

# Workshop on security of personal data processing

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European DIGITAL SME Alliance



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# Speaker introduction

## **Fabio GUASCONI**

- Chairman DIGITAL SME WG27K working group
- UNINFO (Italian standardization body for ICT) board of directors
- President UNINFO CT 510 - ISO/IEC JTC1 SC27 mirror
- CLUSIT board of directors
- SBS expert
- CISA, CISM, PCI-QSA, ITIL, ISFS, Lead Auditor 27001 & 9001
- Partner and co-founder @ **Bl4ckswan** S.r.l.

# Giving a voice of European digital SMEs

## *European DIGITAL SME Alliance*

- The first European association in the ICT sector **exclusively focused on SMEs**
- Founded in 2007 from an initiative of **UEAPME**, the EU Association of SMEs
- Members are national associations of digital SMEs and ICT clusters from **19 countries**
- Representing over **20.000 enterprises**, across Europe
- Member of UEAPME, SBS, ECSO and AIOTI
- Now active on several **topics**: cybersecurity, ICT standardisation, digital taxation, digital skills, data economy, digitisation of industry...

The background of the slide is a blurred image of a computer monitor displaying various data visualizations, including bar charts and pie charts, in shades of grey and white.

# Ways to help SMEs handling information security and data protection

# Information security & SMEs today

- Lack of information security culture and awareness
- Underestimation of information security threats
- No permanent information security staff
- No dedicated information security resources
- Lack of preventive, detective and reactive information security measure
- Easy target for cybercriminals, exposed to mass attacks
- Supply chain risk to bigger enterprises

## Among key consequences<sup>1</sup>:

**43%** of cyber attacks target small business

Only **14 %** of small businesses rate their ability to mitigate cyber risks as highly effective

**60 %** of small companies go out of business within six months of a cyber attack

# Information security & SMEs future

SMEs most vulnerable in ransomware attacks, damage goes beyond costs:

## 86 Percent of SMEs Are Underfunding Cyber Security

GDPR: SMEs call on Member States to support implementation

**Huge rise in hack attacks as cyber-criminals target small businesses**

## Cybersecurity and cloud top SME technology plans for 2018

Enterprises are upping security demands on SME suppliers

# GDPR & SMEs today

There are strong communalities among information security and data protection SMEs problems:

- Lack of data protection regulations sensibility
- Vague understanding of new/changed GDPR requirements
- Underestimation of non compliance risks and of compliance opportunities
- Lack of compliance plans
- No permanent data protection staff
- No dedicated data protection resources
- **Defective information security posture**

# EU-level solutions?

Some of DIGITAL SME's suggestions to the European Cybersecurity Strategy in 2017:

## **Boosting offer and demand for SME solutions**

- *European Cybersecurity SMEs HUB*
- Make EU solutions more visible to public procurers (trust marks/labels)
- Development of territorial cooperation strategy (buyers clusters)

## **EU Funding for R&D of Solutions that Effectively Reach the Market**

- Request of minimum participation of SMEs in Horizon 2020 projects
- Designing an EU model for investment

## **Cybersecurity solutions and certification for SME users and providers of critical services**

- Reduced formalism (for SME certification)
- *Need for implementation guides*

# European Cybersecurity SMEs HUB

## **Main purpose**

Connect digital SME and foster their ad hoc cooperation on specific projects establishing new consortia or ad hoc new companies as consolidation of several entities (virtual factories) able to take part in wider bids thus competing with bigger companies.

## **Key facilitations to be provided by the HUB**

- plug-and-play kit of contractual solutions
- associations and chambers of commerce
- competence center on domains such as governance, traceability and audit, identity access management, data security, cryptography ...

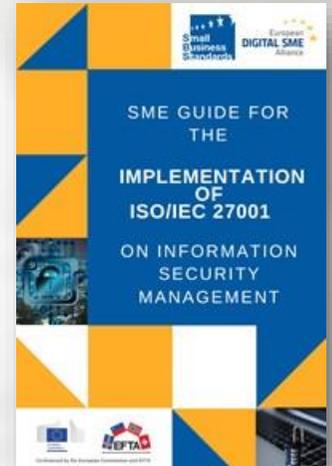
# SME Guide

When it comes to information security management there is no need to reinvent the wheel, several international reference standards can be used, among which **ISO/IEC 27001** is, without doubt, the most solid and affirmed choice.

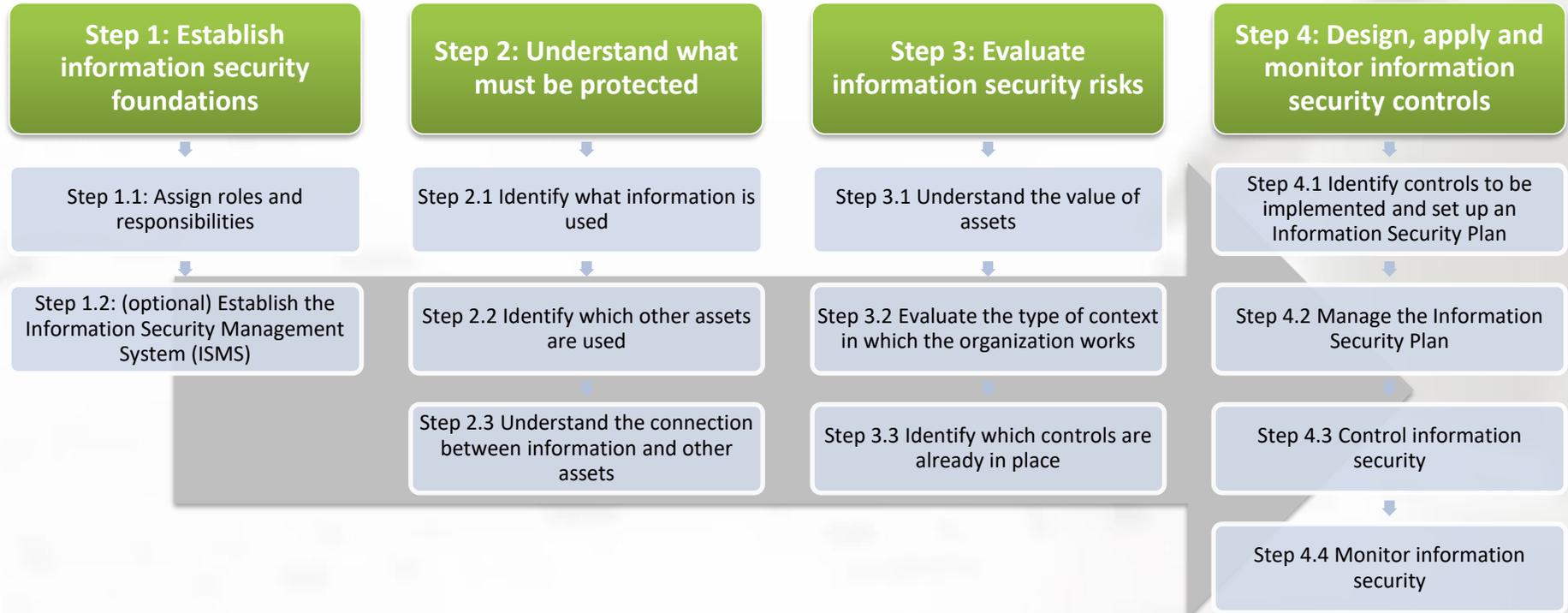
Unluckily SMEs in most cases don't:

- know that ISO/IEC 27001 exists
- want to buy the standard
- have the competence to understand and apply it

SBS and DIGITAL SME has then decided to **develop a guide dedicated to SMEs** for the implementation of information security management based on ISO/IEC 27001.



# SME Guide



# SME Guide

The main principles that have been taken into account while developing the guide are to:

- a) describe an approach that can be used as a **first step and upgraded** towards a certification
- b) remove the most "formal" parts** of an information security management system
- c) simplify technical terms** used in international standards
- d) add tips and examples** throughout the text
- e) provide a **practical approach** towards risk management
- f) provide sensitive **sets of simplified information security controls**

The guide is now freely accessible at the DIGITAL SME website: <https://www.digitalsme.eu/>

# Conclusions

SMEs represent a key portion of the European economies and the large majority of the number of enterprises but standards and regulations are not drafted with them in mind and have a gap to recover. Thus:

- I. European standardization organizations (ESOs) should increase their standardization efforts towards SME-friendly deliverables**
- II. EU institutions shall actively support SMEs within information security and data protection fields, transforming them from the Achilles' heel to his spear**
- III. European SMEs should undertake an active approach towards information security and data protection values**



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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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