

Open Call 3 Info Day

CYSSDE Penetration Test and Vulnerability Assessment



Webinar Date:
March 10



Webinar Time:
10:00

Rosa Villaronga
FundingBox



Funded by
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ECCCC 
EUROPEAN CYBERSECURITY
COMPETENCE CENTRE



**CYBERSECURITY
DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT**
Preparedness Support, Capacity & Capabilities

Purpose of the Webinar



Understand CYSSDE Open Call 3 objectives



Identify who is eligible to apply



Learn the application and evaluation steps



Review the 18-month support programme



Q&A



Open Call Overview

€200,000

Grants up to per project

50% 12

Minimum co-funding applicants Projects will be selected up to

Target:

Essential Service Operators and SMEs

Goal:

Support penetration testing and vulnerability assessments

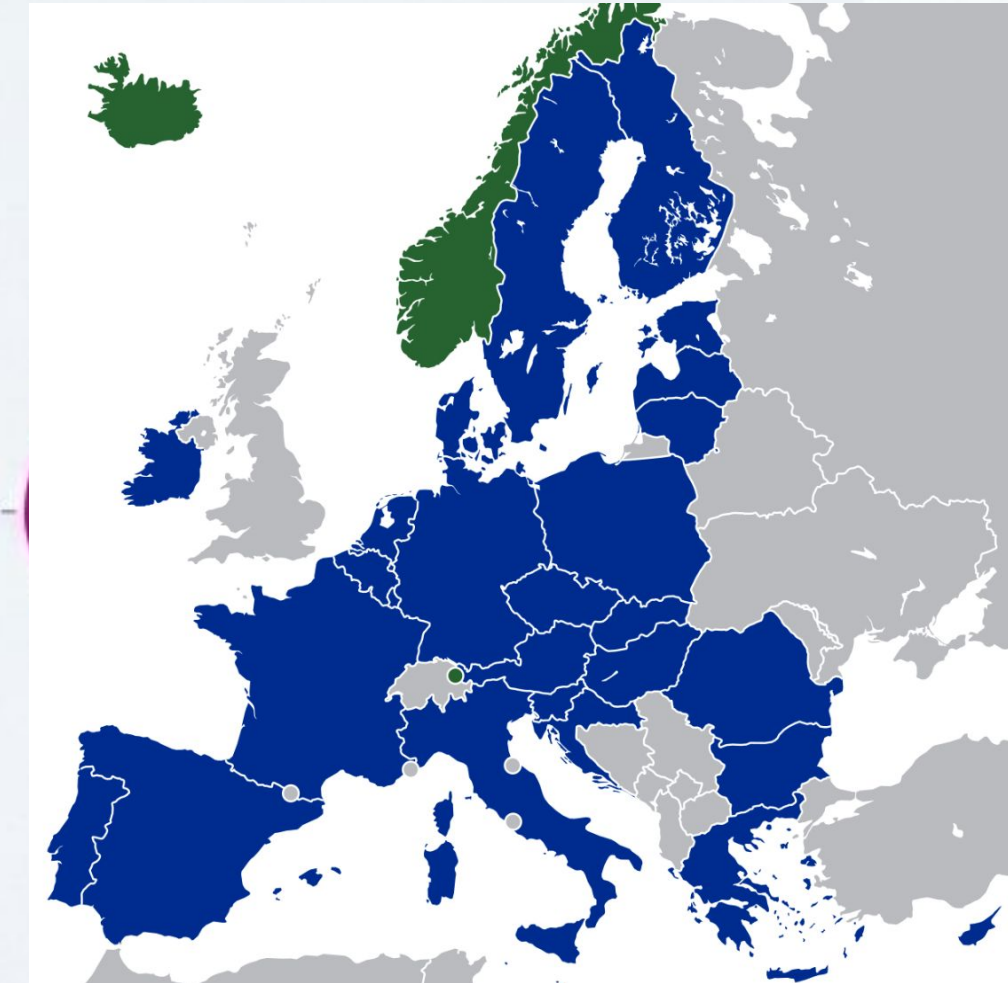
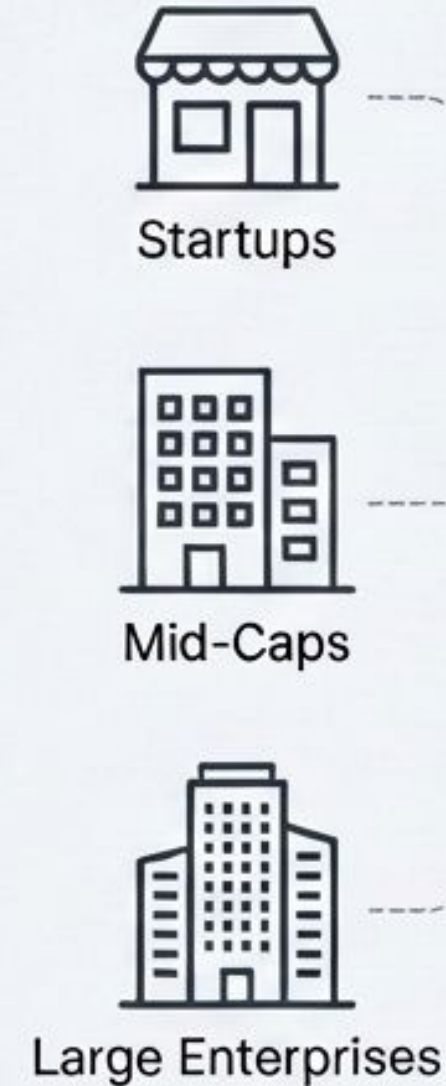
Requirement:

At least 10 external assessments per beneficiary



Who Can Apply

- SMEs, mid-caps, and large companies
- Research centers and public bodies
- Must be registered in EU Member States + EEA countries
- Individual entities or consortia allowed
- Consortia limited to maximum 2 entities



Eligibility Conditions

Check ALL Eligibility Conditions in section 1 of the Terms and condition (Guide for Applicants)



Proposals must be written entirely in **English**



Entities cannot be under liquidation



Entities cannot be an enterprise in difficulty



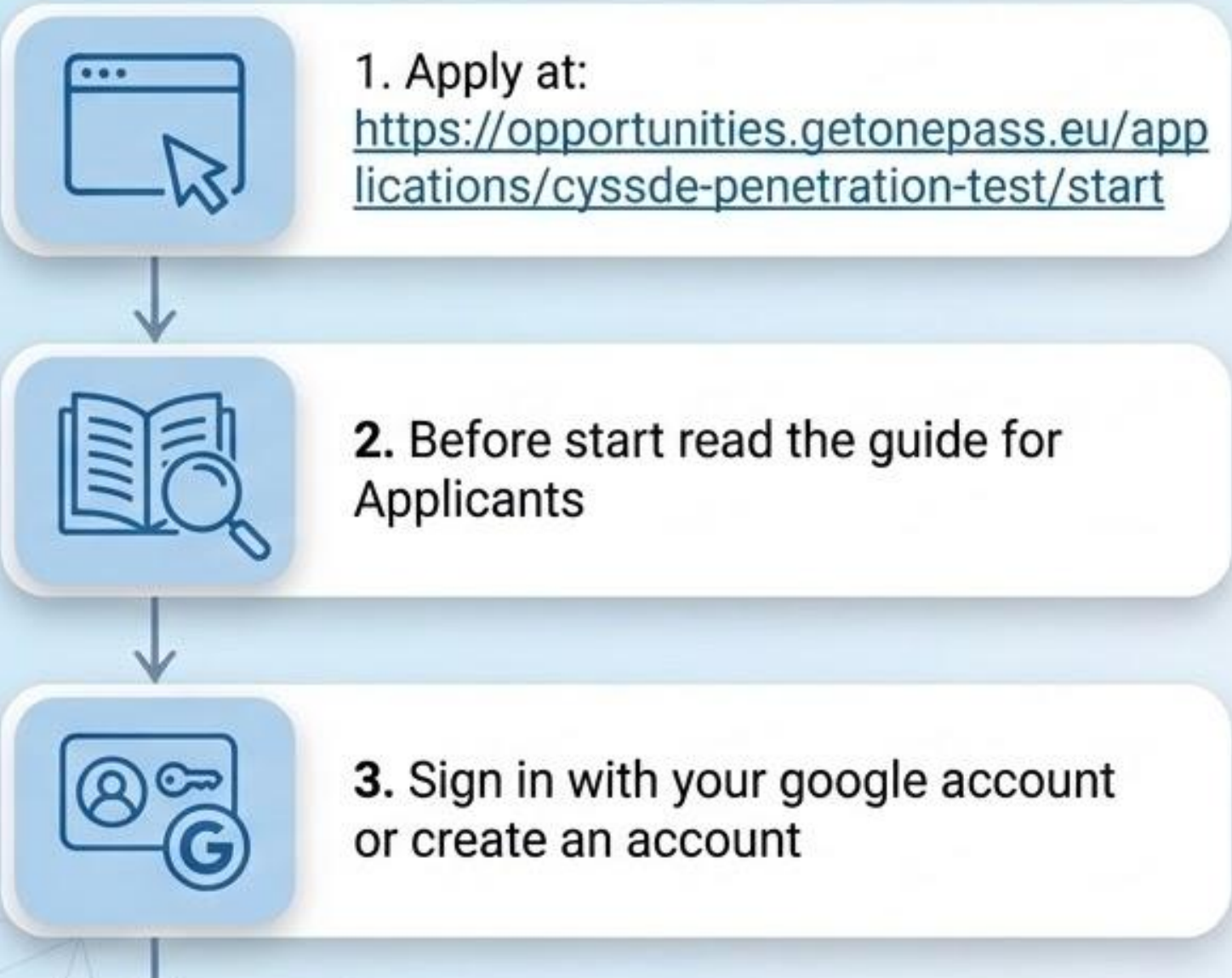
Strict no double-funding rule applies



Original Work



Application Process:





CYSSDE

Penetration Test and Vulnerability Assessment Open Call

CYSSDE, funded by the European Commission under the Digital Europe Programme, launches its third and last Open Call to support European organisations in strengthening cybersecurity through penetration testing, vulnerability assessments, and enhanced risk monitoring.

We will select up to 12 proposals, submitted either individually or by consortia of up to two entities. Each selected proposal must deliver at least 10 tests, for a combined minimum of 100 penetration tests.

Funding available: Up to €200,000 per selected proposal.

Technical Support: Tailored 18-month Mentoring and Support Programme

Proposals can be submitted by: a single entity, or a consortium of up to two entities (at least 1 expert in Cybersecurity)

Eligible applicants: SMEs (including micro-enterprises and start-ups), mid-caps, large companies, research centers, and public bodies with expertise in cybersecurity and registered in a Member State.

Application period:

- Application starts : 27 February 2026 at 10:00 (Brussels time)
- Submission deadline: 28 April 2026 at 15:00 (Brussels time)

Before applying:

Find all you need to know at the [Guide for Applicants](#)

Find more useful information here:

- [Open call FAQs](#)
- [Sub Grant Agreement template - Coming soon](#)
- [Application Form facsimile](#)

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Apply here

Sign in

To apply you have to sign in

 Sign in with Google

 Sign in with LinkedIn

OR

Username or email

Password

Forgot your password? Create an account

Continue



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Email

Username

Password

First Name

Last Name

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CYSSDE OC3 Application form

My Applications

rosa.villaronga@gmail.com - 23/02/2026

Status: draft

See details

rosa.villaronga@gmail.com - 23/02/2026

Status: draft

See details

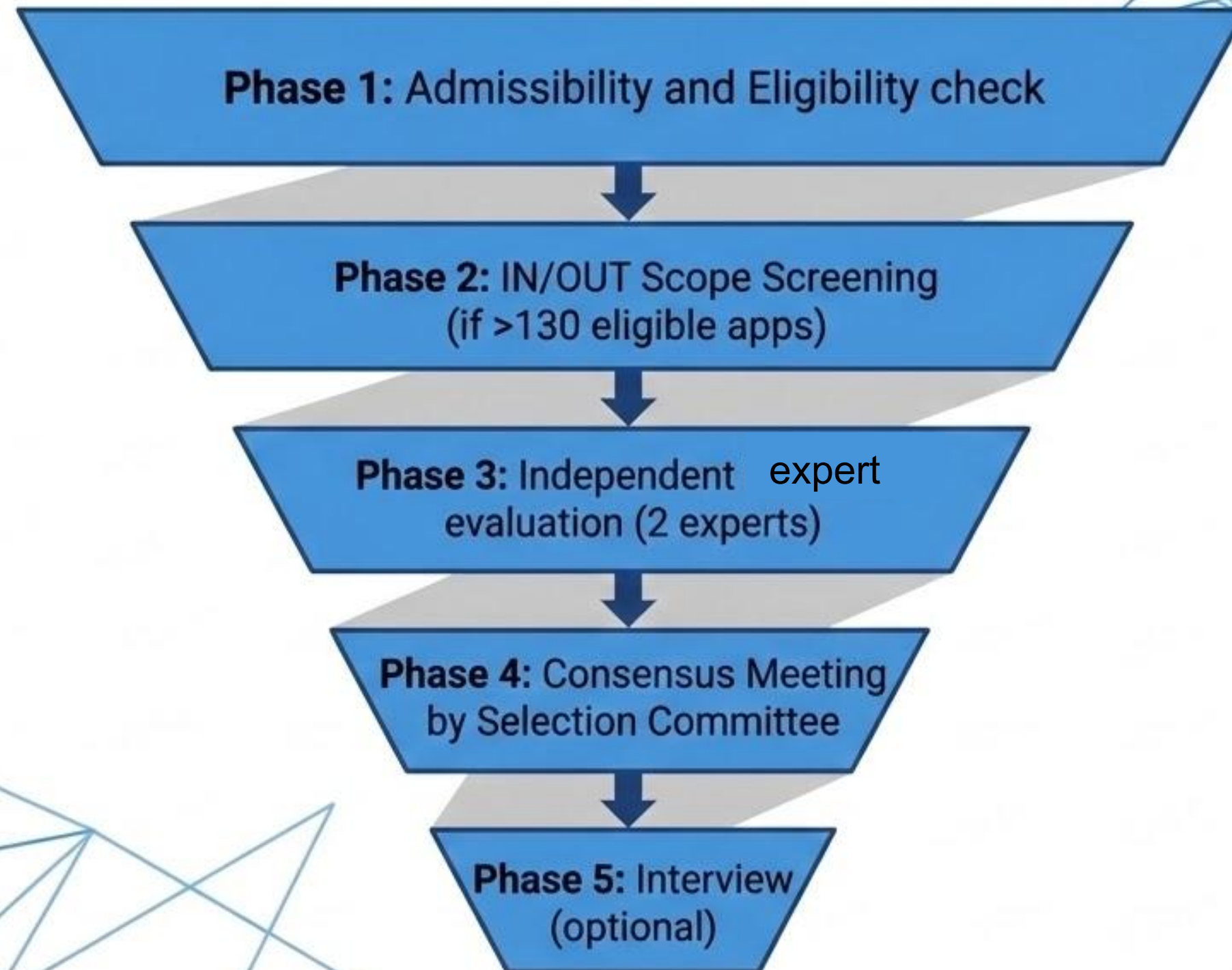
Start the application process



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Preparedness Support, Capacity & Capabilities

Evaluation Process



Evaluation Criteria

Minimum threshold 10 of the Sum of 3 criteria

Scored 0 to 5 per criterion



Minimum threshold:
3 out of 5

Total
maximum
final score:
15



Criteria 1:
Excellence
(Ambition,
Methodologies)



Criteria 2:
Impact

Equ

Same weight. It will be
used for solving ties



Criteria 3:
Implementation
(Resources,
Budget)

Update from OC2 to OC3:
Impact criterion now has the same weight
as others.

Total maximum final score: 15



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DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT
Programme Agency's Support & Capability

Selection Process



Support Programme

Up to 18 months of tailored support



Milestone review - Before each payment, the Assigned mentors and Selection Committee will review your progress. Performance will be evaluated by the mentor assigned based on: Deliverables quality (30%), KPIs (60%) and Deadline compliance (10%).

Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 10, and the final score will be calculated based on the weights indicated. A score of 7 points or more is required to continue in the program.



Note: 20% retention
until CYSSDE ends



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Activities Qualified for Funding

Eligible activities (non-exhaustive) include:



Hiring Personnel

Hiring specialised personnel



Tools & Environments

Acquiring or developing tools and testing environments



Applied Research

Conducting applied research



Intelligence Services

Accessing intelligence services, and



Advisory & Assessment

Delivering advisory or assessment services aligned with the needs of NIS2 entities.



Key Dates

Open Call 3 Submission Deadline

Next webinar



April 28, 2026
15:00 (Brussels time)



April 8, 2026
10:00 am

Late submissions will not be accepted

Key Takeaways for Applicants

- ✓ • Ensure **ability** to provide **50% co-funding**
- ✓ • Verify your **EU ownership** and financial health
- ✓ • Plan for at least **10 external assessments**
- ✓ • Note that the **Impact evaluation** section has the **same weight** as other criteria.
- ✓ • Visit the **FAQ site** for more information:
<https://sites.google.com/fundingbox.com/cyssdeoc3faqs/home>
- ✓ • For any questions, contact the helpdesk at: helpdesk@cyssde.eu

Apply at:
cyssde.eu/open-call-3/

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Questions



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