90,6%	29.256	99.684	82.438	82,7%	17.246
Total budget		313.255	283.649	90,5%	29.607	101.592	83.309	82,0%	18.283

ECCC's commitment implementation for the 2024 financial year - C1 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	2024 commitment appropriations	Transfers, commitment appropriations	Total commitment appropriations in 2024	Committed before Autonomy - CNECT	Committed after autonomy - ECCC	Total committed in 2024	% Committed	Non-committed
		(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) + (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4) + (5)	= (6) / (3)	= (3) - (6)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	890	11	901	608	227	835	92,7%	66
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	500	896	1.396	1.070	311	1.381	92,7%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	100	(65)	36	8	27	35	92,7%	1
1141	Insurance against sickness, etc.	60	(60)	-	-	-	-	92,7%	-
1151	Recruitment	15	29	44	1	25	26	92,7%	18
1161	Trainings	140	(120)	20	-	-	-	92,7%	20
1171	Mission expenses	80	79	159	81	40	121	92,7%	38
1181	Social welfare	30	(10)	20	-	5	5	92,7%	15
1182	Medical service and expenses	12	(11)	1	-	-	-	92,7%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	1.827	749	2.577	1.768	635	2.403	92,7%	174

2111	Rental of building and associated costs	290	(256)	34	1	33	34	100,0%	-
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	290	442	732	50	567	617	84,3%	115
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	218	(216)	2	-	-	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	103	207	310	60	236	296	95,5%	14
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	150	(91)	59	23	1	24	40,7%	35
2161	Technical meetings	52	(37)	15	-	15	15	100,0%	-
2162	Statutory meetings	50	18	68	39	19	58	85,3%	10
2171	Studies	120	(67)	53	-	52	52	98,1%	1
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.273	-	1.273	173	923	1.096	86,1%	177
3111	Digital Europe Programme	215.731	(749)	214.982	130	214.852	214.982	100,0%	-
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	96.495	-	96.495	-	67.239	67.239	69,7%	29.256
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	312.226	(749)	311.477	130	282.091	282.221	90,6%	29.256
Total budget		315.326	-	315.327	2.071	283.649	285.720	90,6%	29.607

ECCC's payment implementation for the 2024 financial year - C1 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	2024 payment appropriations	Transfers, payment appropriations	Total payment appropriations in 2024	Paid before Autonomy - CNECT	Paid after autonomy - ECCC	Total paid in 2024	% paid	Unpaid
		(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) + (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4) + (5)	= (6) / (3)	= (3) - (6)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	890	11	901	608	219	827	91,8%	74
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	500	896	1.396	1.070	311	1.381	98,9%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	100	(65)	35	9	12	21	60,0%	14
1141	Insurance against sickness, etc.	60	(60)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1151	Recruitment	15	29	44	1	-	1	2,3%	43
1161	Trainings	140	(120)	20	-	-	-	0,0%	20
1171	Mission expenses	80	79	159	81	28	109	68,6%	50
1181	Social welfare	30	(10)	20	-	3	3	15,0%	17
1182	Medical service and expenses	12	(11)	1	-	-	-	0,0%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	1.827	749	2.576	1.769	573	2.342	90,9%	234

2111	Rental of building and associated costs	290	(256)	34	1	13	14	41,2%	20
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	290	442	732	50	127	177	24,2%	555
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	218	(216)	2	-	-	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	103	207	310	60	151	210	67,7%	100
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	150	(91)	59	23	-	23	39,0%	36
2161	Technical meetings	52	(37)	15	-	-	-	0,0%	15
2162	Statutory meetings	50	18	68	39	7	46	67,6%	22
2171	Studies	120	(67)	53	-	-	-	0,0%	53
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.273	-	1.273	173	298	470	36,9%	803
3111	Digital Europe Programme	155.753	(749)	155.004	72.224	68.682	140.906	90,9%	14.098
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	16.904	-	16.904	-	13.756	13.756	81,4%	3.148
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	172.657	(749)	171.908	72.224	82.438	154.662	90,0%	17.246
Total budget		175.757	-	175.757	74.166	83.309	157.474	89,6%	18.283

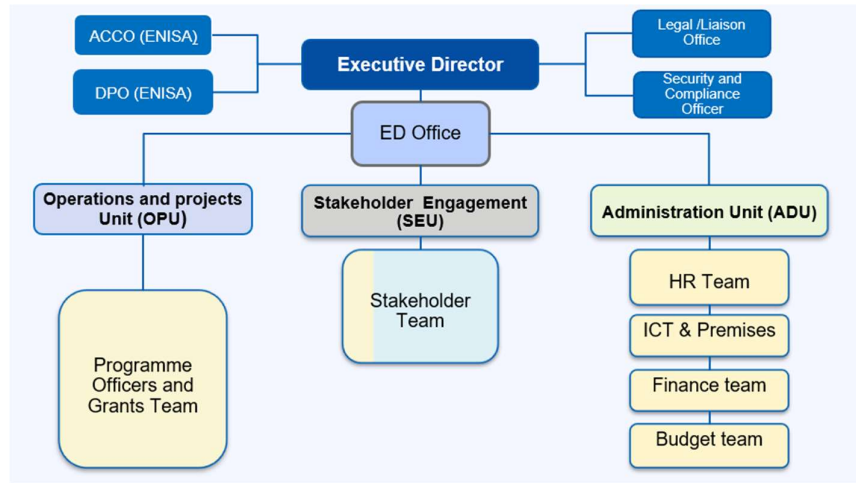
3.2. Previous year appropriations – C8 fund source

ECCC's budget implementation from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024 - C8 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	Commitment appropriations carried over	Committed	% Committed	Non-used in 2024	Payment appropriations carried forward	Paid	% Paid	Unpaid
		(1)	(2)	= (2) / (1)	= (1) - (2)	(3)	(4)	= (4) / (3)	= (3) - (4)
1171	Mission expenses	13	-	0,0%	13	13	-	0,0%	13
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	13	-	0,0%	13	13	-	0,0%	13
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	144	144	100,0%	-	144	144	100,0%	-
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	1	-	0,0%	1	1	-	0,0%	1
2141	Current administrative expenditure	113	45	39,8%	68	113	45	39,8%	68
2162	Statutory meetings	4	-	0,0%	4	4	-	0,0%	4
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	262	189	72,1%	73	262	189	72,1%	73
3111	Digital Europe Programme	242.343	242.343	100,0%	-	-	-	-	-
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	242.343	242.343	100,0%	-	-	-	-	-
Total budget		242.618	242.532	100,0%	86	275	189	68,7%	86

ANNEX III. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

An organisation chart has been proposed by the ED to ECCC GB in June 2024²⁶ and is presented here below.



ANNEX IV. ESTABLISHMENT PLAN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

ECCC Establishment Plan 2024

The 2024 establishment plan included 10 TA posts.

Temporary Agents

Function group and grade	Establishment plan 2024	Posts filled 31.12.2024	Posts vacant
AD 16			
AD 15			
AD 14	1	1	
AD 13			
AD 12	2		2
AD 11	2		2
AD 10			
AD 9			
AD 8	3	3	
AD 7	2	2	
AD 6			
AD 5			
AD TOTAL	10	6	4

Contract Agents and Seconded National Experts

Function group and grade	Authorised budget 2024	Headcount 31.12.2024	Vacant
FGIV	21	16	5
FGIII	2	2	0
FGII	4	3	1
TOTAL	27	21	6
Seconded national experts	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2024	Executed FTE as of 31/12/2024	Headcount as of 31/12/2024
TOTAL	1	0	0

²⁶ Valid till Q1/2025.

ECCC benchmarking exercise

JOB TYPE CATEGORY	2024 (JOBS)	2024 (%)
Administrative support and Coordination	8	29.6%
Administrative support	5	18.5%
Coordination	3	11.1%
Operational	12	44.4%
Programme management and Implementation	10	37%
Top level Operational Coordination	-	-
General Operational	2	7.4%
Neutral	7	25.9%
Finance / Control	7	25.9%
Linguistics	0	0%

ANNEX V. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY ACTIVITY

Multi-annual staff policy plan 2025, 2026, 2027

Function group and grade	2023				2024		2025		2026		2027	
	Authorised Budget		Actually filled as of 31/12/2023		Authorised Budget		Envisaged		Envisaged		Envisaged	
	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts
AD 16												
AD 15												
AD 14		1		0		1		1		1		1
AD 13												1
AD 12		2		0		2		2		2		2
AD 11		2		0		2		2		2		1
AD 10												
AD 9										1		2
AD 8		3		3		3		3		3		3
AD 7		2		2		2		2		1		
AD 6												
AD 5												
AD TOTAL		10		5		10		10		10		10
AST 11												
AST 10												
AST 9												
AST 8												
AST 7												
AST 6												
AST 5												
AST 4												
AST 3												
AST 2												
AST 1												
AST TOTAL		0		0		0		0		0		0
AST/SC 6												
AST/SC 5												
AST/SC 4												
AST/SC 3												
AST/SC 2												
AST/SC 1												
AST/SC TOTAL		0		0		0		0		0		0
TOTAL		10		5		10		10		10		10
GRAND TOTAL		10		5		10		10		10		10

- External personnel

Contract Agents*

Contract agents	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2023	Executed FTE as of 31/12/2023	Headcount as of 31/12/2023	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2024	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2025	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2026	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2027
Function Group IV	21	18	18	21	23	23	23
Function Group III	2	2	2	2	4	4	4
Function Group II	4	2	2	4	0	0	0
Function Group I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	22	22	27	27	27	27

*For Contract Agents, for the years 2025-2027, while the total number is the same, the function groups were revised and updated upwards, given the current context of the ECCC, its staffing and attraction challenges.

Seconded National Experts

Seconded National Experts	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2023	Executed FTE as of 31/12/2023	Headcount as of 31/12/2023	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2024	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2025	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2026	FTE corresponding to the authorised budget 2027
TOTAL	1	0	0	1	1	1	1

ECCC's commitment implementation for the 2024 financial year - C1 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	2024 commitment appropriations	Transfers, commitment appropriations	Total commitment appropriations in 2024	Committed before Autonomy - CNECT	Committed after autonomy - ECCC	Total committed in 2024	% Committed	Non-committed
		(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) + (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4) + (5)	= (6) / (3)	= (3) - (6)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	890	11	901	608	227	835	92,7%	66
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	500	896	1.396	1.070	311	1.381	92,7%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	100	(65)	36	8	27	35	92,7%	1
1141	Insurance against sickness, etc.	60	(60)	-	-	-	-	92,7%	-
1151	Recruitment	15	29	44	1	25	26	92,7%	18
1161	Trainings	140	(120)	20	-	-	-	92,7%	20
1171	Mission expenses	80	79	159	81	40	121	92,7%	38
1181	Social welfare	30	(10)	20	-	5	5	92,7%	15
1182	Medical service and expenses	12	(11)	1	-	-	-	92,7%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	1.827	749	2.577	1.768	635	2.403	92,7%	174
2111	Rental of building and associated costs	290	(256)	34	1	33	34	100,0%	-
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	290	442	732	50	567	617	84,3%	115
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	218	(216)	2	-	-	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	103	207	310	60	236	296	95,5%	14
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	150	(91)	59	23	1	24	40,7%	35
2161	Technical meetings	52	(37)	15	-	15	15	100,0%	-
2162	Statutory meetings	50	18	68	39	19	58	85,3%	10
2171	Studies	120	(67)	53	-	52	52	98,1%	1
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.273	-	1.273	173	923	1.096	86,1%	177
3111	Digital Europe Programme	215.731	(749)	214.982	130	214.852	214.982	100,0%	-
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	96.495	-	96.495	-	67.239	67.239	69,7%	29.256
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	312.226	(749)	311.477	130	282.091	282.221	90,6%	29.256
Total budget		315.326	-	315.327	2.071	283.649	285.720	90,6%	29.607

ECCC's payment implementation for the 2024 financial year - C1 fund source - in '000 EUR

Budget Line	Budget Description	2024 payment appropriations	Transfers, payment appropriations	Total payment appropriations in 2024	Paid before Autonomy - CNECT	Paid after autonomy - ECCC	Total paid in 2024	% paid	Unpaid
		(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) + (2)	(4)	(5)	(6) = (4) + (5)	= (6) / (3)	= (3) - (6)
1111	Salaries and allowances for temporary agents	890	11	901	608	219	827	91,8%	74
1121	Salaries and allowances for contractual agents	500	896	1.396	1.070	311	1.381	98,9%	15
1131	Seconded national experts, interim staff and trainees	100	(65)	35	9	12	21	60,0%	14
1141	Insurance against sickness, etc.	60	(60)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1151	Recruitment	15	29	44	1	-	1	2,3%	43
1161	Trainings	140	(120)	20	-	-	-	0,0%	20
1171	Mission expenses	80	79	159	81	28	109	68,6%	50
1181	Social welfare	30	(10)	20	-	3	3	15,0%	17
1182	Medical service and expenses	12	(11)	1	-	-	-	0,0%	1
TITLE 1	Staff expenditure	1.827	749	2.576	1.769	573	2.342	90,9%	234
2111	Rental of building and associated costs	290	(256)	34	1	13	14	41,2%	20
2121	Computer centre operations and data processing	290	442	732	50	127	177	24,2%	555
2131	Moveable property and associated costs	218	(216)	2	-	-	-	0,0%	2
2141	Current administrative expenditure	103	207	310	60	151	210	67,7%	100
2151	Publication, communication and translation costs	150	(91)	59	23	-	23	39,0%	36
2161	Technical meetings	52	(37)	15	-	-	-	0,0%	15
2162	Statutory meetings	50	18	68	39	7	46	67,6%	22
2171	Studies	120	(67)	53	-	-	-	0,0%	53
TITLE 2	Building, IT and others	1.273	-	1.273	173	298	470	36,9%	803
3111	Digital Europe Programme	155.753	(749)	155.004	72.224	68.682	140.906	90,9%	14.098
3121	Horizon Europe Programme	16.904	-	16.904	-	13.756	13.756	81,4%	3.148
TITLE 3	Operational expenditure	172.657	(749)	171.908	72.224	82.438	154.662	90,0%	17.246
Total budget		175.757	-	175.757	74.166	83.309	157.474	89,6%	18.283

ANNEX VI. CONTRIBUTION, GRANT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

The ECCC does not receive any form of grant. A Contribution Agreement, related to Horizon Europe Programme, has been signed for 2024.

Service-level agreement	Actual or expected date of signature	Total amount (EUR)	Duration	Counter-part	Short description
DG DIGIT	Signed	98.425,15	1 year (automatic renewal)	DIGIT	Global SLA for the provision of IT services
DG HR	signed	143.834,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	HR	SLA where DG HR provides implementation and operation of SYSPER and related services to ECCC.
PMO	Signed	12.000,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	PMO	SLA for general assistance and/or provision of applications for which the PMO is system owner
EPSO	Signed	25.000,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	EPSO	SLA providing to ECCC assistance and access to Job opportunities page, reserve lists, EPSO's planning, ex-post controls, 3 rd language testing and organisation of tailor-made selections.
EUAN (EU Agencies Network)	Signed	1.000,00	Indefinite period of time	SG	SLA to mutualise the costs for the Shared Support Office
ENISA	Signed	54.604.32	1 year (automatic renewal)	ENISA	SLA for the provision of data protection officer services and accounting officer services. In addition, a MoU was signed in 2023 between ENISA and ECCC.
DG BUDG	Signed	128.220,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	DG BUDG	SLA for implementation and usage of ABAC.
e-Procurement +cloud services	Signed	30.000,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	DIGIT	Amendment to SLA for access to eProcurement tool and Cloud service
TESTA MoU	Signed	N/A	1 year (automatic renewal)	DIGIT	MoU for TESTA access/provision
CERT-EU	Signed	11.001,77	Rest of 2024, then yearly automatic renewal	DIGIT	Amendment to SLA for the use of CERT-EU

Service-level agreement	Actual or expected date of signature	Total amount (EUR)	Duration	Counter-part	Short description
SG	Signed	19 040,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	SG	SLA for the provision of SG services (Migration to HAN)
CDT	Signed	30.102,00	1 year (automatic renewal)	CDT	Translation services and editing
RTD	Signed	N/A	1 year (automatic renewal)	RTD	eGrants (2024's amount covered by CNECT)
REA - Expert management and services	Signed	N/A	N/A	REA	No need for an SLA as we are under REA's mandate. Support of Expert management and Support services from REA

ANNEX VII. ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

An approach to address the environmental impact of ECCC will be developed after the move of ECCC in its permanent premises.

The ECCC headquarters are in Bucharest. The initial procedure for the selection of the building which was launched in 2021 was inconclusive. The Romanian Government offered a new solution for the temporary premises of the ECCC, available to serve the ECCC's needs from May 2023 and the permanent premises are expected to be available during Q1/2025. The process will follow the specific provisions regarding building projects as indicated in Article 266 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the EU.

ANNEX VIII. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Statement of financial position as at 31.12.2024

in EUR	31.12.2024
I. NON-CURRENT ASSETS	112.895.827
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	128.096
<i>Long term pre-financing given for operational grant</i>	112.767.731
II. CURRENT ASSETS	139.273.074
<i>Short term pre-financing given for operational grant</i>	95.984.092
<i>Exchange receivables and non-exchange recoverable</i>	43.288.982
<i>Cash and cash Equivalents</i>	0
TOTAL ASSETS (I. + II.)	252.168.901
III. NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	0
IV. CURRENT LIABILITIES	24.569.959
<i>Payables and other liabilities</i>	24.333.806
<i>Accrued charges and deferred income</i>	236.153
TOTAL LIABILITIES (III. + IV)	24.569.959
V. NET ASSETS	227.598.941
<i>Contribution from owners</i>	148.483.142
<i>Accumulated surplus/deficit</i>	0
<i>Economic result of the year</i>	79.115.799
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS (III. + IV. + V.)	252.168.901

Statement of financial performance from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024

in EUR	24.09.2024 - 31.12.2024
Revenue	
I. Revenue from non-exchange transactions	101.506.556
<i>Recovery of expenses</i>	101.506.556
<i>Other non-exchange revenue</i>	0
II. Revenue from exchange transactions	0
<i>Financial revenue</i>	0
<i>Other exchange revenue</i>	0
III. TOTAL REVENUE (I. + II.)	101.506.556
Expenses	
<i>Operating costs</i>	21.346.397
<i>Staff costs</i>	561.882
<i>Other expenses</i>	482.088
<i>Financial expenses</i>	390
IV. TOTAL EXPENSES	22.390.757
ECONOMIC RESULT OF THE YEAR (III. - IV.)	79.115.799

Cash-flow statement from 24.09.2024 to 31.12.2024

in EUR	2024
Economic result of the year	79.115.799
Operating activities	
Depreciation and amortisation (+)	11.645
(Increase)/Decrease in pre-financing	-208.751.823
(Increase)/Decrease in exchange receivables and non-exchange	-43.288.982
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	24.333.806
Increase/(Decrease) in accrued charges & deferred income	236.154
Increase/(Decrease) in contribution from owners	148.483.142
Investing activities	
(Increase)/Decrease in intangible assets and property, plant, equipment	-139.741
Net Cashflow	0
Net Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	0
Cash and cash equivalents at year-end	0

ANNEX IX. ADDITIONAL DATA ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 27 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Annex IX provides quantitative data on submissions and selections and breakdown by participant type, including SMEs and Member States. For each of the 4 calls launched during 2024 there are 3 tables presenting the type of applicants, the SME participation and also the MS participation.

A. DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06

Applicants' activity type

Topic	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in retained for funding proposals	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC	3	3	3	0	8	2	0	0	1	0	15	5
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-TRANSITIONEUPQC	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	4	2
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCRA	2	0	2	1	11	2	4	3	12	3	31	9
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	2	0	3	2	72	20	8	3	7	5	92	30
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-PQCINDUSTRY	2	2	3	2	23	20	1	1	0	0	29	25
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	14	4	9	6	76	32	18	8	5	3	122	53
TOTAL	23	9	20	11	193	78	31	15	26	11	293	124

SME participation

Topic	Number of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Number of SMEs in retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STANDARDPQC	5	978,176.88 €	1	107,002.14 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-TRANSITIONEUPQC	1	325,427.66 €	1	325,427.66 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-COMPLIANCECRA	64	29,122,175.81 €	20	6,072,076.13 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-ENABLINGTECH	42	45,490,260.27 €	20	9,772,511.16 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-PQCINDUSTRY	14	3,735,263.00 €	13	3,456,528.00 €
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCRA	15	19,599,075.45 €	2	956,366.00 €
TOTAL	141	99,250,379.07 €	57	20,689,911.09 €

Country participation and share of requested EU contribution

Country Group	Country	N. Participations in evaluated proposals	N. Participations in retained for funding proposals	Requested EU contribution in evaluated proposals
Associated Countries	Norway	1	1	300,884.00 €
Associated Countries	Total	1	1	300,884.00 €
EU Member States	Austria	1	1	621,937.50 €
EU Member States	Belgium	24	7	6,249,318.95 €
EU Member States	Bulgaria	5	3	879,908.62 €
EU Member States	Croatia	5	3	6,599,063.97 €
EU Member States	Cyprus	17	8	5,136,336.55 €
EU Member States	Czechia	5	0	1,671,077.85 €
EU Member States	Denmark	2	2	2,551,917.80 €
EU Member States	Estonia	3	1	866,712.04 €
EU Member States	Finland	5	3	1,255,352.09 €
EU Member States	France	16	3	18,054,508.10 €
EU Member States	Germany	22	12	15,954,312.03 €
EU Member States	Greece	34	22	11,269,908.75 €
EU Member States	Ireland	6	1	1,435,021.94 €
EU Member States	Italy	30	18	39,422,041.52 €
EU Member States	Latvia	1	0	152,903.00 €
EU Member States	Lithuania	2	0	281,945.00 €
EU Member States	Luxembourg	8	4	21,578,048.00 €
EU Member States	Malta	1	0	999,915.00 €
EU Member States	Netherlands	8	2	27,264,317.35 €
EU Member States	Poland	7	3	7,293,382.15 €
EU Member States	Portugal	5	2	1,061,065.50 €
EU Member States	Romania	32	17	14,915,808.02 €
EU Member States	Slovakia	7	0	14,430,832.85 €
EU Member States	Slovenia	21	5	9,017,469.95 €
EU Member States	Spain	22	6	21,126,606.87 €
EU Member States	Sweden	3	0	436,025.00 €
EU Member States	Total	292	123	230,525,736.40 €
GRAND TOTAL		293	124	230,826,620.40 €

B. DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06

Applicants' activity type

Topic	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in retained for funding proposals	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	0	0	1	1	0	0	7	6	1	1	9	8
TOTAL	0	0	1	1	0	0	7	6	1	1	9	8

SME participation

Topic	Panel	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of evaluated proposals	Number of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of retained for funding proposals	Number of SMEs in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	9	27,245,568.83 €	0		8	23,245,568.83 €	0
TOTAL		9	27,245,568.83 €	0		8	23,245,568.83 €	0

Country participation and share of requested EU contribution

Country Group	Country	N. Participations in evaluated proposals	N. Participations in retained for funding proposals	Requested EU contribution in retained for funding proposals
EU Member States	Croatia	1	1	3,937,151.13 €
EU Member States	Cyprus	3	3	3,838,345.20 €
EU Member States	Finland	1	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Hungary	1	1	2,002,250.00 €
EU Member States	Netherlands	1	1	4,967,207.50 €
EU Member States	Romania	1	1	3,608,040.00 €
EU Member States	Slovakia	1	1	4,892,575.00 €
EU Member States	Total	9	8	23,245,568.83 €
GRAND TOTAL		9	8	23,245,568.83 €

C. HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01

Applicants' activity type

Topic	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in retained for funding proposals	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	218	16	147	8	575	47	21	1	44	2	1005	74
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	81	8	66	8	178	23	6	1	25	2	356	42
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	187	7	117	4	367	15	8	0	34	0	713	26
TOTAL	486	31	330	20	1120	85	35	2	103	4	2074	142

SME participation

Topic	Panel	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of evaluated proposals	Number of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of retained for funding proposals	Number of SMEs in retained for funding proposals
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-03	713	294,802,955.00 €	204	78,251,684.00 €	26	10,936,651.25 €	7
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-01	1005	381,497,899.94 €	328	112,512,063.75 €	74	22,119,202.75 €	26
HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	HORIZON-CL3-2023-CS-01-02	356	122,538,674.27 €	114	37,226,571.18 €	42	15,093,045.10 €	16
TOTAL		2074	798,839,529.21 €	646	227,990,318.93 €	142	48,148,899.10 €	49

Country participation and share of requested EU contribution

Country Group	Country	N. Participations in evaluated proposals	N. Participations in retained for funding proposals	Requested EU contribution in retained for funding proposals
Associated Countries	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	Georgia	2	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	Israel	7	1	504,910.00 €
Associated Countries	Morocco	1	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	Norway	45	1	288,487.50 €
Associated Countries	Serbia	11	1	188,343.75 €
Associated Countries	Tunisia	1	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	Türkiye	26	2	549,337.50 €
Associated Countries	Ukraine	7	0	0.00 €
Associated Countries	United Kingdom	92	4	1,771,027.50 €
Associated Countries	Total	194	9	3,302,106.25 €
EU Member States	Austria	50	6	1,991,735.95 €
EU Member States	Belgium	70	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Bulgaria	25	4	1,061,500.00 €
EU Member States	Croatia	8	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Cyprus	72	10	3,854,897.00 €
EU Member States	Czechia	19	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Denmark	7	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Estonia	21	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Finland	27	1	458,736.00 €
EU Member States	France	133	12	4,953,719.44 €
EU Member States	Germany	213	15	6,653,855.78 €
EU Member States	Greece	293	31	11,310,140.19 €
EU Member States	Hungary	17	1	350,875.00 €
EU Member States	Ireland	60	5	1,565,377.50 €
EU Member States	Italy	186	14	3,775,066.58 €
EU Member States	Latvia	2	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Lithuania	4	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Luxembourg	52	1	410,375.00 €
EU Member States	Netherlands	56	3	1,014,052.50 €
EU Member States	Poland	19	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Portugal	74	3	846,701.56 €
EU Member States	Romania	59	5	1,232,687.50 €
EU Member States	Slovakia	5	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Slovenia	20	1	331,849.00 €
EU Member States	Spain	258	14	5,035,223.85 €
EU Member States	Sweden	38	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Total	1788	126	44,846,792.85 €
Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to the MSs	Aruba	1	0	0.00 €
Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to the MSs	Total	1	0	0.00 €
Third countries	Canada	1	0	0.00 €
Third countries	Korea (Republic of)	2	0	0.00 €
Third countries	Switzerland	86	7	0.00 €
Third countries	Thailand	1	0	0.00 €
Third countries	United States	1	0	0.00 €
Third countries	Total	91	7	0.00 €
GRAND TOTAL		2074	142	48,148,899.10 €

D. DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06_cutoff

Applicants' activity type

Topic	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Higher or secondary education in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Research organisations in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Private for profit organisations (excl. education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Public body (excl. research and education) in retained for funding proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in evaluated proposals	Number of participants from Other type of organisation in retained for funding proposals	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	4	3	3	2	4	4	21	17	7	6	39
TOTAL	4	3	3	2	4	4	21	17	7	6	39

SME participation

Topic	Panel	Total number of participants in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of evaluated proposals	Number of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in evaluated proposals	Total number of participants in retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of retained for funding proposals	Total requested EU contribution of SMEs in retained for funding proposals
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06-MS-COORDINATION	39	57,157,433.14 €	1	107,856.00 €	32	45,248,682.64 €	107,856.00 €
TOTAL		39	57,157,433.14 €	1	107,856.00 €	32	45,248,682.64 €	107,856.00 €

Country participation and share of requested EU contribution

Country Group	Country	N. Participations in evaluated proposals	N. Participations in retained for funding proposals	Requested EU contribution in retained for funding proposals
Associated Countries	Iceland	5	5	1,744,338.08 €
Associated Countries	Norway	3	3	2,499,028.34 €
Associated Countries	Total	8	8	4,243,366.42 €
EU Member States	Belgium	1	1	4,999,784.72 €
EU Member States	Czechia	2	2	2,499,172.25 €
EU Member States	Denmark	2	2	4,985,192.60 €
EU Member States	Estonia	3	3	2,682,019.20 €
EU Member States	Finland	1	1	3,996,270.24 €
EU Member States	France	6	6	5,427,469.00 €
EU Member States	Greece	2	2	3,319,140.00 €
EU Member States	Latvia	5	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Malta	1	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Portugal	3	3	2,425,839.80 €
EU Member States	Romania	1	1	3,608,040.00 €
EU Member States	Slovenia	1	1	2,068,390.25 €
EU Member States	Spain	2	2	4,993,998.16 €
EU Member States	Sweden	1	0	0.00 €
EU Member States	Total	31	24	41,005,316.22 €
GRAND TOTAL		39	32	45,248,682.64 €

ANNEX X. LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABAC	Accrual-based accounting
AD	Administrator
AST	Assistant
BOA	Back Office Arrangements
CA	Contract agent
CAAR	Consolidated Annual Activity Report
CERT-EU	Computer Emergency Response Team for the EU institutions, bodies and agencies
CRA	Cyber Resilience Act
CSA	Cybersecurity Act
CSIRT	Computer Security Incident Response Team
CTI	Cyber Threat Intelligence
DEP	Digital Europe Programme
DG CONNECT	EC Directorate
DPO	Data Protection Officer
EC	European Commission
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECCC	European Cybersecurity Competence Centre
ECSO	European Cyber Security Organisation
ED	Executive Director
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIB	European Investment Bank
ENISA	European Union Agency for Cybersecurity
EU	European Union
EUAN	EU Agencies Network
FTE	Full-time equivalent
GB	Governing Board (of the ECCC)
HEP	Horizon Europe Programme
ICT	Information and communication technology
ISAC	Information Sharing and Analysis Centre
IT	Information technology
JCU	Joint Cyber Unit
JU	Joint Undertaking
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MS	Member State(s)
NCCs	National Coordination Centres
NIS	Networks and information systems
NIS CG	NIS Cooperation Group
NLO	National Liaison Officers
SAG	Strategic Advisory Group
SC	Secretary
SLA	Service-level agreement
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPD	Single Programming Document
TA	Temporary agent
TESTA	Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union