European Commission

INTRODUCTION TO ISACS

WHY and HOW you can profit from joining or forming one!

Empowering EU ISACs

Capgemini invent

INTRASOFT INTERNATIONAL

DFN CERT

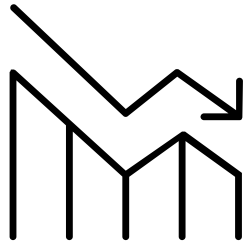
Spark Legal network

TNO innovation for life

Content

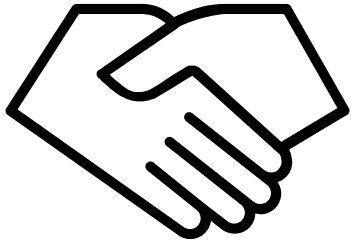
Economic losses due to cyber attacks can be prevented with cooperation, ISACs form the right vehicle to establish this

Avoid economic losses



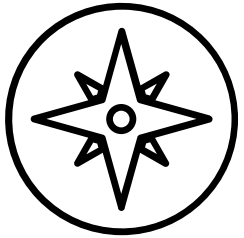
Estimated economic loss caused by cyber attacks for the global economy varies from 330 to 506 billion euro per year[1]

Strength in Unity



As cooperation is a sine qua non for ensuring cybersecurity, the European Union is a strong advocate of cooperation models in cybersecurity

ISACs as the right operating model



Cross-border collaboration and supervision of critical sectors through ISACs enhances the Union's cybersecurity incident reporting process

1 ENISA, 2016

Let’s start at the beginning: what exactly is an ISAC and why are they important?

What are ISACs?

ISACs, or Information-sharing and Analysis Centres, are developed by organizations that are exposed to **similar cybersecurity threats** and issues. ISACs can undertake a diverse range of activities to facilitate i**nformation-sharing** and **analysis** activities to increase the cyber maturity and resilience of their members. They are **member-driven** and often initiated by operators of essential services of critical sectors.

Why (EU)ISACs are important

- Cyber security resiliency is (or should be!) a top priority
- Country borders are of little relevance in the cyber realm
- International cooperation is of utmost importance
- ISACs provide a vehicle and operating model for this collaboration

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Generally speaking, there are three models for ISACs:

1. Geographically oriented
2. Sector/industry oriented
3. Thematic oriented

The ISACs mentioned in this project are **EU-wide and sector/industry focused.** Some sectors where such EU ISACs already exist are:

Financial sector


Maritime sector


Energy sector


Railway (sub)sector

Joining an ISAC has many advantages which lead to increased cyber resilience for your organization and the entire sector

Advantages of joining an ISAC include:

Regarding information sharing:

- Enhance Cyber Resilience through incident sharing, with (potentially near real-time) **alerts and notifications**
- **Confidential** in-depth discussions on topics or cases with peers
- **Sharing of best-practices** to scan/prepare/avoid/mitigate incidents
- Networking, **community-building** and expert-to-expert contact

Regarding analysis and product development:

- **Co-organizing** activities (such as awareness campaigns)
- **Bundling of resources**, thereby providing an economic incentive as this translates into cost savings
- Sector-wide analyses which help maintaining **sector-wide situational awareness**
- Development useful **tools and products**, such as guidelines and threat or trend analysis

BENEFITS OF INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTRES (ISACS)

enisa EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR CYBERSECURITY

TRUSTED COMMUNITY
ISAC is the community that brings together industry operators with the same goals and interests, creating a trusted environment.

GOOD PRACTICES
ISACs are tools for OES to exchange good practices and information about threats and their mitigation.

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS
ISAC is enhancing the cybersecurity posture and awareness in the critical sectors

SUPPORT WITH EU LEGISLATIONS
ISACs can support the implementation of European legislation such as the NIS Directive and the Cybersecurity Act

CRISIS MANAGEMENT
ISACs can be used as information exchange mechanisms in case of crisis

An ISAC is established to facilitate information-sharing and (sectoral) analysis: this can take different shapes and forms!

Activities an ISAC <u>can</u> undertake:

- ❑ Organizing **meetings** comprising a number of high level **security experts** from participating organizations;
- ❑ Addressing **tactical/strategic issues** (e.g. major/critical disruptions) with **cross-organizational relevance**
- ❑ Facilitating the **trust-based exchange of information** between members with a technical solution/platform
- ❑ Performing **sectoral analysis on trends**, incidents or other developments to share this knowledge with the constituents
- ❑ Undertaking or organizing activities to improve the cyber security awareness or knowledge in the sector, such as **organizing thematic sessions** or campaigns
- ❑ Facilitating the training or testing of professionals or technical solutions in the sector
- ❑ Disseminating and/or influencing (European) cybersecurity **legislation**
- ❑ And so on..

Example 1
An ISAC with an **informal structure** focusing on trust-based community building. Members gather a handful of times per year, exchanging updates and ideas about the state of cybersecurity in their sector in confidential sessions.

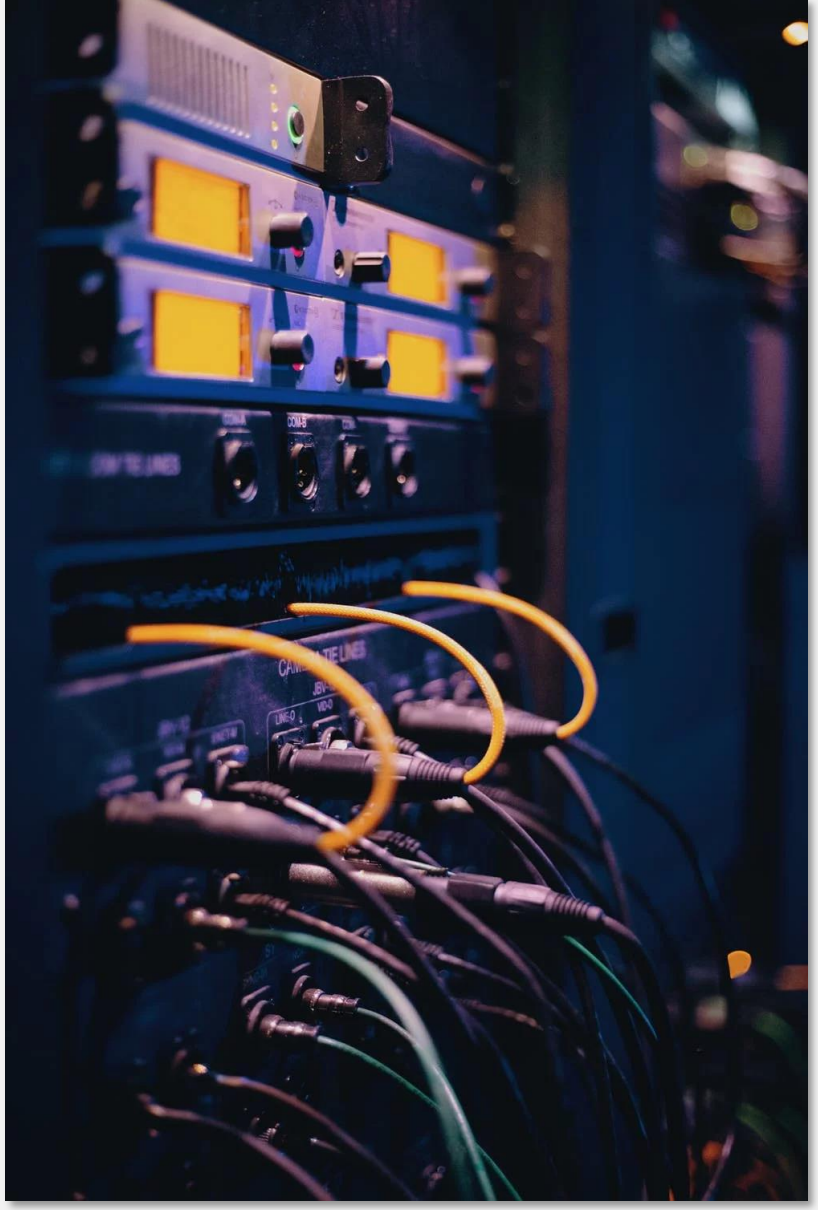
Example 2
An ISAC with a broad scope and a **formal structure**, including a dedicated board. They have a website, organize regular **thematic sessions**, established **working groups** and perform (and publish) **sectoral trend analysis reports**.

The form an ISAC will take depends on the context of the sector, ambitions of the (founding) members, maturity of the target group and many other factors: ***there is no one-size-fits-all!***

Introducing the Empowering EU-ISAC consortium

Recently the European Commission launched a project for the establishment of a Core Service Platform Cooperation Mechanism for Information Sharing and Analysis Centres (for more info, see the announcement on the ENISA website). The goal of this project is to mobilize public and private actors to establish and further develop European level sectoral ISACs and to promote horizontal and structured coordination between the various European level sectoral ISACs.

The Capgemini-led consortium (with Intrasoft, TNO, DFN CERT, Spark legal) won the call for tenders and is executing the project. The consortium is available to assist you with either starting or supporting an EU ISAC in your sector!



Empowering ISACs: support maturity of existing ISACs and support set-up emerging ISACs

Goals

- Support set-up of emerging ISACs in the EU
- Support existing ISACs to improve maturity
- Support coordination between ISACs

Timelines

January 2020 — December 2022

Activities

1	Provision of soft support to existing and emerging ISACs
2	Implementation of IT Platforms to support ISACs
3	Organisation of thematic workshops and conferences for the wider ISAC community

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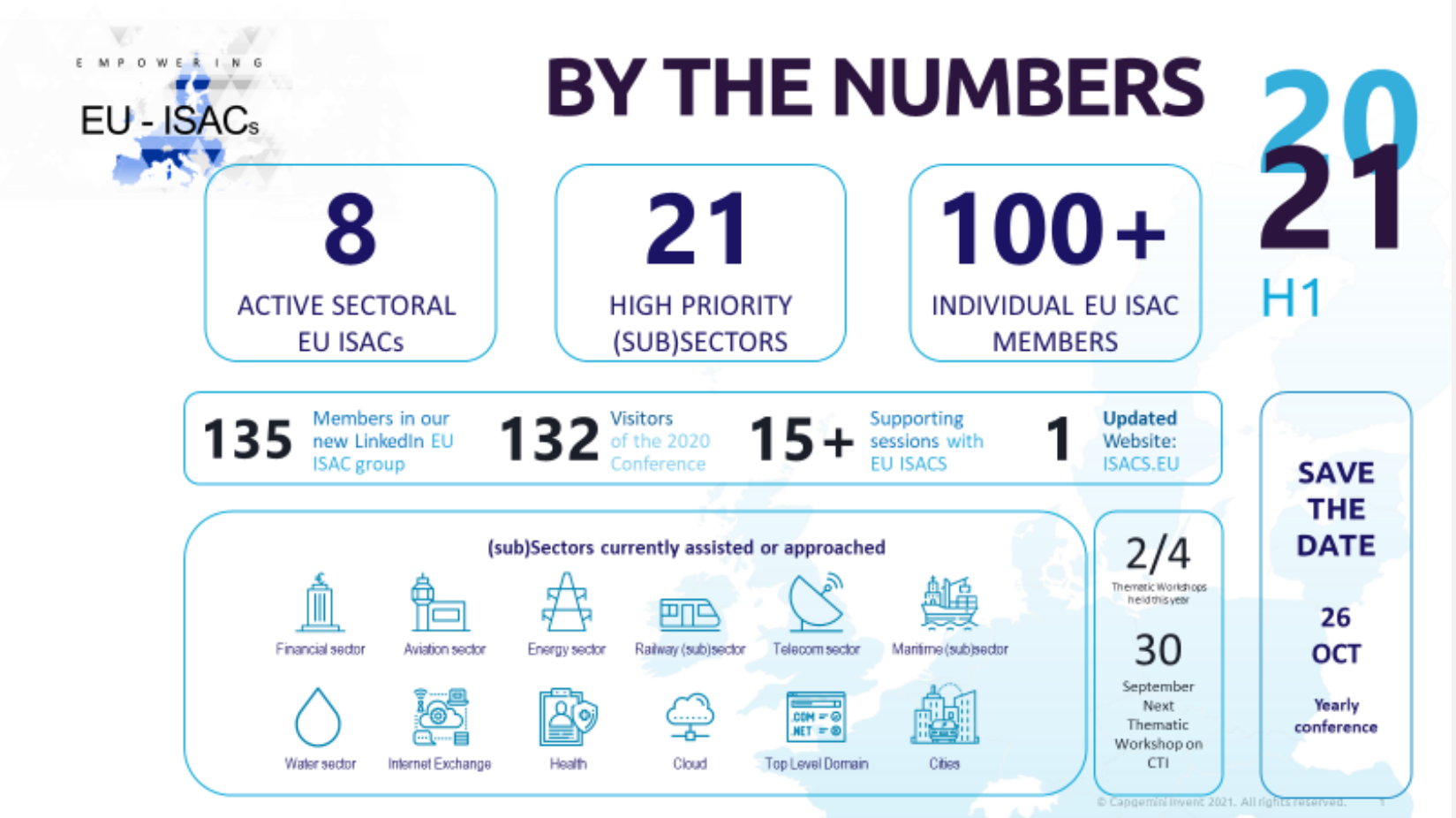
The project has facilitated and supported several different sectors and European ISAC initiatives



The consortium is currently already supporting a number of European ISAC initiatives. Some examples of our support:

Stakeholder analysis

The consortium performed an analysis of the organizational landscape of an ISAC to determine which categories of stakeholders exist (including [potential]members) to determine how to involve them

ISAC promotion and outreach

The consortium has helped an ISAC with developing promotional material to initiate (public) outreach, for example to attract new members or create public awareness about the initiative

Information-sharing platform

The consortium develops a platform to facilitate information sharing and analysis for multiple EU ISACs

Working Group Efficiency

The consortium helps ISACs with organizing working groups (teams within an ISAC that work on a specific topic or assignment) efficiently. This involves a 'best practice' blueprint and concrete ad hoc advice and support

Getting an ISAC started

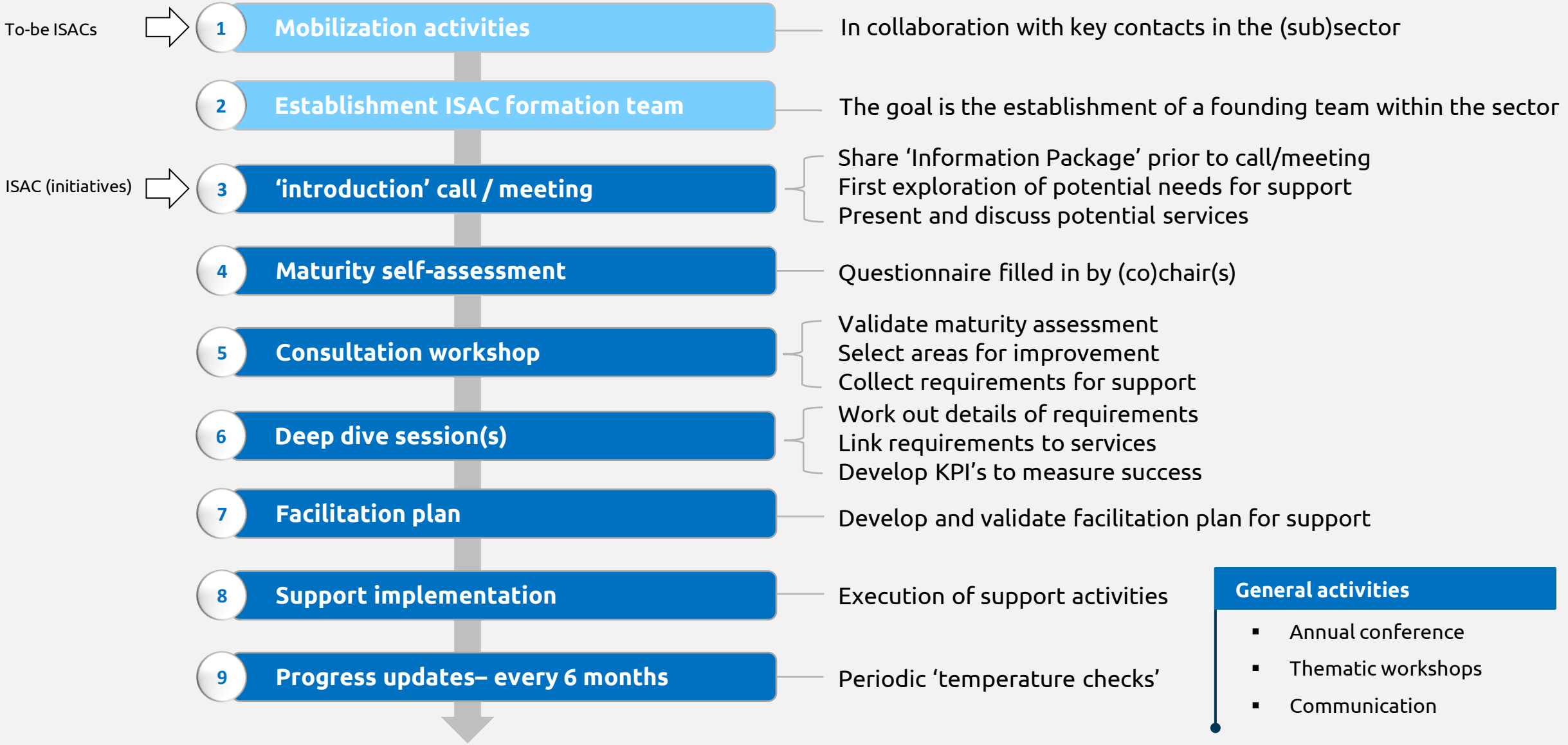
In multiple sectors where no European ISAC exists as of yet, the consortium actively supports 'founding members' with their first steps with the establishment of the ISAC

Formalisation

Some ISACs look to formalize the cooperation within an ISAC, for example through documents such as an NDA, Terms of Reference or MoU. The consortium has supported ISACs with such steps through legal expertise, templates and practical advice

As you can see, support takes all kind of forms: it is not a one-size-fits-all approach

The following steps are undertaken to facilitate EU ISACs and form the **generic Engagement and Facilitation Plan**:



Can we help your organisation? Let us know!

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Empowering EU ISACs Group

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