# SWISS CYBER STORM

Press Release

## International Hacker Competition: Europe is preparing against cyber threats

**Last night, the national qualification phase of this year's "European Cyber Security Challenge" ended. The 20 best young hackers in Switzerland have been identified and are competing for entry into the European finale in Dusseldorf. The annual hacker competition is an important instrument for youth development and is encountering growing interest: For the first time, ten countries are participating in the international competition.**

Bern, 16 August 2016 – This Tuesday, we will learn who they are: the 20 best young hackers in Switzerland who have prevailed over their 150 competitors. The Swiss qualification for the finals of the European Cyber Security Challenge required lots of stamina, creativity and concentration from its 14-to-30-year-old participants. During the past three months, they have had to solve as many tasks from the realm of IT security as possible in order to gather more points than their counterparts.

The same thing is happening now in all of Europe. For the first time, as many as ten countries are participating at the annual "European Cyber Security Challenge". "Besides Germany, Austria, Spain, England, Romania and Switzerland, also Estonia, Ireland, Greece and Lichtenstein have joined as participants in the European final", says Bernhard Tellenbach, President of Swiss Cyber Storm, the organization responsible for the Swiss qualification.

### United against the shortage of skills
One reason for this growth is the worsening shortage of skills in the field of IT security. "The recruitment of young security specialists is getting harder and harder. In addition, IT infrastructures are growing more and more complex and attacks are becoming more professional. The initiative of the organizers is, for that reason, very valuable to business", are the words of praise uttered by Urs Rufer, CEO of the terreActive IT company which is supporting Swiss Cyber Storm as principal sponsor.

The initiative of private organizations is also being praised from the governmental side of the field: in Germany where the European final is taking place this year, the Federal Ministry for Business is standing behind the qualification while Swiss Cyber Storm is being supported by the Reporting and Analysis Centre for Information Assurance of the Swiss Federation (MELANI).

### The road to the final
The winners of the Swiss qualification will compete on 16 September in the National Final in Sursee LU. The ten best finalists will then travel as the Swiss team to the European Championship in Dusseldorf in November where they will compete against the teams from the nine other countries. Along with fame and honor, the

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winners also stand a good chance of landing lucrative job offers. That is why most countries are conducting networking events during the final eliminations. So too, the Swiss finalists will be invited to Swiss Cyber Storm, a security conferences taking place in Lucerne on 19 October.

**Further Information and photographic materials:**
http://swisscyberstorm.com/press/articles/

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**Swiss Cyber Storm Association**
Swiss Cyber Storm was founded in 2012 as a non-profit organisation with the purpose of advancing the cause of talented young persons in the field of cybersecurity and regularly holding cybersecurity events for professionals and business executives.

Swiss Cyber Storm fulfils the club's purpose, on the one hand, with the search and sponsorship of young cybersecurity talents in the form of the annual Cyber Security Challenge and the subsequent participation in the European Cyber Security Challenge. On the other hand, the club carries out the annual international Swiss Cyber Storm, an IT security conference that is geared toward cyberattacks and their defence.

The Club is engaged in youth development on a national as well as an international level. It strives, together with its partner organisations, to expand the European Cyber Security Challenge to other participating countries.

Swiss Cyber Storm is not trying to sign up many members. The Club needs to be composed only of members who support the Club's goals through active participation and who represent not only the interests of business and the public sector, but also education and research.