Call for Papers CyCon 2026

CCDCOE
NATO COOPERATIVE
CYBER DEFENCE
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

26 - 29
May 2026
Tallinn
Estonia

18th International Conference on Cyber Conflict: Securing Tomorrow

CYCON

CyCon – the International Conference on Cyber Conflict – is organized annually by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE). The 18th iteration of CyCon will take place from 26 to 29 May 2026 in Tallinn, Estonia.

The theme of CyCon 2026 is 'Securing Tomorrow'.

The pace of technological development shows no sign of slowing. Each breakthrough in connectivity, computing, and automation shapes a world that is more dependent on digital systems and evermore vulnerable to their disruption. As we innovate, we must also anticipate. Securing tomorrow begins now, with the decisions we make and the strategies we set in motion today.

The future of cyberspace will not be defined solely by the technologies we create, but also by how well we secure and protect them. Emerging capabilities like quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and autonomous systems promise not only to transform our societies, but also to deepen our dependence on them, expand their attack surfaces, and upend existing security paradigms. Protecting the next generation of digital infrastructure will require a shift from reactive responses to proactive, forward-leaning measures.

In a domain where the boundaries between peace and conflict are increasingly blurred, cyber threats continue to evolve faster than the frameworks meant to contain them. The actors are many, their tools sophisticated, and their motives diverse. Whether nation-states, criminal networks, or lone wolves, these adversaries operate relentlessly in the shadows, without pity, remorse, or fear. In such an environment, waiting, talking, and planning are no longer sufficient. How can governments, industry leaders, legal experts, and technologists work together to adapt to new threats and secure tomorrow?

The CyCon 2026 Programme Committee is pleased to announce an open call for original research papers that offer technical, legal, strategic, policy, and operational insights on future cyber-related developments.

Procedure

The conference has three tracks: Legal, Strategy and Policy, and Technology. When submitting paper proposals, authors must specify the track for which they are submitting their paper. Authors may not submit the same paper to more than one track for CyCon 2026. Please contact the CyCon 2026 Programme Committee in advance if you are unsure which track would best suit your paper.

Authors should submit an abstract of 200 to 300 words describing the paper's topic and setting out the main points and conclusions. It is crucial to include the expected conclusions so that the Programme Committee can best judge

from the abstracts which papers are the most promising. Abstracts that merely outline the problem without indicating conclusions will not proceed further in the paper selection process.

After a preliminary review, the CyCon 2026 Programme Committee will invite the authors of accepted abstracts to submit complete papers. Only original research papers that have not been previously published will be admitted for review.

The full submissions should be between 4,000 and 6,000 words, including abstract, footnotes, captions, and references. Authors who wish to submit papers exceeding this word count by more than 10% must obtain the CyCon 2026 Programme Committee's prior consent. Authors are encouraged to develop their arguments, analysis, and data presentation. Submissions will be subject to a double-blind review in accordance with IEEE procedures.

Papers accepted for publication will be subject to proofreading and typesetting. Authors will have the opportunity to review, comment on, and accept any changes after the proofreading and typesetting steps. Authors acknowledge that they are required to sign a statement of copyright transfer or Crown Copyright Certification, as applicable, for the CyCon 2026 Programme Committee to publish their papers in the CyCon 2026 conference proceedings, as well as in other NATO CCDCOE material and documentation.

By submitting papers for consideration, authors acknowledge that one author from each paper accepted for publication in the CyCon 2026 conference proceedings will be required to give a corresponding presentation at the CyCon 2026 conference. This author will benefit from the Speaker Support Package, which includes CyCon 2026 registration, accommodation, and economy-class round-trip tickets. Please note that all presentations will be recorded in audio-only or audio/video formats and photographed for promotional and archival purposes. Such recordings and photos may be published on the CyCon 2026 or CCDCOE website, printed, posted on social media, or included in press releases.

Important dates
Abstract submission: 06 October 2025 by 0900 Eastern European time
Notification of abstract acceptance/rejection: 31 October 2025
Full paper submission: 12 January 2026 by 0900 Eastern European time
Notification of paper acceptance/rejection: 13 February 2026
Final paper submission: 9 March 2026 by 0900 Eastern European time

Links
CyCon 2026 Style Guidance
CyCon 2026 Template
Upload abstracts and manuscripts to EasyChair
Proceedings and recordings of previous CyCon conferences

Contact
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The NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) is a NATO-accredited cyber defence hub focusing on research, training and exercises. This international military organisation based in Estonia is a community of 39 nations, with expertise in the areas of technology, strategy, operations and law.