



Press release

The Romanian National Cyber Security Directorate (DNSC) participated in the NATO Locked Shields 2023 international exercise

Bucharest, 21st of April 2023

The Romanian National Cyber Security Directorate (DNSC) participated in the international cyber defence exercise **Locked Shields 2023**, which took place between from 18 and 21st of April 2023. For the third edition in a row, Mihai Rotariu, Manager of the Communication, Marketing and Media at DNSC, led the MEDIA sub-team within Team Romania.

The exercise was planned and organized by the **NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence (CCDCOE)** in Tallinn, Estonia, bringing together around 3,000 military and civilian professionals from 38 allied and partner countries this year.

This year, Romania was at its third consecutive participation and teamed up with specialists in the field of cybersecurity from the Republic of Moldova. Our country's team was coordinated by the **Cyber Defence Agency within the Cyber Command** and was composed of over **130 specialists** from the institutions of the national defense system, public order and national security, as well as private companies operating in the field of cybersecurity.

What is Locked Shields?

Locked Shields is the largest international LFX (Live Fire Exercise) exercise in cyber defence and is the most advanced in terms of required technical expertise. Participants are involved in a **Red Team vs Blue Team** training exercise, where rapid response teams from NATO member states and partner countries help a fictitious country which is attacked on a large scale, protect government information networks and national critical infrastructures in real time (banking systems, gas and electricity distribution systems, satellite and 5G systems) against multiple and multi-directional cyber-attacks. Thus, teams can assess the ability to maintain systems functioning in real-world situations and under special conditions.

Among the main objectives of the exercise we can include the training and testing of existing technical capabilities in an international safe environment, the improvement of defence and cybersecurity specialists, as well as the efficiency of coordination and cooperation in critical situations.

The exercise had the task of training and testing teams of specialists by engaging them in solving under intense pressure, complex scenarios and massive cyber incidents, including the areas of strategic decision, legal, public communication, as well as the assessment, based on score, of the teams' ability to adapt and protect their networks.

Besides specialists from the Republic of Moldova, the team included representatives of the Ministry of National Defence (MapN), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI), the Romanian National Cyber Security Directorate (DNSC), Foreign Intelligence Service (SIE), Special Telecommunications Service (STS), Protection and Guard Service (SPP), Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), Atos, Bitdefender, Bitsentinel, CrowdStrike, Data Core Systems, Deloitte, Dendrio, Enevo Group, MassMutual, Orange, Provision, Safetech, SecureWorks and Vodafone.

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