Open Call for Independent Cyber Ranges

Join CYRESRANGE: A pioneering initiative to create a collaborative ecosystem of advanced cyber ranges across Europe. This is your opportunity to become part of a groundbreaking network that's reshaping cybersecurity training and defense.

Building Europe's Cyber Defense Network

CYRESRANGE is creating a network of interconnected cyber ranges and a central hub for cyber range resources. Our mission is to advance cybersecurity training, accelerate research in cyber defense, enable large-scale cyber exercises, and provide shared resources for cyber education.

In today's complex cybersecurity landscape, isolated cyber range environments are insufficient. We're overcoming this limitation by creating a dynamic, interconnected network that enables unprecedented collaboration, resource sharing, and capability enhancement.

2-3

Projects Funded

Selected competitive proposals

€25K

Maximum Grant

Per supported project

Six Core Objectives Driving Innovation

01

Strengthen Interconnection Capacity

Connect independent cyber ranges using innovative CyberEdu Range Connector, optimized for fast onboarding and cross-range content management

02

Develop Training Marketplace

Create crowdsourced structured trainings and certification schemes with incentive systems for content creators

03

Support Progressive Adoption

Enable platform adoption through extensive validation and large-scale exercises across critical infrastructures

04

Innovative Self-Assessment

Develop ML-powered assessment engine combining personality traits and technical skills for key technologies

05

Advanced Cyber-Attack Capabilities

Improve capability to approach APT-level attacks through real attack simulations for underserved technologies

06

Market Entry & Standardization

Execute business plan, contribute to standardization bodies, and ensure wide dissemination of results

What We're Funding

This grant supports Independent Cyber Ranges through financial support, enabling technical onboarding, integration, validation, and active participation in cross-range, large-scale cybersecurity exercises within the CYC programme.

Infrastructure Onboarding

Integration of cyber range infrastructures capable of supporting cross-range exercises

Technical Integration

REST API integration for onboarding, orchestration, and infrastructure management

Validation Activities

Active participation in testing and validation during WP4 and WP5

Detailed Feedback

Comprehensive technical and operational feedback throughout all phases

Outcomes That Transform European Cybersecurity

Operational Integration

Enable cross-range cybersecurity scenarios across heterogeneous infrastructures

Improved Interoperability

Standardized technical integration via REST-based interfaces

Expanded Capabilities

Unique specialized functionalities from third-party infrastructures

Validated Scenarios

Realistic, large-scale multi-environment cybersecurity exercises

Enhanced Maturity

Hands-on validation, testing, and iteration for all participants

Who Can Apply?

Organization Types Welcome

- Academic Institutions (Universities, Research Labs)

- Government Agencies (Defense, Cybersecurity, Law Enforcement)

- Commercial Cyber Range Providers

- Non-profit Cybersecurity Organizations

- Private Organizations with On-Premises Training Facilities

Geographic Requirement

Must be established within an EU Member State, ensuring compliance with NIS 2 Directive, GDPR, EU Cybersecurity Strategy, and Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox.

Two Partner Maturity Levels

Infrastructure Provider

You have access to resources (servers, datacenter) to run cybersecurity exercises but lack content, orchestration capabilities, gamification system, and expertise.

Minimum Resources: 32 vCPU, 64GB RAM, 500GB SSD,

Cyber Range Provider

You operate an existing, functional cyber range actively used for training, research, or exercises. Must be demonstrable and capable of participating in integration activities.

Minimum Resources: 256 vCPU, 512GB RAM, 1TB SSD, 1 GBit connection

Technical Requirements for Cyber Range Range Providers

Core Capabilities

- Virtual environment management for VMs, networks, and infrastructure
- Exercise execution and control mechanisms
- Logging and reporting systems
- User management and access control

Integration Readiness

Support for at least one integration method: API Connection (Vsphere/Proxmox/Kubernetes), Hybrid Connection (WireGuard/OpenVPN), Cross-Range IPSEC/VPN Tunnels, or custom solutions.

Security Standards

Commitment to security best practices, GDPR compliance, vulnerability management, patch management, incident response, and strong access control policies.

Advanced Exercise Capabilities

We're seeking cyber ranges with expertise in cutting-edge technologies that can be employed in advanced exercises:

Cloud Security

Advanced cloud infrastructure protection and threat detection

Industrial Systems

ICS/SCADA security and operational technology

Physical Appliances

EDR/XDR/SIEM/Firewalls/IDS/IPS/DLP/Switches

Mobile Security

Mobile threat defense and application security

Digital Forensics

Incident investigation and evidence analysis

Threat Intelligence

APT simulation and threat actor profiling

Funding Details

Funding Rate

95% of eligible costs covered

Selected Projects

2-3 projects will be selected and funded

Grant Amounts by Integration Type

- **Minimum Integration:** €15,000 for Kubernetes or CyberEDU Infragator

- **Advanced Integration:** €25,000 for Wireguard, OpenVPN, IPSEC, Vsphere/Proxmox API

The final grant amount will be determined based on evaluation score, proposed activities, and available budget. Maximum grant per project: €25,000.

How Applications Are Assessed

40% Technical Capabilities

- Quality & breadth of functionalities
- Innovation & uniqueness
- New capabilities potential
- Integration readiness

30% Experience & Expertise

- Track record in operations
- Team expertise & qualifications
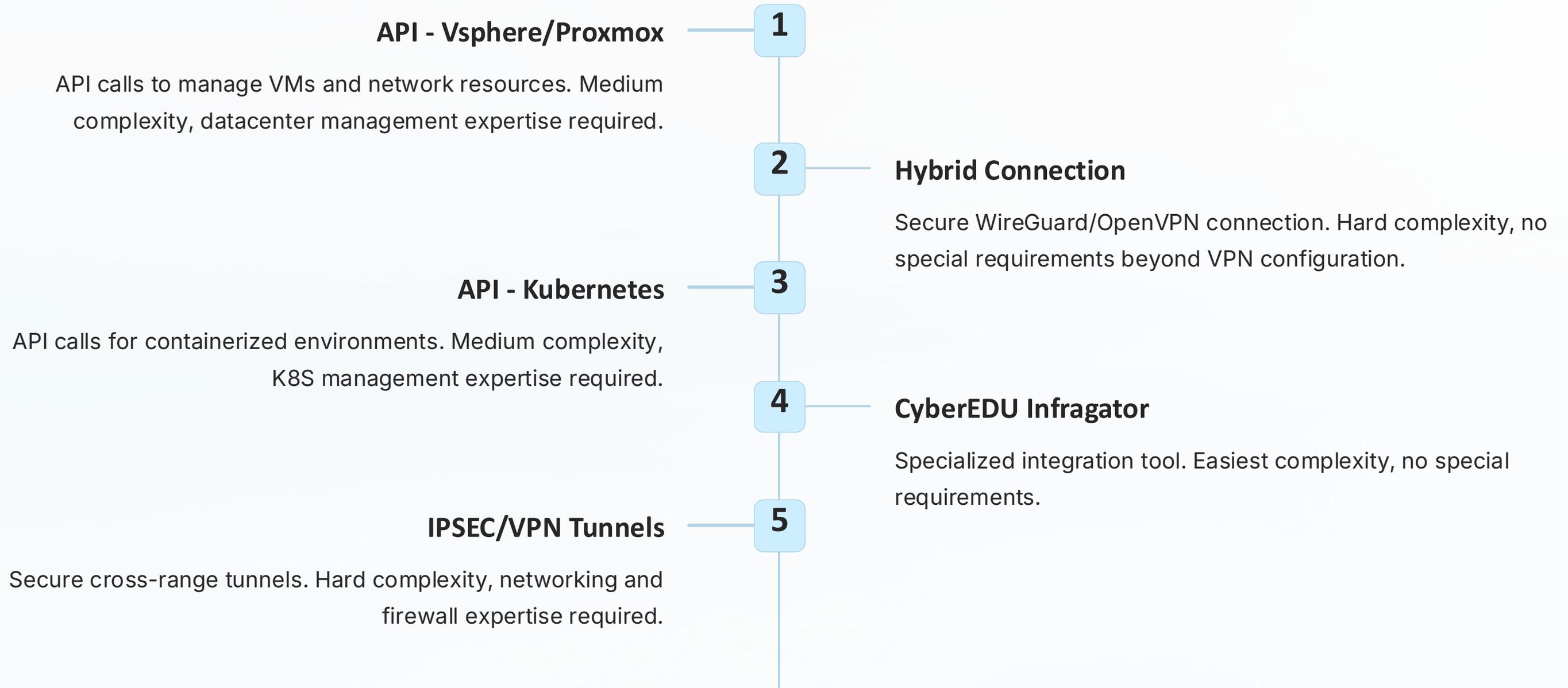- Successful deployments
- User satisfaction evidence

30% Platform Alignment

- Understanding of vision
- Commitment to collaboration
- Contribution to success
- Motivation & expected benefits

Five Integration Methods Available

Choose the connection method that best fits your infrastructure and technical capabilities:

API - Vsphere/Proxmox —— 1

API calls to manage VMs and network resources. Medium complexity, datacenter management expertise required.

2 —— **Hybrid Connection**

Secure WireGuard/OpenVPN connection. Hard complexity, no special requirements beyond VPN configuration.

API - Kubernetes —— 3

API calls for containerized environments. Medium complexity, K8S management expertise required.

4 —— **CyberEDU Infragator**

Specialized integration tool. Easiest complexity, no special requirements.

IPSEC/VPN Tunnels —— 5

Secure cross-range tunnels. Hard complexity, networking and firewall expertise required.

Choosing Your Integration Path

Factor	Vsphere/Proxmox	Hybrid	Kubernetes	CyberEDU Infragator	IPSEC/VPN
Complexity	Medium	Hard	Medium	Easiest	Hard
Resource Access	VMs/Containers	VMs/Containers/Physical	Containers	Custom	VMs/Containers/Physical
Management	CyberEDU	Cyber Range	CyberEDU	CyberEDU	Cyber Range
Min Storage	2 TB	2 TB	500 GB	500 GB	2 TB
Min RAM	128 GB	128 GB	16 GB	16 GB	128 GB
Min vCPUs	64	64	16	16	64

Each integration method offers unique advantages. Consider your existing infrastructure, technical expertise, and resource availability when selecting your approach.

How to Apply

Three Submission Options
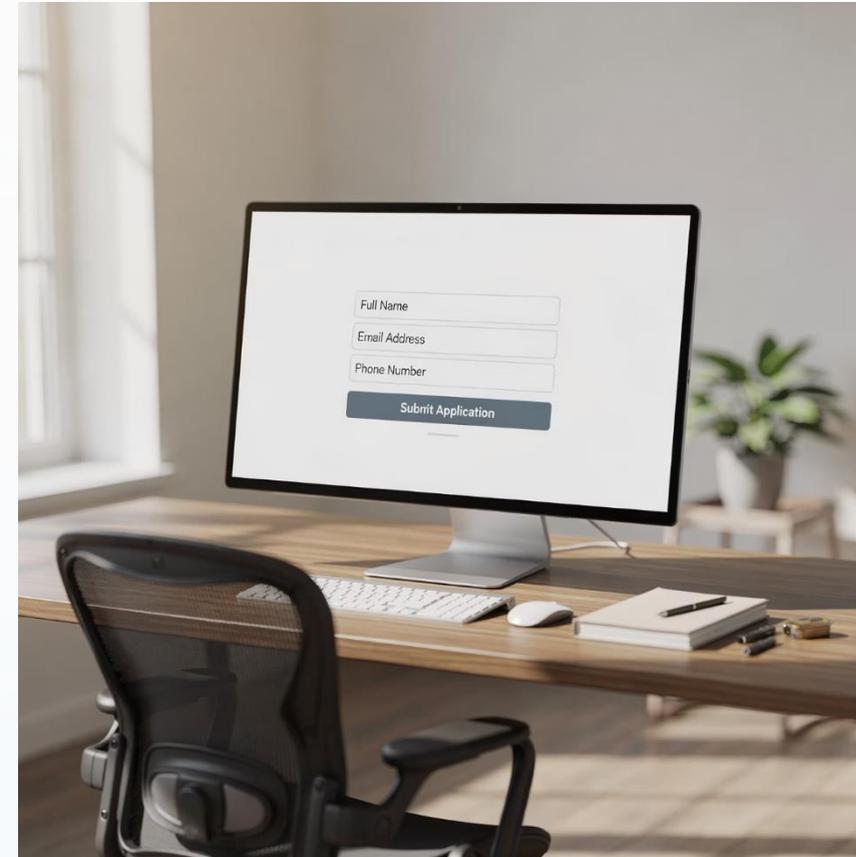
1 **Email Submission**

Submit completed Annex A Application Form in PDF format to the designated email address. You'll receive acknowledgement of receipt.
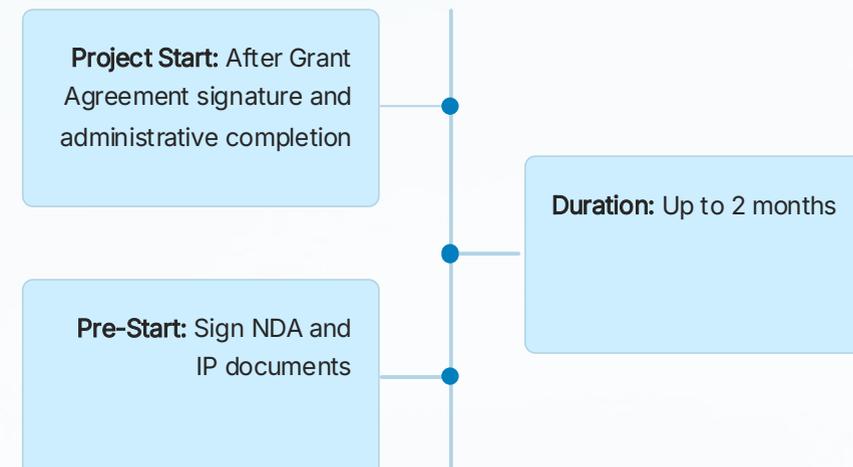
2 **Website Portal**

Upload your application through the online submission form on CYRESRANGE's website. Ensure all required fields are completed.

3 **EU Funding Portal**

Submit via EU Funding & Tenders portal using your EU Login account and valid PIC. Electronic confirmation provided upon submission.

Project Timeline

Project Start: After Grant Agreement signature and administrative completion

Duration: Up to 2 months

Pre-Start: Sign NDA and IP documents

Join the Future of European Cybersecurity

This is your opportunity to become part of a groundbreaking network that's reshaping cybersecurity training and defense across Europe. By joining CYRESRANGE, you'll contribute to a larger ecosystem while benefiting from expanded reach, new collaboration opportunities, and access to a vibrant community of cyber range experts.

Apply Now   Learn More

Don't miss this opportunity! Submit your application before the deadline and help build Europe's premier cyber defense network. Questions? Contact us through the CYRESRANGE website or EU Funding Portal.