

CSAW'26

EUROPE



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What is the « CAC² » ?

The Cybersecurity Awareness Communication Challenge (CAC²) is an innovative competition designed to raise awareness of cybersecurity through the creation of communication media. The event is open to all students, from highschool to doctoral students, and encourages interdisciplinary collaboration.

The aim is to develop an effective and accessible communication campaign using various media (video, poster, workshop, game, article, etc.) designed to raise awareness of cybersecurity among non-experts. Students from engineering, graphic design, business and other disciplines can participate, encouraging a diversity of skills and approaches.

Why take part?

- **Societal impact:** Contribute to an essential cause by helping to protect individuals and organisations against digital threats.
- **Develop your skills:** Put your communication skills to work in the fast-growing field of cybersecurity.
- **Gain Visibility:** Your work will be showcased to a wide audience, and you could well become a reference in the field!
- **Take part in an international event** and meet industry experts.
- **Attractive prizes** are up for grabs for the most striking creations.

We encourage creativity and originality while respecting the principles of cybersecurity and professional ethics (do not plagiarize work that already exists).

How to participate?

1. **Registration:** Go to our [website](#) to register using the form
2. **Creation:** Let your creativity run free to design an original awareness-raising tool.
3. **Submission:** Send in your creative project before the deadline to be eligible for the competition.

Composition of the teams

There is no maximum number of team members. Team members must all be students and may come from different disciplines, levels of study, countries and universities. We strongly encourage each team to include at least one cybersecurity student and one communication/marketing/art student to ensure a balance of technical and creative skills. From the teams selected for the final, at least two representatives will be invited to Valence (France) for the final, including the referee who will receive all the information concerning the selection and the organisation of the final.

Theme of the 2026 edition

This year, the theme of the CAC² competition is data security, GDPR and NIS2 regulation. Lately, there has been a lot of data breaches, from small companies to big groups, and even government institution all over Europe. National regulation agencies have also started issuing fines up to 150M€ (2B€ in Ireland for GAFAM). Your goal is to raise awareness in companies and institution so that appropriate actions are taken to ensure GDPR and NIS2 compliance and ensure data security.

The qualifying phase

Teams must submit their communication project by email to csaw-europe@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr in PDF format (4 pages maximum). Only submissions written in english will be considered.

This document must include :

- A detailed description of the project.
- The cybersecurity area covered.
- The educational objective.
- The target audience.

During the qualification phase, it is not necessary to provide a visual, only the project plan.

The qualification phase is open to all registered students. Projects can take the form of posters, games, videos, demonstrations, etc. Registration is open until 2nd October inclusive, and projects must be submitted before that date.

Selection

The projects will be assessed by a panel of cybersecurity experts and communications expert. Selection criteria include creativity, educational impact, clarity of message and relevance of information. This is why we invite you to mix disciplines and not be alone on this project.

The final phase

The final phase will take place on 13th November. The finalists will be invited to CSAW'26 Europe to present their project to the jury. The final will take place in Valence (Drôme) in France, at the same time as the European finals of the other CSAW Europe competitions.

During the final, the teams will have to present their communication material (mock-up or demo) and answer the jury's questions. Both the presentation and the project deliverables must be in english. The presentation must demonstrate the impact of the campaign and its

effectiveness with the target audience. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony the same day.

Copyright

The works created as part of this competition will be free of copyright and placed under an open license (CC-BY-NC-SA). They may be reused freely, provided that they are not commercialised and that the author(s) and the context of the work are cited.

Key dates

- **Registration opens:** 15 July 2026
- **Submission deadline:** 2 October 2026
- **Announcement of finalists:** 9 October 2026
- **Final in Valence, France:** 13 November 2026

Travel expenses

For the Europe region, a grant will be awarded to cover travel and accommodation costs for the team representatives traveling to the final. Teams will receive more information when they receive their invitation to the final.

Prizes

Prizes vary by CSAW region. For more details, consult the [competition webpage](#) and the [CSAW website](#).

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact: csaw-europe@esisar.grenoble-inp.fr