

ECSC 2028

On the road to

ECSC 2028

European Cybersecurity Challenge
& the Swedish National Hacking Team

Musard Balliu

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Associate Professor
Swedish National Hacking Team

EUROPEAN CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGE

& THE SWEDISH NATIONAL HACKING TEAM

39+

Nations

400+

Competitors

14–25

Age Range

2028

Sweden Hosts

CTF Competition

National Selection

EU Championship

Talent Pipeline

WHAT IS THE ECSC?

2014

Founded

39+

Countries

10

Team Members

14–25

Age Range

The European Cybersecurity Challenge (ECSC) is the continent's premier annual cybersecurity championship, organised by **ENISA** (EU Agency for Cybersecurity). National teams of the best young hackers compete in **Capture The Flag (CTF)** challenges over two intense competition days, aiming to identify and nurture Europe's next generation of cybersecurity experts.



Find Talent

Identify top young cybersecurity minds across Europe



Connect

Bridge talent with industry-leading organisations



Collaborate

Foster pan-European cooperation and friendship



Secure Future

Build cybersecurity workforce to protect Europe

HOW THE COMPETITION WORKS

1

National Qualifiers

Countries run their own CTF competitions — top scorers earn a spot on the national team.

2

Team Selection

10 finalists aged 14–25 are chosen to represent their country at the ECSC finals.

3

ECSC Finals – Day 1 Jeopardy

Teams solve security challenges independently: crypto, web, forensics, reverse engineering, hardware, mobile.

4

ECSC Finals – Day 2 Attack/Defense

Teams simultaneously attack other teams' services while defending their own infrastructure.

CHALLENGE CATEGORIES

Web Security

Cryptography

Reverse Engineering

Binary Exploitation

Forensics

Mobile Security

Hardware Security

ECSC HALL OF FAME

| YEAR | LOCATION |  GOLD |  SILVER |  BRONZE |
|------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| 2025 | Warsaw, Poland | Italy | Denmark | Germany |
| 2024 | Turin, Italy | Germany | Italy | Poland |
| 2023 | Hamar, Norway | Germany | Switzerland | Denmark |
| 2022 | Vienna, Austria | Denmark | Germany | France |
| 2021 | Prague, Czech Rep. | Germany | Poland | Italy |
| 2019 | Bucharest, Romania | Romania | Italy | Austria |
| 2018 | London, UK | Germany | France | United Kingdom |
| 2017 | Malaga, Spain | Spain | Romania | Italy |

ECSC 2026 — BOCHUM, GERMANY

12 – 16

OCTOBER 2026

Bochum, Germany



12th edition of the European Cybersecurity Challenge



Hosted by Germany — a nation that has won ECSC 5 times



Open to EU, EFTA, and invited international guest countries



Challenges in web, mobile, crypto, reverse engineering & forensics



Networking with industry leaders and top cybersecurity organizations



Supported by ENISA and the European Commission

SWEDISH NATIONAL HACKING TEAM

SNHT — Sweden's Elite Cyber Team

Mission: SNHT is an initiative to identify, attract and train the next generation of cybersecurity experts by creating a national team to represent Sweden at ECSC and beyond. The program is open to all talented individuals aged 14–25 regardless of background.

WHO RUNS IT

- › Cparta Cyber Defense
- › KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- › Cybercampus Sweden
- › Annual qualification typically held February–March

KEY PARTNERS



HOW TO JOIN SNHT

The Path from Challenger to National Team Member

01

February

Open Qualifier + Säkerhets-SM

200+ participants

Online CTF open to all Swedes. Challenges include encryption, web security, binary exploitation, and reverse engineering. A Nordic collaboration with Denmark with participation of Finland.

02

Spring

National Finals at Bosön

50 participants

Top scorers from the qualifier are invited to Bosön (Lidingö) for a two-day final. Intense head-to-head hacking to determine the national team.

03

Summer

Summer Boot Camp

15 shortlisted

The selected team trains intensively during summer — both physical and mental preparation. Technical drills, strategy sessions and team-building to become a world-class CTF team.

04

October

ECSC Finals


10 participants

Sweden's 10-member team travels to the host country to compete against Europe's best in Jeopardy and Attack/Defense formats. Every year a different European city hosts the championship.

SNHT — SWEDEN'S RESULTS & PERFORMANCE

ECSC RESULTS

| EDITION | RANK | SCORE | |
|--------------------|---------|--------|-----|
| ECSC 2025 · Warsaw | 6 / 34 | 4 099 | pts |
| ECSC 2024 · Turin | 11 / 31 | 2 735 | pts |
| ECSC 2023 · Hamar | 7 / 28 | 16 534 | pts |
| ECSC 2022 · Vienna | 6 / 28 | 9 837 | pts |

 Best finishes: 6th place in 2022 and 2025

CTFtime GLOBAL RANKING

| | | |
|--------|--------|-----------|
| 2025 | #27 | #1 SE |
| ★ BEST | global | |
| 2024 | #102 | #2 SE |
| | global | |
| 2023 | #93 | #2 SE |
| | global | |
| 2022 | #142 | #3 SE |
| | global | 182.7 pts |

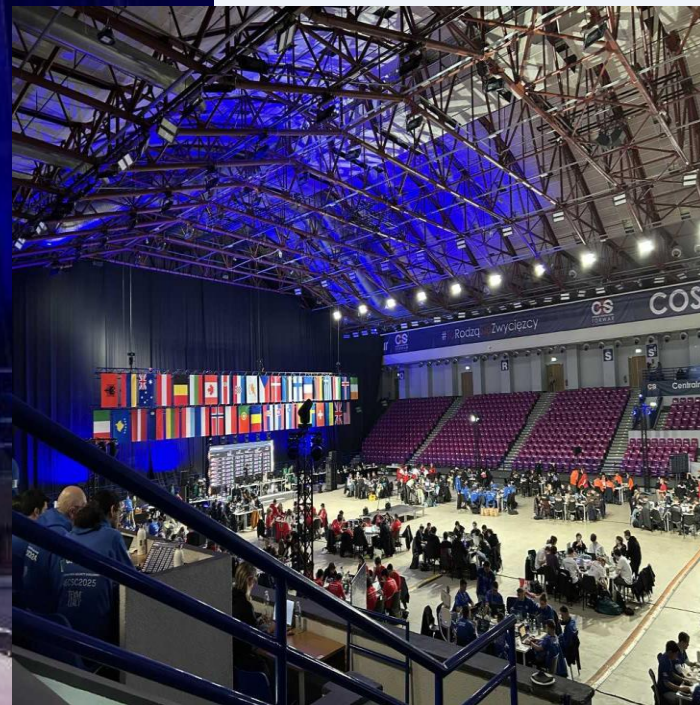
SNHT – We certainly win the outfit competition



SNHT – We certainly win the outfit competition



SNHT – We certainly win the outfit competition



WHY ECSC & SNHT MATTER

Europe's Cybersecurity Talent Gap

Europe faces a critical shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals. ECSC directly addresses this by inspiring young people to pursue careers in cyber defense — with ENISA supporting the pipeline from school to workplace.

Hands-On Skill Development

CTF challenges build real-world skills: spotting vulnerabilities, writing exploits, reversing malware, and cracking cryptographic puzzles under pressure — all transferable to actual security work.

Pan-European Collaboration

ECSC connects 39+ nations and fosters friendships across borders. Participants network with peers and recruiters — many land internships and jobs with top security firms.

Sweden's National Cybersecurity Strategy

SNHT aligns with Sweden's national security goals. Backed by academia and industry, it builds sovereign cyber capability and ensures Sweden punches above its weight internationally.

Diversity and Inclusion

ECSC 2025 introduced a Female+ Bootcamp for women on national teams, aiming to build a Female Team Europe to compete in 2026. SNHT actively encourages all backgrounds to participate.

GET INVOLVED

Are you 14–25 with a passion for cybersecurity?



Compete in SNHT

Join Sweden's national qualifier every February — snht.se



Follow ECSC

Track Europe's championship and all national teams — ecsc.eu



Join the Discord

Connect with fellow hacking talent and get training tips — [discord via snht.se](#)



Practice CTF

Solve challenges year-round on the practice platform — kval.snht.se



ECSC is truly an amazing experience. You get to meet a ton of new people with similar interests and experience in cybersecurity, and you can really learn a lot from them.

— ECSC Participant

SE SWEDEN IS HOSTING

ECSC 2028

European Cybersecurity Challenge · Sweden · 2028

14th

Edition

40+

Nations

400+

Competitors

2028

Sweden

Led by:



THE ORGANISING TEAM

ECSC 2028 Sweden — Key Institutions

LEAD ORGANISER



Sweden's national hub for cybersecurity research, education and innovation. Backed by the Swedish government. Led by KTH, brings together universities, agencies and industry across the nation.

National initiative

100M SEK funded

KTH anchored

TECHNICAL LEAD



Founding member of SNHT. Proven track record in running national and international CTFs and boot camps. Specialist in identifying and developing elite cyber talent.

SNHT organiser

Talent pipeline

CTF expertise

ACADEMIC PARTNER



Sweden's premier technical university and host of Cybercampus Sweden. KTH provides venue infrastructure, academic credibility, and bridges competition participants to higher education pathways in cybersecurity.

GOVERNMENT PARTNER



Part of FRA (Swedish Defence Radio Establishment). Sweden's central hub for preventing, detecting and managing cyber threats. Brings national security credibility and government authority to the event.



NCC-SE (EU National Coordination Centre) — Supporting partner: EU funding facilitation, ECCC liaison and Horizon Europe cybersecurity programmes

JOIN THE INITIATIVE

ECSC 2028 Sweden invites public institutions, government agencies and companies to be part of Europe's most prestigious cybersecurity event

Public Institutions & Government Agencies

› Signal national commitment to cyber resilience

Hosting ECSC is a diplomatic and strategic statement — Sweden as the secure digital nation of Europe.

› Inspire the next generation of public servants

Ministries, defence agencies and regulators benefit directly from a talent pipeline of cyber-aware professionals.

› Collaborate with NCSC & NCC-SE

Join the government-backed organising circle alongside FRA/NCSC and MCF/NCC-SE to shape cybersecurity policy outreach.

› Affiliate your event to ECSC 2028

Unique opportunity to affiliate your events with ECSC 2028

Companies & Industry Partners

› Direct access to Sweden's top cyber talent

400+ of Europe's best young hackers — your future security engineers, researchers and analysts — all in one place.

› Brand as a cyber-security-first company

Association with ECSC 2028 signals technological leadership and investment in digital security to clients and partners.

› Host your own challenge track

Sponsors can define real-world CTF scenarios drawn from their products, infrastructure, or threat environments.

› Recruit on-site

Priority booth access, CV database rights, and direct networking with both individual competitors and academic coaches.

Let's make history together.

Sweden will host Europe's premier cybersecurity championship for young talent — and we need you on the team.

Thanks!



Sweden se