

# Enhancing Maritime Cybersecurity ECSF Role Alignment



**CYBERGUARD**

AI-POWERED DEFENSE

Engaging EU Projects using ECSF

November 2025, Brussels

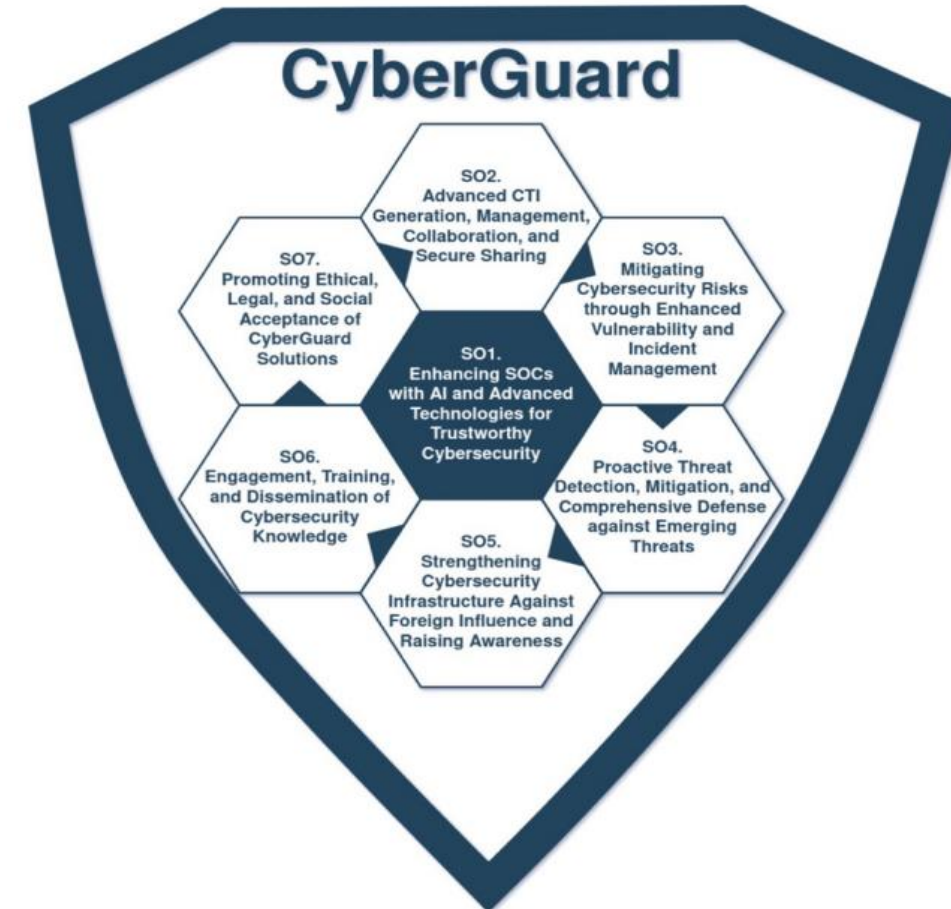
MARIOS IOANNOU  
GROUP BISO  
COLUMBIA GROUP

# What is CyberGuard?



CYBERGUARD is an EU-funded initiative developing an AI-enhanced SOC platform to strengthen cyber resilience across critical sectors, including maritime. It combines AI, CTI, penetration testing, and incident-response automation to support NIS2-aligned operations.

- **SO1:** Enhance SOC with AI and advanced cybersecurity technologies
- **SO2:** Enable advanced CTI generation, management, and secure sharing
- **SO3:** Improve vulnerability and incident management capabilities
- **SO4:** Provide proactive threat detection and defense against emerging threats
- **SO5:** Strengthen cybersecurity infrastructure and resilience
- **SO6:** Deliver training, engagement, and knowledge dissemination
- **SO7:** Ensure ethical, legal, and societal acceptance of CYBERGUARD solutions

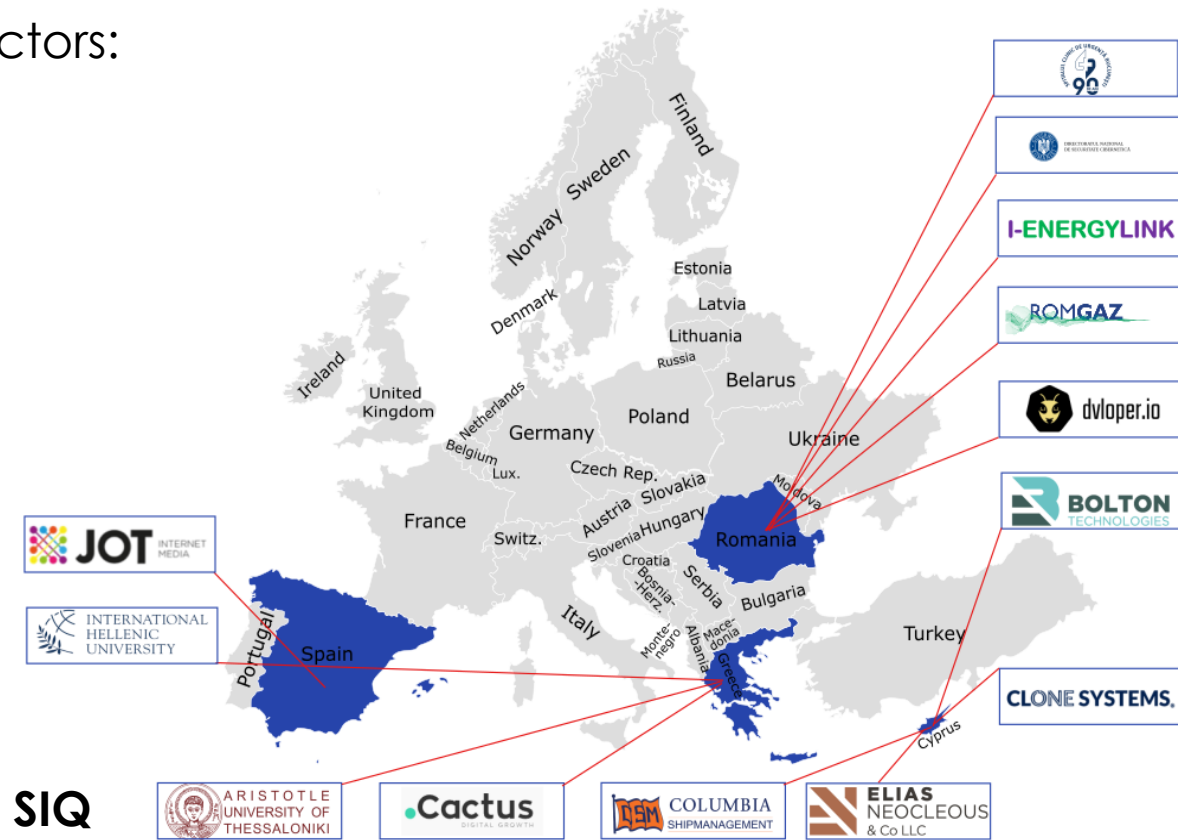


# Consortium Partners



**13 Consortium Partners** Organizations, from different sectors:

- ✓ 1 Consulting (**I-ENERGYLINK**)
- ✓ 2 Universities (**AUTH, IHU**)
- ✓ 1 Governmental (**DNSC**)
- ✓ 1 Healthcare (**SCUB**)
- ✓ 1 Utility (**ROMGAZ**)
- ✓ 1 Shipping (**COLUMBIA**)
- ✓ 1 Legal Service (**ENC**)
- ✓ 1 Media (**JOT**)
- ✓ 4 IT Services & Technology (**BTS, CACTUS, CLONE, SIQ**)

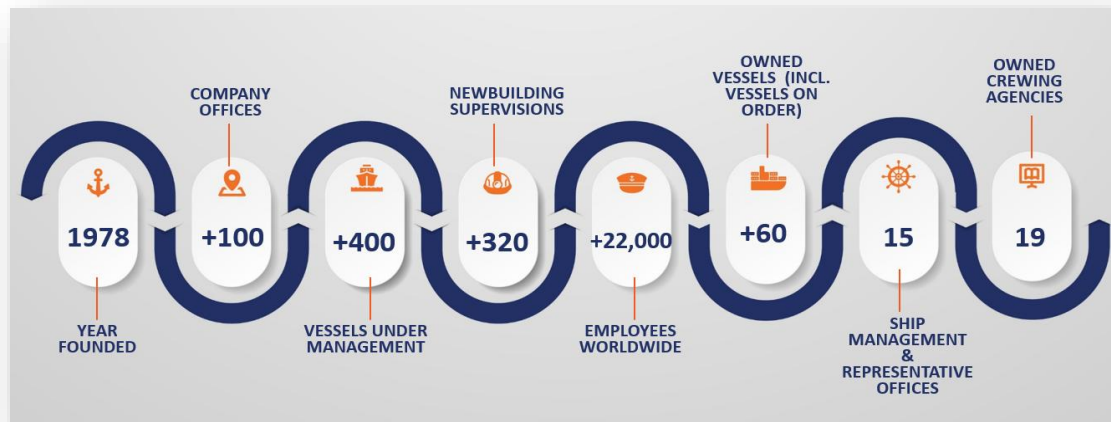


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# Partner Profile Presentation

Columbia Shipmanagement is part of the Columbia Group, a leading global integrated maritime, logistics, leisure and energy platform.



# Columbia's Role in CyberGuard

## ➤ WP2 - Use Case Definition and Scenario Design

- Provide real maritime use case scenarios (fleet operations, SOC workflows, vessel–shore communication)
- Validate functional & non-functional requirements based on the operational and technical challenges found on ships
- Contribute regulatory alignment (NIS2, IMO, ISO27001)

## ➤ WP5 - Pilot Testing, Platform Validation & Evaluation

- Acts as a key maritime pilot partner, hosting real-world use-case demonstrations
- Supports the setup, execution, and monitoring of pilot scenarios onboard ships or maritime systems
- Provides operational feedback on usability, functionality, and performance
- Assists in showcasing the platform's effectiveness to stakeholders and evaluators

## ➤ WP6 – Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation

- Dissemination, high impact communication activities and outreach events
- Stakeholder and community engagement and training towards CyberGuard solution

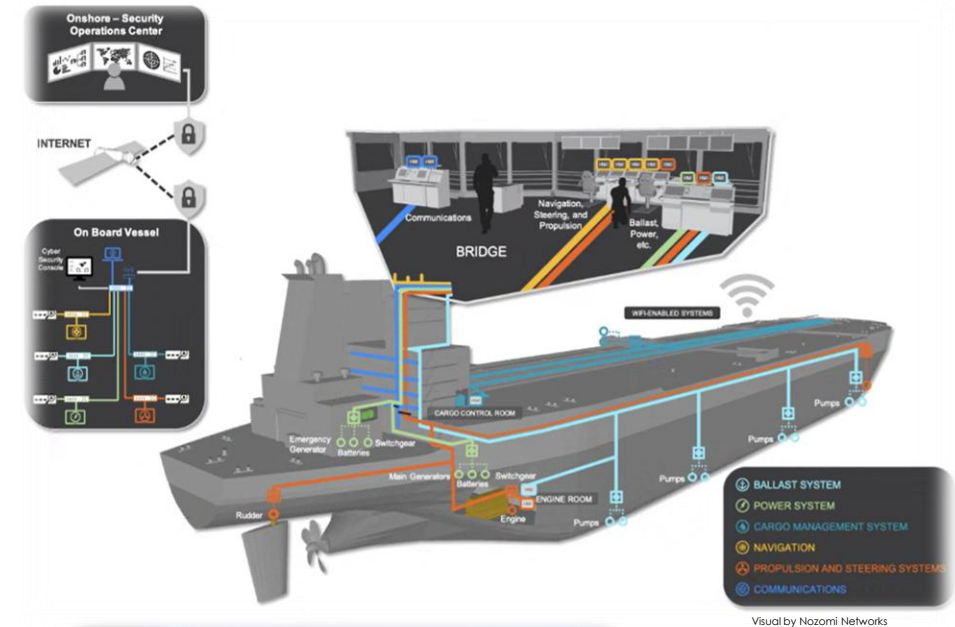
# Why Cybersecurity Matters for Maritime

The maritime sector operates within a highly interconnected digital fleet ecosystem, where ships, cloud services, shore-based operations, classification societies, OEM vendors, and global suppliers continuously exchange operational, navigational, and technical data.

Modern fleet operations depend on seamless ship-shore-cloud connectivity, enabling remote monitoring, voyage optimization, predictive maintenance, and crew services - but also expanding the cyber-attack surface.

This creates a complex cyber risk landscape driven by several sector-specific factors:

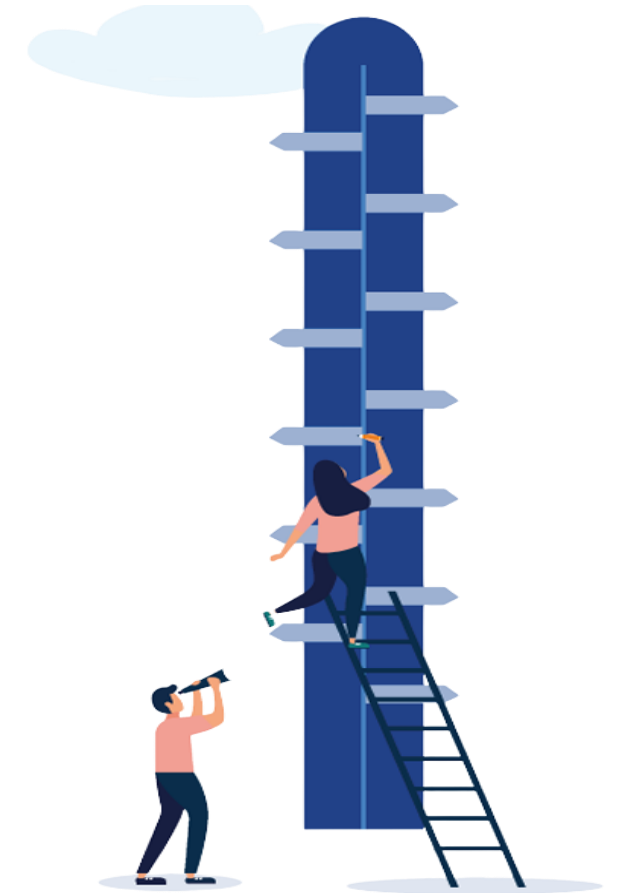
- Hybrid IT/OT environments onboard ships
- Digitized maritime infrastructure based on the vessel type
- Heavy dependence on third-party vendors and international supply chains
- Growing ransomware and targeted cyberattacks
- Regulatory pressure (IMO MSC.428(98), IACS E26/E27, GDPR, NIS2 etc)



# What CyberGuard intends to cover

CYBERGUARD addresses the operational needs created by different compliance frameworks by providing:

- Intelligent detection & automated threat analysis AI-supported response playbooks
- CTI enrichment mapped to different critical sector risks
- Penetration testing & adversarial simulations
- Incident reporting support – DFIR capabilities
- Compliance assistance



# NIS2 – Compliance Requires Skills

NIS2 introduces obligations that directly depend on workforce capability:

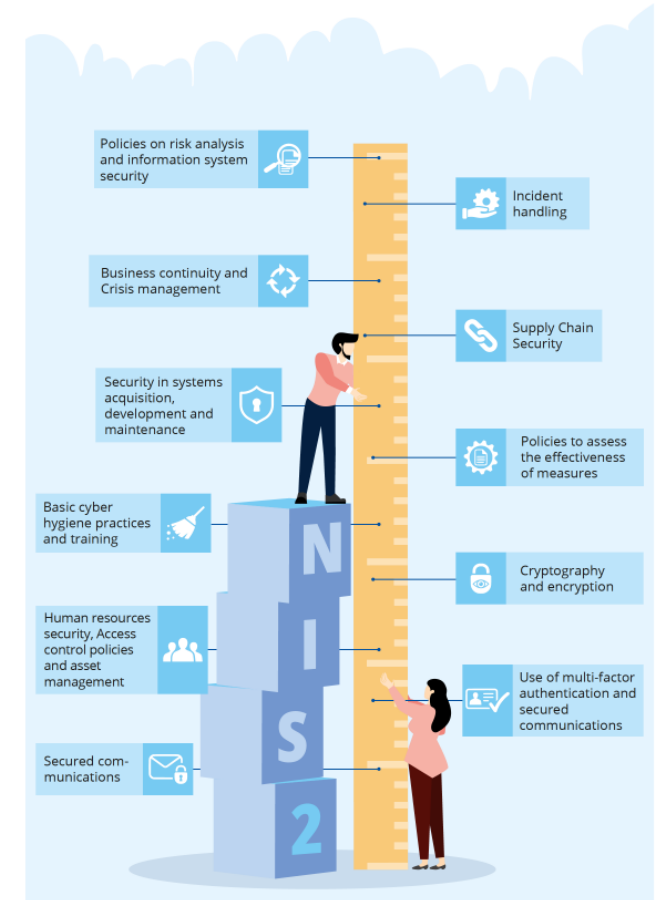
- Article 21: Cybersecurity risk-management measures
- Article 23: Incident reporting (24h / 72h / 1 month)
- Article 20: Management accountability & cybersecurity training
- Article 32: Security audits



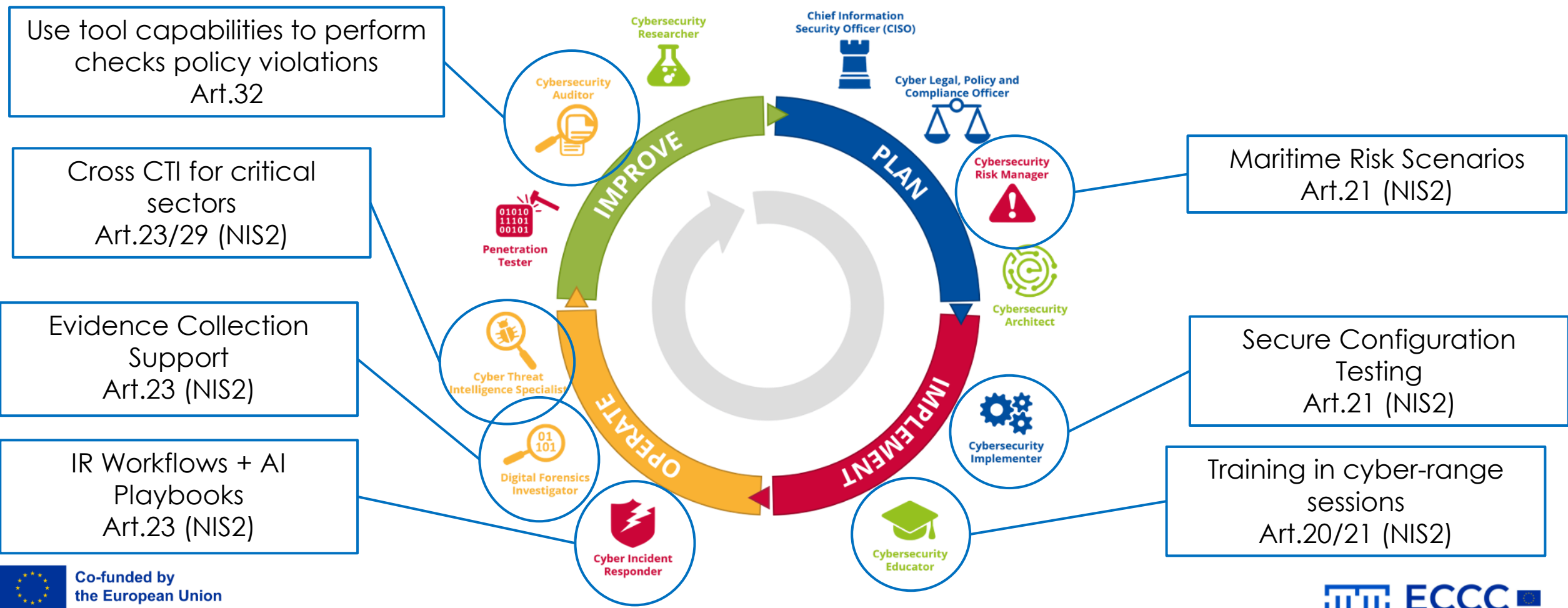
# The Gap: What Maritime Needs from NIS2

To meet the expectations of NIS2, the maritime sector must develop a set of core cybersecurity capabilities, including:

- Competent cybersecurity functions across ship and shore to handle:
  - Security Monitoring – SOC Oversight
  - Incident Response and Containment
  - Digital Forensics and Evidence preservation
  - CTI interpretation for cross sector threat scenarios
  - Compliance Reporting and Documentation
  - Risk Assessment and Continuous Monitoring
- ECSF aligned workforce development to ensure that fleet and shore IT are properly trained and role based responsibilities are assigned
- Efficient IR workflows capable to support NIS2 strict timelines



# ECSF Roles activated by CyberGuard





# Thank You!

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