

# Call for Applications

## Her CyberTracks 2026 Cohort



Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the launch of the **fourth edition of the global Her CyberTracks programme**.

Her CyberTracks supports women in cybersecurity through specialized training and mentorship by offering four tailored CyberTracks – Policy & Diplomacy, Incident Response, Criminal Justice and Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence.

Her CyberTracks is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office ([FFO](#)) and the European Union ([EU](#)), with contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Italy ([MAECI](#)). The initiative is co-implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit ([GIZ](#)) and the International Telecommunications Union ([ITU](#)), in partnership with the Global Programme on Cybercrime of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)) and the Latin America and Caribbean Cyber Competence Centre ([LAC4](#)).

### Why we need Her CyberTracks

Securing human rights and protecting digital systems demands a global, open, free, stable, safe, and secure cyberspace. However, gender-specific perspectives are often overlooked. This gap emphasizes the need for equal representation in cybersecurity to foster peace, security, and human rights-based development. Women constitute only about 24% of the cybersecurity workforce in 2024 and are underrepresented in international negotiations on cyber issues. Addressing this is not just a matter of equity but a necessity for shaping inclusive international

norms, comprehensive strategies, fair criminal justice systems, a strong cyber workforce, and effective incident response, ensuring a safe and resilient cyberspace for all.

Her CyberTracks contributes to **closing the gender gap** by promoting the equal, full, and meaningful participation of women in cybersecurity. The initiative equips participants with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in the field through a one-stop curriculum based on four core pillars:



### TRAIN

We provide expert training courses to equip women with the technical and soft skills needed to shape cybersecurity.



### MENTOR

We provide a platform for cybersecurity experts in senior positions to mentor women at junior level and foster their professional and personal growth.



### INSPIRE

We organise inspirational keynotes to shift perceptions and (rightly) position women as valuable additions to the cybersecurity workforce.



### NETWORK

We support the establishment of resilient networks of cybersecurity experts within and across regions.

Mentees may choose among the following **CyberTracks** based on their profiles:

<b>Policy &amp; Diplomacy CyberTrack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts and processes, developments on national and international cybersecurity policy &amp; diplomacy</li> <li>• For policymakers and technical profiles interested in policy/diplomacy</li> </ul>
<b>Incident Response CyberTrack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic incident response skills, use of entry-level tools and techniques</li> <li>• For technical profiles, e.g. working in IT/systems administration wishing to enter cybersecurity, or entry level CERT/SOC roles</li> </ul>
<b>Criminal Justice CyberTrack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frameworks and tools to understand and contribute to cybercrime investigations and prosecutions</li> <li>• For prosecutors, law enforcement and lawyers involved in or aiming to enter cybersecurity and countering cybercrime fields</li> </ul>
<b>Cyber &amp; AI CyberTrack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intersection of Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence with a focus on policy and governance</li> <li>• For women with a comprehensive understanding of cybersecurity policy as well as technical profiles interested in focusing on the intersection of cyber &amp; AI policy</li> </ul>

Her CyberTracks addresses women working in or for the public sector or critical infrastructure providers in **African countries** (AU Member States), the **Western Balkans**, selected countries in

the **Eastern Partnership** region, selected countries in the **Latin America and the Caribbean** region and, for the first time this year, selected countries in the **Indo-Pacific** region (*please find a list of eligible countries per Cyber Track below*). The programme will be delivered **between May and October 2026**.

**Want to become a mentee:**

Mentees will be expected to commit to the full programme duration, attend online sessions and mentorship meetings, and successfully complete both online and onsite trainings to receive a certificate (ca. 15 hours per month).

Next to the **online curriculum**, the program features a **regional 4-day training on-site** with soft skills masterclasses, hands-on trainings and simulation exercises, study visits to cybersecurity organizations, and engaging networking events. Limited fellowships are available for travel and accommodation.

**Want to become a mentor:**

Mentors are essential for guiding mentees through the program. As senior cyber professionals, they share expertise and help their mentee(s) navigate their career(s), committing ca. 4 hour per month to (online) mentoring. Online live sessions are offered to mentors. Selected mentors may be able to attend the regional 4-day on-site training. We welcome mentors of all genders, who can devote time, share knowledge, and support mentees professionally.

You can find all the details, including eligibility criteria, on Her CyberTracks [here](#).

**Apply now!**

For **interested participants (mentees)** - please note that you first need to create an account on ITU Academy [here](#):

- **Policy & Diplomacy CyberTrack:** [apply here](#)
- **Incident Response CyberTrack:** [apply here](#)
- **Criminal Justice CyberTrack:** [apply here](#)
- **Cyber & AI CyberTrack:** [apply here](#)

For **mentors**, both women and men senior cyber professionals from all countries are invited to apply via the following [link](#).

**Applications are open until 19 April 2026.**

For any questions regarding the programme please write to [herybertracks@giz.de](mailto:herybertracks@giz.de) and regarding technical questions on the application platform to [ituacademy@itu.int](mailto:ituacademy@itu.int).

We look forward to your application!

The Her CyberTracks team

## List of eligible countries

### African Region

(Policy & Diplomacy Track, Incident Response Track, Criminal Justice Track, Cyber and AI Track)

- All Member States of the African Union

### Eastern Partnership & Western Balkan

(Policy & Diplomacy Track, Incident Response Track)

- Albania
- Armenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Republic of North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Ukraine

### Indo-Pacific

(Policy & Diplomacy Track, Incident Response Track)

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- Fiji
- Indonesia
- Kiribati
- Laos
- Maldives
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia
- Nepal
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Solomon Islands
- Samoa
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Viet Nam

### Latin America and the Caribbean

(Incident Response Track)

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- The Bahamas
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uruguay