



#FIRSTCON22  
 IRELAND 2022  
 DUBLIN 34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FIRST CONFERENCE  
 JUNE 26 - JULY 1

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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2022 | 2023

## Dear Reader,

In 2022, we witnessed FIRST team membership crossing the threshold of 100 countries. At the time of writing this report, we have 679 team members from 105 countries. This expansion is a testament of the value of membership, and our commitment to expand membership to new countries, regions, and teams - bringing the global incident response community together to keep the Internet safe.

This was achieved despite the challenges that we face at multiple levels and across various regions; the healthcare challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic; the technical and technological challenges due to emerging cyberthreats and sophisticated cyberattacks, and widespread political disputes and conflicts.

Our vision is to reach out to every country in the world. We work to be open and inclusive, across culture, countries, and regions.

Our annual conference was back in-person last year, and, including remote participation, we had over 1,000 participants from 88 countries. To achieve this, in a year with the challenges mentioned, shows how keen both our members and our community were to meet, collaborate, learn, and build our network of trust.

The FIRST Board of Directors elections resulted in a unique and diverse representation with respect to gender, geographical regions, and experiences. Achieving gender balance through an open and transparent election process, in an industry where this balance is significantly unbalanced, is especially exciting.

Over the last year, FIRST has been invited to and participated in multiple international and regional events and has been actively engaged in several initiatives and efforts along with stakeholders from industry and leading organizations. Our participation reflects broad recognition and sincere appreciation of the roles played by incident response and security teams in keeping the Internet safe for all. This was communicated back to us in numerous interventions as well as during private discussions. Several delegates cited FIRST during their formal interventions at the United Nations, highlighting FIRST's leading role across the world bringing together thousands of professionals, to further knowledge exchange, capacity building and cooperation, at the global and regional levels. Such unique recognition makes me feel proud and more privileged to be part of the FIRST community and want to share this feeling with you all.

We continue to work to expand our outreach, empower new teams, build more confidence, strengthen trust, and make the Internet safer. The world we live in is often complex and difficult to navigate, but we can and will hold to our mission statement and values.

I invite you to learn more about FIRST's events and activities from this report and from our website. I wish all of you a very happy and prosperous year, and I look forward to meeting you at FIRSTCON23 in Montreal 2023.



*Sherif Hashem,  
Chair, Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams*





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# Existing Mission

## Vision

FIRST aspires to bring together incident response and security teams from every country across the world to ensure a safe internet for all.

An effective response is a global task, mirroring the global nature of the internet. Based on a peer- to-peer network governance model, Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), Product Security Incident Response Teams (PSIRTs), and independent security researchers work together to limit the damage of security incidents. This response requires a high level of trust. FIRST fosters trust-building among members through a variety of activities. Incidents are not restricted to one cultural or political corner of the internet, nor do they respect borders or boundaries. FIRST thus promotes inclusiveness, inviting membership from all geographic and cultural regions.

## FIRST Mission

- 1 Global Coordination - You can always find the team and information you need.**  
FIRST provides platforms, means, and tools for incident responders to always find the right partner and to collaborate efficiently. This implies that FIRST's reach is global. We aspire to have members from every country and culture.
- 2 Global Language - Incident responders around the world speak the same language and understand each other's intents and methods.**  
During an incident, it is important that people have a common understanding and enough maturity to react in a fast and efficient manner. FIRST supports teams through training opportunities to grow and mature. FIRST also supports initiatives to develop common means of data transfer to enable machine-to-machine communication.
- 3 Policy and Governance - Make sure others understand what we do and enable us rather than limit us.**  
FIRST members do not work in isolation but are part of a larger system. FIRST engages with relevant stakeholders in technical and non-technical communities to ensure teams can work in an environment conducive to their goals.

Over a year ago the war in the Ukraine started and the repercussions are still with us. FIRST strongly believes that security teams need to collaborate even, or especially during a crisis. Our industry must operate in an inclusive environment, building trust at the technical layer where we work yet we are unable to match our actions to our mission statement. We continue to work with authorities to address this situation.

# Major announcements, Press, Public Relations

## 1. FIRST Public Relations & Marketing

The previous engagement with a PR company has been canceled on a common agreement, and the process to recruit a new one has been launched.

For the 2023 Montreal annual conference, FIRST contracted with a local affiliate CECEZ communications for engagement on the Dublin conference. This turned to be one of our most successful engagement to date:

- 23 pieces of media coverage for the 34th FIRST annual conference in Dublin, 2022 including 3 broadcast pieces and 20 print/online articles.
- 3 interviews conducted online during the conference.

The result was a new public relations plan that FIRST could implement for future programs and events.

A bid was launched for the 35th FIRST annual conference in Montreal. The winning company will be able to enforce that PR plan.

## 2. FIRST 'POST' Quarterly Newsletter

The purpose of the Quarterly 'POST' Newsletter is to keep the members informed and highlight FIRST events and programs to the FIRST community and beyond. Our readership and list of contributors continue to grow. The PDF style has now been discontinued and has been replaced by a more user-friendly and easier to read format. Moreover, this allows us to be more flexible on content and timing as well as being easier to read on mobile devices.

All FIRST 'POST' newsletters can be found [here](#).

## 3. FIRST Press Releases

Up to 6 press releases were published over the 2022-23 period. Among these, the work of the TLP SIG has been highlighted with the announcements of the Traffic Light Protocol Version 2.0, as well as the announcement of the Messaging Malware and Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (M3AAWG) and Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) joining forces to address global Internet and security issues.

FIRST has also been directly mentioned by various organizations when Teams members or Board Members took part in events, round tables, training...

All FIRST press releases can be found [here](#).

## 4. FIRST Blog

There have been as many blog posts published over the 2022-2023 period than over the previous one. Two SIG efforts have been highlighted: the ICANN invitation to the DNS Abuse SIG to deliver a presentation at the ICANN 75 AGM in September 2022, and the release of its 'DNS Abuse Techniques Matrix' in March 2023.

All FIRST blog posts can be found [here](#).

# Organizational Goals

FIRST continued to forge, nurture, and renew relationships with key partners sharing its values, in an effort to leverage respective strengths as force-multipliers in fulfilling FIRST shared vision.

Since the last report published in 2022, FIRST has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with:

## 1. M3AAWG

The Messaging, Malware, and Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group provides a collaborative global trusted forum that brings industry together to help fight and prevent internet online abuse. Working with members, industry groups and global partners, M3AAWG continues its efforts to help prevent online abuse, focusing on protecting communications; data privacy; security, and the supply chain.

FIRST and M3AAWG will assist one-another in, but not limited to developing and delivering training of abuse desk and incident response personnel in best practices or DNS abuse and incident response personnel in best practices.

## 2. HD Centre

HD is a non-profit private diplomacy organization founded on the principles of humanity, impartiality, and independence, which works to prevent, mitigate and resolve armed conflict through dialogue and mediation. HD mediates between governments, non-state armed groups and opposition parties to reduce conflict, limit the human suffering caused by conflict and facilitate the development of opportunities for peaceful settlements. HD also helps to build the path to stability and development for people, communities and countries through peacemaking projects around the world. HD established a Digital Conflict Directorate to promote norms and confidence-building measures that help stabilize cyberspace. FIRST and HD have conducted a table top exercise with several countries to improve communication and collaboration.

The objective of this MoU is to strengthen the relationship between FIRST and HD, with the aim of continuing the cooperation and coordination between the Parties in the areas of their common interests.

## 3. Open CSIRT Foundation

We signed a new MoU with the Open CSIRT Foundation (OCF), replacing the existing MoU with Geant, to continue the strong collaboration with the TF-CSIRT community.

The OCF is an independent non-profit organization with a mission we believe in – improving cyber resilience worldwide.

This new MoU reflects the change where, since July 2022, OCF is the home to TF-CSIRT, the community of security incident management teams with an emphasis on Europe.

## 4. MITRE Engenuity Center for Threat-Informed Defense

We renewed our partnership with the MITRE Engenuity Center for Threat-Informed Defense

The CTID is a non-profit, privately funded research and development organization operated by MITRE Engenuity. The Center's mission is to advance the state of the art and the state of the practice of threat-informed defense globally.

Composed of participant organizations from around the globe with highly sophisticated security teams, the Center builds on MITRE ATT&CK®, an important foundation for threat-informed defense used by security teams and vendors in their enterprise security operations.

## 5. Anti Phishing Working Group

We signed an agreement with the Anti Phishing Working Group (APWG) to engage with their [eCrime Exchange](#).

APWG, a non-profit industry association focused on eliminating the identity theft and frauds that result from the growing problem of phishing, crimeware, and e-mail spoofing, offers membership to financial institutions, online retailers, ISPs, solutions providers, the law enforcement community, government agencies, multilateral treaty organizations, and NGOs. Today, there are more than 2,300 enterprises worldwide participating in the APWG.

eCX is the oldest and most trusted repository developed specifically to exchange threat data about common cybercrime events such as phishing. The APWG's member organizations contribute new data, and extract data programmatically to inform their products and services – as well as to drive their own security applications and forensic routines.



# Membership

FIRST members are part of a network of computer security incident response and security teams that work together voluntarily to deal with computer security problems and their prevention. There are two types of members:

- Full Members represent organizations who assist an information technology community or other defined constituency in preventing and handling computer security-related incidents.
- Liaison Members are individuals or representatives of organizations other than incident response or security teams with a legitimate interest in and value in FIRST.



During the 2021-2022 period, significant enhancements were made to the FIRST membership application process, including the incorporation of a baseline SIM3 assessment and the design of a new online application form within the FIRST portal. Applications received by the FIRST Secretariat are checked for constituency, then reviewed by the Membership Committee, sent to the FIRST Community. If the applications have not been opposed in the process, the Board of Directors can validate and the applying Teams or Liaisons can join the FIRST community.

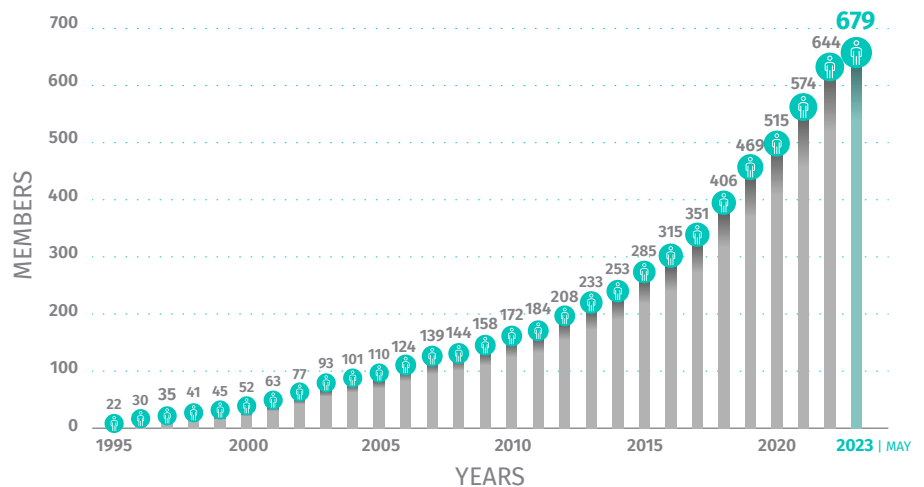
Over the past year focus has been on training sponsors on the new process and tools, and on identifying and correcting any issues with them.

Between June 2022 and May 2023, 90 applications were validated - 73 teams and 17 Liaisons.

Over the same period, some FIRST members left for various reasons - lack of dues payment, mergers, change in activities...



Overall, membership to FIRST continues to grow and amount to 679 Teams and 127 Liaisons as of end of May 2023, with a coverage of 105 countries.







## Fellowship

Established in 2013, the Suguru Yamaguchi Fellowship Program aims to integrate security teams in unrepresented countries or regions into the global incident response community. During the 2022-23 period, FIRST chose the national computer security incident response teams of the Bahamas (CIRT-BS) and Mozambique (nCSIRT.MZ) to join the Program.

At the Annual Conference in June 2022, we launched a mentorship program pilot for the Fellowship Teams under the auspices of the Membership Committee. Mentors from the FIRST community were matched with Fellowship Teams with the goal of uplifting skills, facilitating key introductions, and making sure that incoming Fellowship teams find their sweet spots within the FIRST community and our various SIGs.

Over the past year, the new Director of Community and Capacity Building, Klée Aiken, has been working to refine the Fellowship program. A second round of mentor and mentee activities will be held at the 2023 Annual Conference in Montreal.

**Note:** Dr. Suguru Yamaguchi served as a Board Member of FIRST from 2011 to 2013. Throughout his term, he was enthusiastic about expanding FIRST's outreach to different parts of the world. He incorporated the FIRST CSIRT in Japan (JPCERT/CC) in Oct 1996 and later established APCERT, the CSIRT Community in the Asia Pacific region in February 2003. He also played a key role in the establishment of AfricaCERT. His devotion to increase the community has contributed to the global teams that make up FIRST today. In memory of his dedication, the FIRST Fellowship program was renamed to Suguru Yamaguchi Fellowship Program in 2016. The program is a FIRST initiative that provides support to teams with national co-ordination responsibilities so that they can become members of our community and attend a FIRST conference.



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## Events

Since the last update in the 2022 Annual Report, FIRST has firmly re-established its global involvement by organizing 12 events across 4 continents. The return to in-person events has been a long and winding road. We continue to evolve our event processes and procedures post-global health crisis, keeping member and delegate well-being our priority concern. Hybrid events having become the dominant cultural norm, FIRST has hosted four hybrid activities since our last report. (Fully virtual activities are still commonplace as many regions are in various stages of their COVID recovery.)

FIRST events continue to receive exceptional attendee and sponsor feedback. FIRST members who host annual technical colloquia gatherings in the United States, Amsterdam (Netherlands), and Oslo (Norway) have reported successful programs and continued growth.

The overall trend towards a return to face-to-face events bodes well, and is much needed as we strive to build trust in a diverse global community. In-person networking remains essential to those within the incident response and cybersecurity communities.

### Summary of events include:

#### Annual Conference in Dublin, Ireland (hybrid)

- 2022 Dublin Conference: June 26-July 1, 2022
- 889 delegates
- 81 nations represented

#### Technical Colloquium: 6

##### Amsterdam 2023 Technical Colloquium

- Amsterdam, NL - April 17-19, 2023
- <https://www.first.org/events/colloquia/amsterdam2022/>





*Regional cybersecurity Summit and FIRST & ITU-ARCC Regional Symposium for Africa and Arab Regions*

### 2022 PSIRT SIG Technical Colloquium

- Newtown Square, PA, USA (hybrid) - September 28-29, 2022
- <https://www.first.org/events/colloquia/newtownsquare2022/>
- 146 delegates, 4 nations represented (US, Ireland, Finland, Japan)

### FIRST/DCAF Technical Colloquium, Balkan Cybersecurity Days 2023

- Ohrid, MK, organized with DCAF - May 16-18, 2023
- <https://www.first.org/events/colloquia/ohrid2023>

### Cold Incident Response 2023

- Oslo, NO - October 18-20, 2022
- <https://www.coldincidentresponse.no/events/first-tc-oslo-2022-1>
- 200 delegates attended the conference, consisting of one day of threat intelligence training, and two days mainly focused on security monitoring and incident response.

### FIRST TC Singapore

- Singapore, SG - September 14, 2022
- <https://conference.apnic.net/54/>

### UNDP FIRST Valencia Technical Colloquium

- UNDP, Valencia, ES - October 3/7, 2022
- <https://www.first.org/events/colloquia/valencia2022/>



2023 Regional Symposium – Africa \*Largest Africa Regional (in-person) to Date\*

## Symposium: 4

### 2022 CTI Symposium

- Berlin, DE (hybrid) - November 1-3, 2022
- 331 delegates, 36 nations represented
- <https://www.first.org/events/symposium/berlin2022/>

### TF-CSIRT Meeting & 2023 FIRST Regional Symposium for Europe

- Bilbao, ES - January 31- February 2, 2023
- <https://www.first.org/events/symposium/bilbao2023/>
- 334 delegates, 41 nations represented

### FIRST & AfricaCERT Symposium: Africa and Arab Regions

- Kigali, RW (hybrid) - February 28-March 3, 2023
- Africa largest Africa Regional (in-person) to Date, organized with AfricaCERT),
- 254 delegates, 31 nations represented

### Regional cybersecurity Summit and FIRST & ITU-ARCC Regional Symposium for Africa and Arab Regions

- Muscat, OM - November 8-9, 2022
- <http://rcssummit.com/>

## Other events in:

### 2022 FIRST Virtual Symposium for the Asia Pacific Regions

- Virtual, October 20-21, 2022
- <https://www.first.org/events/symposium/asia-pacific-regions2022/>



# Training & Education

In-person training has started again after the pandemic lockdowns, and FIRST volunteers have traveled to events in Africa, Europe, Latin-America, and the Caribbean to provide training. In addition, trainings at the major FIRST events (the annual conference and symposia), have been filled up with participants from all over the world. For events outside out the FIRST events, the number of participants for each training has been between 20 and 40 people, and we have covered topics like:

- Building threat intelligence pipeline
- Building malware analysis pipeline
- Threat intelligence fundamentals
- TRANSITS I
- Malware analysis
- Forensics
- Penetration testing

Training and education is one way for FIRST to achieve its mission, which is speaking a common language, learning each other's methods, and over time hopefully coming to a place of mutual trust in each other's intentions (for some non-trivial value of trust). Through FIRST's training program, we build strategic partnerships by ensuring that the training and education we provide has long-term impact. In service of this, we work closely with the broader FIRST community and with FIRST's own capacity building program team.

We are happy to have new trainers joining our volunteer talent pool, and to see them conducting their first training sessions. We are indebted as well to our experienced FIRST trainers who keep returning to deliver high-quality training where need and opportunity align.

The training and education program curriculum has also been extended via the development of the e-learning training for the upcoming release of CVSS 4.0.



## Hall of Fame

*Hall of Fame Luncheon at the Annual Conference (From the left Jeffrey J. Carpenter, Don Stikvoort, Ian Cook, and Chris Gibson)*

Since the FIRST Incident Response Hall of Fame was inaugurated at the 2019 Annual Conference in Edinburgh, 5 persons have been inducted to the Hall of Fame.

Although no HoF inductee was selected for 2022, we were able to meet together to celebrate and honor four Hall of Fame inductees from 2020-2021 (e.g., from the pandemic lockdown years) at a special luncheon session held during the 34th Annual Conference in Dublin.

- Jeffrey J. Carpenter
- Dan Kaminsky (in memoriam)
- Don Stikvoort
- Ian Cook

For 2023, FIRST opened nominations for the Hall of Fame and discussed nominee selection. The results will be announced at the 35th Annual Conference in Montreal.

The Board of Directors are currently working to establish a new nomination and selection scheme to make this initiative even more attractive for the coming years. This planned refinement includes increased media content showcasing the inductees achievement so that we share it with a wider community.

For more information about the Hall of Fame, please visit the [HoF webpage](#).

# Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a key aspect of FIRST. SIGs band together to define new standards, to discuss, define, and refine best practices, to exchange ideas, to keep a view on current trends and emerging challenges, and to brainstorm on how to further the professionalization of the global Incident Response community.

During the 2022-2023 period, two new SIGs were formed:

- **NETSEC SIG** with a mission to foster the deployment of inter-AS network security BCPs, coordinated mitigation, and information sharing;
- and **Human Factors SIG** with a mission to improve the understanding of human factors in security.

Other notable SIG-related activities:

- **Malware Analysis SIG** has focused its efforts in creating a **framework** with setup instructions for regular tasks for entering the malware analysis field so far. This information is available for any member who joins.
- **CVSS SIG (Common Vulnerability Scoring System)** has completed the preview of version 4 for public comment, and has put special focus on updating all related training materials.
- **DNS Abuse SIG** has just published the first version of their **DNS Abuse Techniques Matrix** and the results will be also presented at the 2023 Montreal annual conference.
- **EPSS SIG (Exploit Prediction Scoring System)** has released a new machine learning model as well as an additional paper about the data model, performance metrics and the data collected. A paper about the examined data is currently being written.
- **TLP SIG** published version 2.0 of the standard at the 2022 Dublin. (Note that TLP v2.0 is recommended and TLP v1.0 is considered deprecated since August 2022). Apart from the English version, translations are already available in Brazilian Portuguese, Czech, French, Japanese, Norwegian.

The following SIGs plan to meet in person at the 2023 Montreal annual conference on site:

- Academic Security SIG, Automation SIG, CVSS SIG, Cyber Insurance SIG, DNS Abuse SIG, EPSS SIG, Information Sharing SIG, Metrics SIG, Security Lounge SIG, VRDX-SIG, Vulnerability Coordination SIG, and Women of FIRST SIG.

We prepared a change for the 2023 Montreal conference to offer more and better possibilities for SIGs wishing to facilitate hybrid meetings.

For the first time, FIRST-owned equipment has been procured and can be requested by SIG chairs to better support interactive online and hybrid meetings.

With sufficient membership interest, new SIGs can be launched and even funded by FIRST. If you are interested in joining an existing SIG or starting a new SIG, please visit <https://www.first.org/global/sigs/> for more details.



## Standards

The Board has undertaken to establish a subcommittee called the FIRST Standards Committee in order to provide better and more comprehensive support for FIRST Security Standards, to work together with the relevant SIGs, and the liaison board member in order to define new partnerships and processes. This FIRST Standards Committee is charged with determining how to best support associated interoperability and (in some cases) open source reference implementations corresponding to FIRST core security standards. We expect this committee to be operational and to have defined a work product road map by the end of 2023. (For progress of content of Standard SIGs, please see the segment about Special Interest Groups.)





# Improving Security Together

## Diversity & Inclusion

### Approving the FIRST diversity and inclusion statement

Diversity & Inclusion are important topics for FIRST as a global organization, and we want the communities we comprise and which we serve to feel welcome and safe in FIRST. In service of this, the FIRST Board of Directors have developed, reviewed, and approved our diversity and inclusion statement. The statement can be found [here](#).

### Women of FIRST

The **Women of FIRST SIG** comprises a diverse group of security practitioners dedicated to promoting the advancement and increased participation of women across all domains of cybersecurity. Their primary focus is on fostering mentorship, facilitating knowledge sharing, and providing networking opportunities to empower women at various stages of their cyber careers, including students, graduates, professionals, and those aiming to re-enter the workforce. With a strong passion for developing cyber skills in women, the Women of FIRST SIG stewards and nurtures a multifaceted support network laser-focused on reducing the gender gap, promoting equitable working conditions, equal pay for equal work, and promoting greater inclusivity within the security industry.

Over the 2022-23 period, the Women of FIRST (WoF) SIG made significant strides in advancing gender diversity and fostering an inclusive community within the incidence response, and security communities. Led by remarkable individuals such as Emer O'Neill (VMware) and Beverly Alvarez (AMD), WoF successfully implemented a range of activities and initiatives to support the growth and development of women professionals. With a strong membership base of nearly a hundred dedicated professionals hailing from across the globe, WoF's impact cannot be overstated.

WoF embarked on an ambitious agenda in 2022, organizing various activities including monthly virtual meetings featuring guest experts sharing key insights from their successful careers, and providing a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and mentoring opportunities. By actively supporting and engaging in these activities, WoF members deepened their knowledge, grew their professional networks, and honed their technical skill sets to help women thrive in this (presently) male-dominated industry.

WoF's members' commitment to inclusion extended beyond FIRST activities. Members actively contributed to numerous industry initiatives and relevant events, such as the [ITU mentorship program](#), forging alliances and collaborating with other organizations to support an equitable playing field for women in the security workforce.

WoF's collective efforts in 2022 yielded tangible results, solidifying its position as a driving force for positive change. Perhaps one of the most notable achievements was the formation of a gender-balanced Board of Directors, thanks also to voting members actively recruiting its members to run for board elections. This milestone exemplifies WoF's commitment to fostering inclusivity and ensuring that strategic FIRST Board decisions aren't blinded by inherent gender biases.

As we look forward to FIRSTCON23, the Women of FIRST SIG is proud to announce an event that promises to be a catalyst for meaningful conversations and empowerment for everyone, particularly for women building experience in this growing field. Rebecca Taylor (Threat Intelligence Manager at Secureworks), who presented on Knowledge Management in the previous year, has taken on the challenge of organizing and moderating The Female Conversation—Empowering Women in Incident Response and Cyber Intelligence event. This panel discussion will feature distinguished members from diverse backgrounds.

Follow the [Women of FIRST LinkedIn group](#), which further amplifies the impact of member participation, showcasing their achievements and contributions within the industry.

# Strategy & Policy

FIRST has continued to engage with the UN Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) as well as monitoring the work of the UN Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate on a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.

We have applied to the OEWG for accredited stakeholder status that would allow us to attend formal meetings, to make oral statements during a dedicated stakeholder session, and to submit written inputs to be posted on the webpage. Unfortunately, we have - so far - been refused this status. Undefeated, we continue working to achieve this.

Board members represented FIRST at several meetings organized by the OEWG. FIRST's position on the importance of ensuring that policy and governance must allow incident responders to continue to collaborate globally was reiterated.

Our CEO and Board of Director members participated in several other high-profile events, including:

- 10th Sino-European dialogue, high-level diplomatic exchange between European and Chinese experts at the German ministry of foreign affairs.
- The Paris Peace Forum
- UN OEWG inter-sessional meetings
- Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)
- Spanish public private partnership WG on Ransomware



## Financials

The financial impact of the pandemic eased in 2022. FIRST took some considerable risk with having an in-person AGM 2022 in Dublin and other events, the events were successful, but didn't reach the financial contribution that was planned. The total numbers are back to pre-pandemic level.

The financial year resulted in a change of net assets of around -352,399 US\$. The planned investment in its growth with hiring new staff. The suspension of teams, due to sanctions resulted in a loss of membership revenue that couldn't be compensated.





# Infrastructure

Infrastructure Highlights for the Annual Report:

Over the past year, the infrastructure team has worked on several initiatives to optimize FIRST's services and operations for its members, staff, and volunteers. The following are some highlights:

- The hybrid event model was successfully debuted at the 2022 annual conference in Dublin. This enabled virtual and in-person attendees to watch TLP:Clear presentations streamed live and available for replay immediately after the conclusion of each session.
- Continued improvements to the membership application process have been implemented, including the deployment of the Open CSIRT Foundation SIM3 v2 model.
- The release of new member services, including:
  - TalentLMS as the new FIRST learning platform available at [learn.first.org](https://learn.first.org).
  - The training course for CVSS 4.0 has been completed and will debut on this platform.
  - In cooperation with the SecLounge SIG, a permanent Capture the Flag service will be released to FIRST members at [ctf.first.org](https://ctf.first.org) using the CTFd.io service.
- Several enhancements have been completed for the management and administration of FIRST groups.
- A clean-up effort is underway to ensure that inactive FIRST user profiles will be deactivated and to provide users and team representatives with reminders twice a year with helpful information for keeping their FIRST Profile updated.
- The migration of FIRST infrastructure to AWS is well underway and is expected to be completed by Fall of 2023.



## Community & Capacity Building (CCB)

Since the establishment of FIRST, the community has engaged in a wide range of formal and informal capacity building activities. This has included organized initiatives such as FIRST education and training; the Suguru Yamaguchi Fellowship Program; the sharing and development of standards and good practices; and indirectly through the provision of platforms, forums, networking, and events.

Building on this foundation, FIRST's Community and Capacity Building Program (CCB) was launched in 2022 to build long term, comprehensive initiatives for more meaningful impact on-the-ground. Since launch, the CCB Program has focused on strengthening the foundations of current activities as a basis from which to build these new initiatives. This has included:

- Development of an initial CCB concept note and work plan;
- Working to strengthen the FIRST Education and Training Program, including through updating internal processes and documentation;
- Growing the Fellowship Program to include more support during and beyond the conference;
- Informal advice and support, including with 12+ economies;
- Growing existing partnerships and trialing new capacity building collaborations including with [EU CyberNet](#), [Cyber4Dev](#), [PaCSON](#), [DCAF](#), and the [GFCE](#); and
- Planning for the launch of a CCB funding mechanism.



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