Secret ingredient to Dutch cybersecurity succes? Collaboration. HSD Campus makes it happen

Collaboration is more essential in cybersecurity than in any other industry. HSD proactively facilitates collaborative projects and encourages business partnerships to ignite innovative solutions that secure the digital world.

The diversity of knowledge and technology required to keep us secure in the digital space is growing fast. The HSD Campus in The Hague was specifically established to accommodate and actively facilitate the collaborations required to keep up pace.

The [HSD Campus](https://hsdcampus.nl/) offers dedicated office space and community services to the cybersecurity community. Furthermore, the Dutch cybersecurity cluster organisation [HSD](https://securitydelta.nl/nl/), which has its headquarters at the campus, plays an elemental role in tying the knots between different actors in the cybersecurity space. Public and private organisations and research and education institutes are facilitated by HSD to exchange knowledge, insights and forecasts, collaborate on projects and arrange the resources required to secure our future.

Although the HSD partner base stretches far beyond the campus, this location is the central meeting point of the cybersecurity community in the Netherlands, especially when involvement of both public and private organisations and/or research and education institutes is required. “A large majority of cybersecurity companies in The Hague are located here at the HSD Campus or in its near vicinity,” says Nabile Benali, campus manager at the HSD Campus. He continues:

“The campus is a very attractive location for ambitious cybersecurity companies to have their office, plan meetings and/or visit events. Here they meet likeminded professionals and entrepreneurs, and get grapevine-type access to information about new opportunities, projects and research insights, which allows them to move quickly on new developments.”

Nabile Benali, Campusmanager @HSD Campus.

Another force of attraction is the fact that The Hague is the seat of the Dutch government and home to a variety of public security organisations such as the [Dutch National Police](https://www.politie.nl/en), [Netherlands Cyber Security Centre](https://www.ncsc.nl/), the [Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service](https://english.aivd.nl/) (AIVD) and the [Netherlands Forensics Institute](https://www.forensicinstitute.nl/). These domestic institutes are complemented by a number of international organisations such as [Interpol](https://www.interpol.int/), [Europol](https://www.europol.europa.eu/) and [Nato’s Communication and Intelligence agency](https://www.ncia.nato.int/) (NCIA) and cybersecurity-focused networking organisations such as the [Global Forum for Cyber Expertise](https://thegfce.org/) (GFCE) and [Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis](https://www.fsisac.com/) (FS-ISAC).

**The One Conference**

Since 2012, October has been themed [European Cybersecurity Month](https://cybersecuritymonth.eu/), during which awareness about cybersecurity for individuals and organisations is promoted. In the Netherlands, [One Conference](https://one-conference.nl/) is a central event during this month, which attracts cybersecurity experts from around the world to discuss new developments and how to respond accurately. Speakers at the One conference include high-level politicians, cybersecurity advisers to governments, CEO’s of cybersecurity companies and influential researchers. Complementing the One Conference during cybersecurity month, are a variety of side events where more niche-subjects are discussed and new relationships are built.

A few examples of events that recently took place at the HSD Campus are the Hansken Hackathon and ECSO Cyber Investor days. [The Hansken Hackathon](https://securitydelta.nl/nl/nieuws/overzicht/successful-hansken-hackathon-at-hsd-campus-puts-innovation-into-practice.) was initiated by the Netherlands Forensics Institute and Leiden University of Applied sciences, and had participants from the National Police, the Fiscal Information and Investigation Service and students and teachers from Leiden University of Applied Sciences. Several teams worked on use-cases such as ‘how to identify if an image has been edited’ and ‘how to quickly extract data from a cryptowallet’.

**ECSO**

[ECSO](https://ecs-org.eu/), the organizer of the ECSO investor days, is a EU-affiliated network organisation that contributes to Europe’s Digital Sovereignty & Strategic Autonomy and to strenghtens its cyber resilience. The investor days provide an EU-wide stage for cybersecurity startups, where they can pitch their businesses to investors and present their solutions to a large international audience. In 2022, the [ECSO STARtup award](https://ecs-org.eu/celebrating-european-innovation-ecso-announces-the-winner-of-the-2021-european-cybersecurity-startup-award/) ceremony also took place in The Hague. This competition allows EU-based cybersecurity SMEs and start-ups to pitch their ideas and meet experts and investors, and win a mentoring opportunity, as well as a one-year subscription to the CYBERSECURITY MADE IN EUROPE Label.

**Building a community**

In addition to the theme-based events, regular informal walk-in events bring the community together, where companies get to present their methods and technology, share recent highlights or informally catch up on new developments over some refreshments. These events offer the informal setting where relationships are built that grow into more substantive collaborations.

One example of a partnership that recently materialized at the HSD Campus is the partnership between security consultancy firm [Shift Red](https://www.shiftred.nl/) and IAM implementation company [Triple-id](https://www.triple-id.com/). This collaboration promises to provide a winning combination for those in need of robust security solutions. Triple-id offers hands-on capacity for implementation, while Shift Red brings its expertise in architectural knowledge according to best practices. This combination is a recipe for success, as customers can benefit from both the technical know-how of Triple-id and the strategic guidance of Shift Red.

“Collaborations like this one demonstrate the value of being part of an active business network. Shift Red and Triple-ID knew each other from the coffee machine and our events. The partnership, which not only generates a new business model for both companies, but also benefits their clients that are looking for an end-to-end solution for their upgraded digital identity management, is a result of these companies being located at the HSD Campus,” says Nabile.