

PNRR e cybersicurezza: risultati, impatti e prospettive per l'ecosistema dell'innovazione

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Objectives



Protection

Protection of national strategic assets



Response

Response to national cyber threats, incidents, and crises



Development

Secure development of digital technologies, including industrial-scale applications

Skills

NATIONAL COMPETENT AUTHORITY AND POINT OF CONTACT (PoC) FOR THE NIS DIRECTIVE

NATIONAL COORDINATION CENTRE (NCC) FOR THE ECCC REGULATION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CYBERSECURITY AUTHORITY

CYBER CRISIS MANAGEMENT AT NATIONAL LEVEL
CYBER SECURITY UNIT (NSC)



CSIRT ITALY

OVERSIGHT OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY PERIMETER LAW FOR CYBERSECURITY

SCREENING TECNOLOGICO ICT PER LE INFRASTRUTTURE CRITICHE (CVCN)

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY FOR THE CSA REGULATION

Skills of Decree-Law no. 82, 14 June 2021



Some of the results achieved



NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES

- *AI Factory IT4LIA*
- *Megaride*
- *Impetus for the launch of the National Cybersecurity Park*



NATIONAL SECURITY AND CYBER CRISIS MANAGEMENT CYBER

- *Defence, resilience, fight against crime and cyber intelligence*
- *Technology scrutiny*
- *Cyber crisis management*



SUPPORT FOR THE RESILIENCE OF THE PA

- *Regional CERTs*
- *Enhancement of the safety posture of the PA*
- *Governance support*



NATIONAL CYBER SERVICES

- *HyperSOC*
- *ISAC Italia*
- *National anti-phishing service*
- *National instant messaging system*



TRAINING

- *Awareness campaigns*
- *e-Academy*
- *CINI and national challenges*
- *Training events for PA*

Detail of Public Notice



National Cyber Services

Cyber Resilience Enhancement Interventions for the PA

Scrutiny Laboratory and Technological Certification

Public Notice 1/2022

Interventions to strengthen resilience cyber

 **12 Org**
Admitted

 **15,50 M €**
Funded

Public Notice 2/2022


Interventions to strengthen resilience cyber


 **12 Org**
Admitted

 **7,85 M €**
Funded

Public Notice 3/2022


Interventions to strengthen resilience cyber


 **35 Org**
Admitted

 **63,69 M €**
Funded

Public Notice 4/2022


Capacity-building measures analysis and software scrutiny in the CAP


 **1 Org**
Admitted

 **0,96 M €**
Funded

Public Notice 5/2022


Contributions for the activation of testing laboratories for the Software and Network accreditation area


 **27 Org**
Admitted

 **4,23 M €**
Funded

Public Notice 6/2023

Interventions aimed at activating o the strengthening of Regional CSIRTs

 **19 Org**
Admitted

 **28,49 M €**
Funded

Public Notice 7/2023


Interventions to strengthen resilience cyber


 **25 Org**
Admitted

 **13,19 M €**
Funded

Public Notice 8/2024

Interventions to strengthen resilience cyber

 **87 Org**
Funded

 **108,00 M €**
Allocated

From Vision to Infrastructure: Italy's AI Factory Ambition



Italy has launched its first initiatives in the field of artificial intelligence, **marking the initial phase in the development of a national AI ecosystem**



CREATION OF A HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL "AI-FACTORY" ECOSYSTEM TO SUPPORT NEW ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Strengthening of **the Agency's national cyber services**
- Support for the **development of simulation tools**, based on AI and machine learning, to enhance the prevention, discovery, response and prediction of the impacts of systemic cyber attacks
- **Provision of the infrastructure** also to the Cyber Innovation Network

Status: Infrastructure in activation

- Establishment of a **National AI Factory** to support industry, with a particular focus on the Agritech, Earth, Cybersecurity and Manufacturing sectors
- Support for **the validation and development of startups** and spin-offs
- **Access to specialized services** including access to computational power to startups and SMEs

Status: Project Started

Megaride: a new HPC node in the European network



The University of Naples Federico II Campus in San Giovanni a Teduccio hosts **a new High-Performance Computing (HPC) facility**, which will serve as one of the nodes of the European HPC ecosystem



HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING CINECA

€36 million invested (approximately €22 million financed by ACN's RRF)

CPU Partition: 100 nodes

GPU Partition: 24 nodes for a total of $8 \times 24 = 192$ GPUs) and each node is equipped with: 8x NVIDIA Blackwell B200

DataLake with a storage capacity of 46 PBytes distributed between the Naples and Bologna sites.



CINECA

The CINECA Technopole in Bologna hosts the European supercomputer Leonardo, one of the three precursors of EXASCALE-CLASS SYSTEMS announced by the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking.

AI FACTORY

FINANCING

IT4LIA AI Factory is supported by a total investment of approximately €430 million, equally funded by the Italian Government and the European Commission

PROMOTERS



OTHER PARTICIPATING MEMBER STATES



PARTNERS



The **IT4LIA AI Factory project** has been selected by **the European Commission**, strengthening Italy's role in the development of artificial intelligence in Europe. **ACN** has a **strategic role** to play in ensuring the **digital security** of new infrastructures and integrating cybersecurity into AI development.

CONTEXT

The **IT4LIA AI Factory** project aims to transform the national and European AI landscape through **an advanced infrastructure** and a comprehensive portfolio of services available to companies and startups.

ACN has funded the construction of a new **supercomputing centre** that will be one of the nodes of the European HPC ecosystem. The new infrastructure will contribute to the **creation of an Italian extrascale infrastructure** in the implementation of innovative projects.

OBJECTIVES

DIVERSIFICATION OF THE OFFER

Development of capabilities aimed at:

- 1) **Detect the diversified demand** for services in the various domains;
- 2) **Build and govern appropriate models** of access and use of services (including differentiated ones)

ADDED VALUE

Focus on the **added value of ACN's HPC** offering, identifying their specific identity in the **HPC ecosystem**

ROLES AND ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMMING

Management and supervision of budget, resources and access models

PROGRAMMING

Identification and management of funded projects and activities

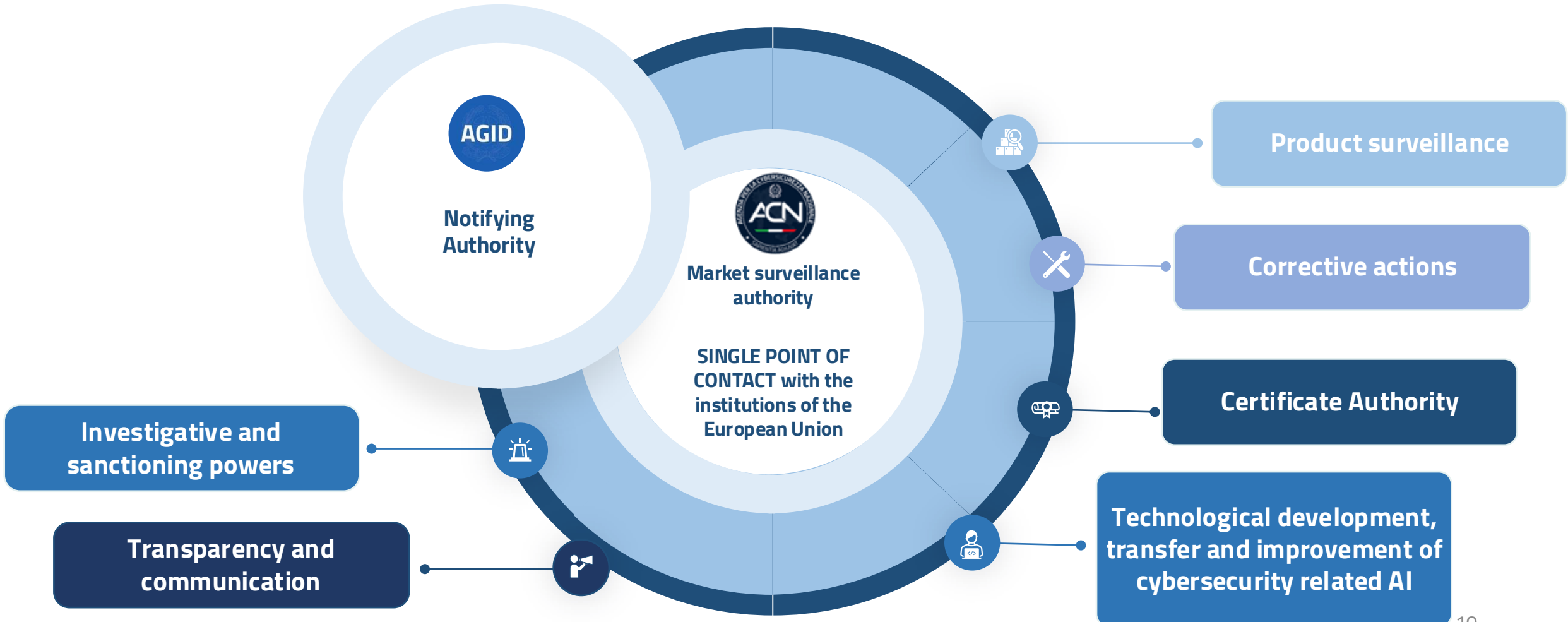
PROGRAMMING

Technical side platform management

AI Act & ACN Role



The National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN) is designated as a market surveillance authority and as a single point of contact with the European Union institutions. The main responsibilities of the Italian authorities involved, as provided for in Article 70 of the AI Act and established by the Italian Government with Law No. 132/2025, approved on 25 September 2025, will be:



The Agency's actions to support innovative entrepreneurship



The Strategy Implementation Plan attributes a strategic role to the innovation chain, from interaction with scientific research to the creation and development of new companies with a high innovative content.



Research Initiatives

- Research and Innovation Agenda
- Financial support for the PhD
- Technology Transfer Support (CIN-TTO)



Initiatives for Startups

- Cyber Innovation Network: Financial Support and Services
- AI Factory
- Internationalization (Measure #50 National Cybersecurity Strategy 2022-2026)



SME support

- SECURE (Financial support to SMEs to facilitate compliance with the Cyber Resilience Act)
- Cyber Index (Observatory and analysis of the level of maturity of SMEs)



Ecosystem Initiatives

- Ecosystem analysis
- Matchmaking Events
- NCC/ECCC Community Activation





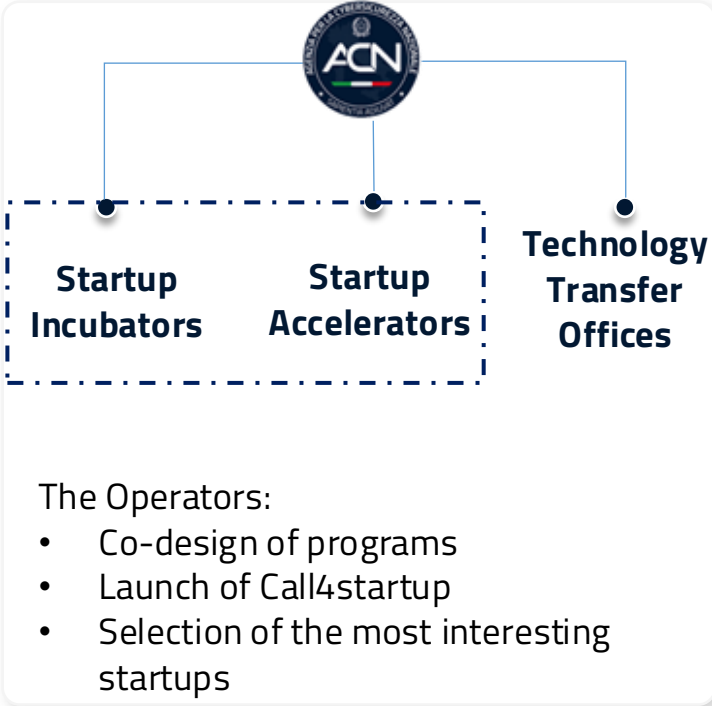
ACN's definition of the cybersecurity technology perimeter



Funding Program
PhD Scholarships

- R&I Areas
- Enabling technologies
- 2026 Update

Strategic collaboration between ACN and Qualified Operators



Support provided by ACN to selected startups



The Agency:

- selects the most promising startups from the shortlist provided by the Operators
- provides non-repayable contributions (up to €200,000)
- It offers outreach initiatives, mentoring sessions, and networking initiatives.

19 Selected Operators → 6 active partnership agreements





3rd

Edition



3M

Allocated



277

Applications



60

Funded projects



PHD PROGRAMME

- Launched in 2024, for the XL PhD cycle (a.y. 2024-2025), the Program is now in its 3rd edition with the Call XLII cycle (a.y. 2026-2027) which closed on 2/4/2026
- 9 million euros have been allocated to the programme



IMPACT AND RESULTS OF THE PHD PROGRAMME

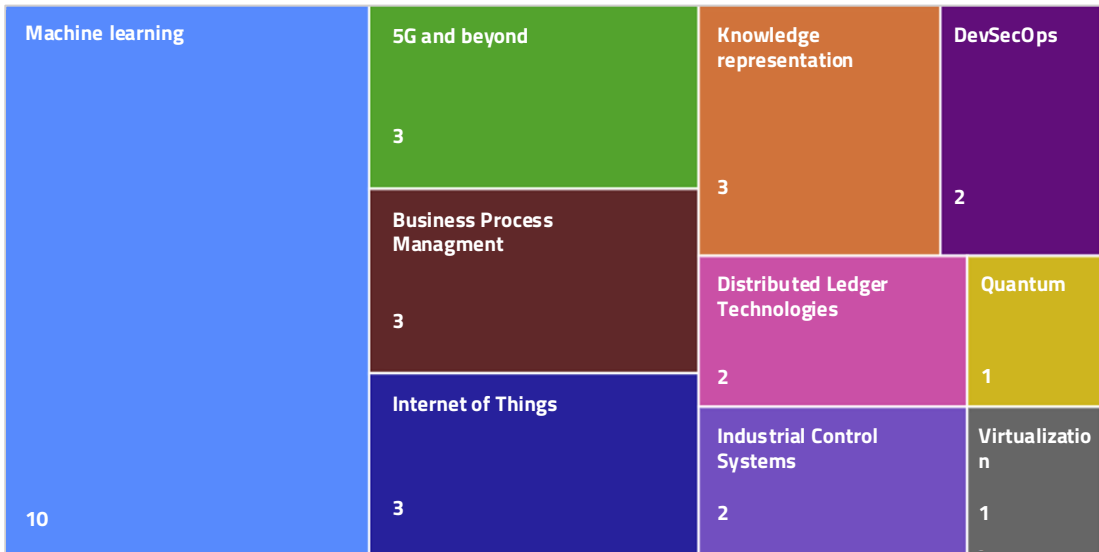
For the first two editions:

- 277 applications were received
- 60 projects on topics of the ACN and MUR Cybersecurity Research and Innovation Agenda have been eligible for funding

Distribution by EDT and Sub-areas of the R&I Agenda of projects funded on the XLI cycle

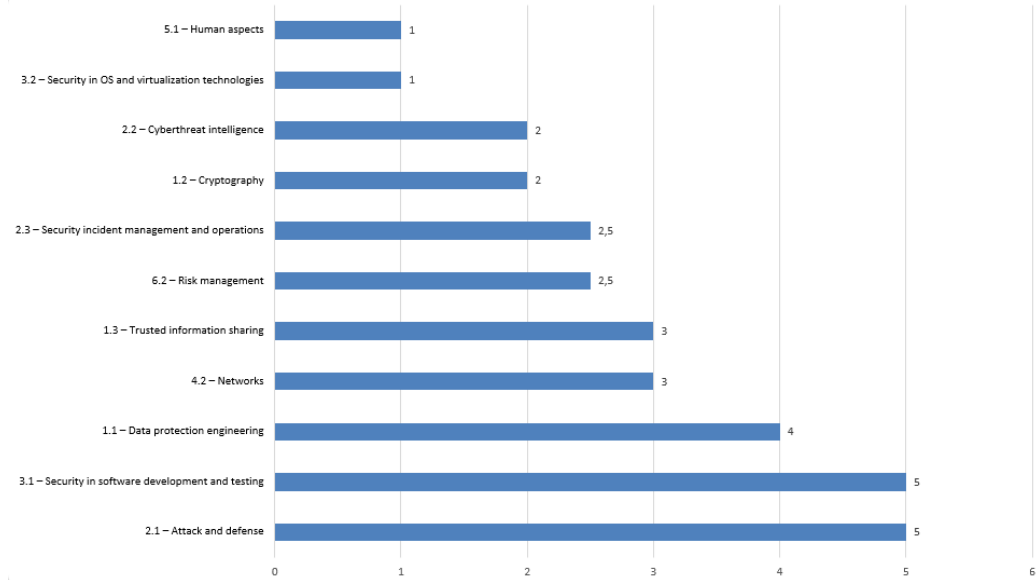


XLI Cycle Projects by R&I Agenda EDT



About a third of the funded projects are related to Artificial Intelligence (10 Machine learning, 3 Knowledge Representation)

XLI Cycle Projects by R&I Agenda Subarea

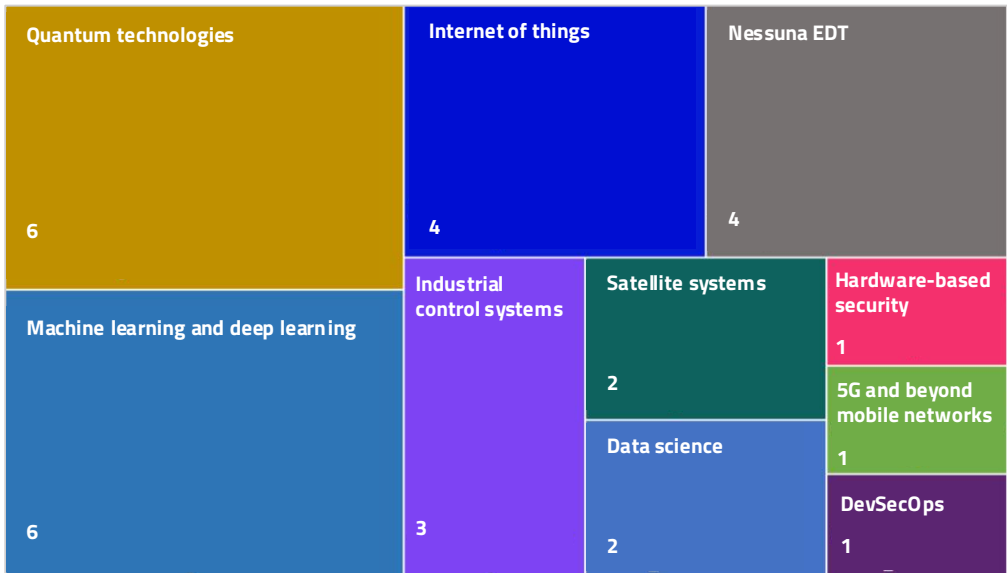


The projects financed mainly fall within Area 2 (sub-areas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) and Area 1 (all sub-areas 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3)

Distribution by EDT and Sub-areas of the R&I Agenda of projects funded on the XLI cycle

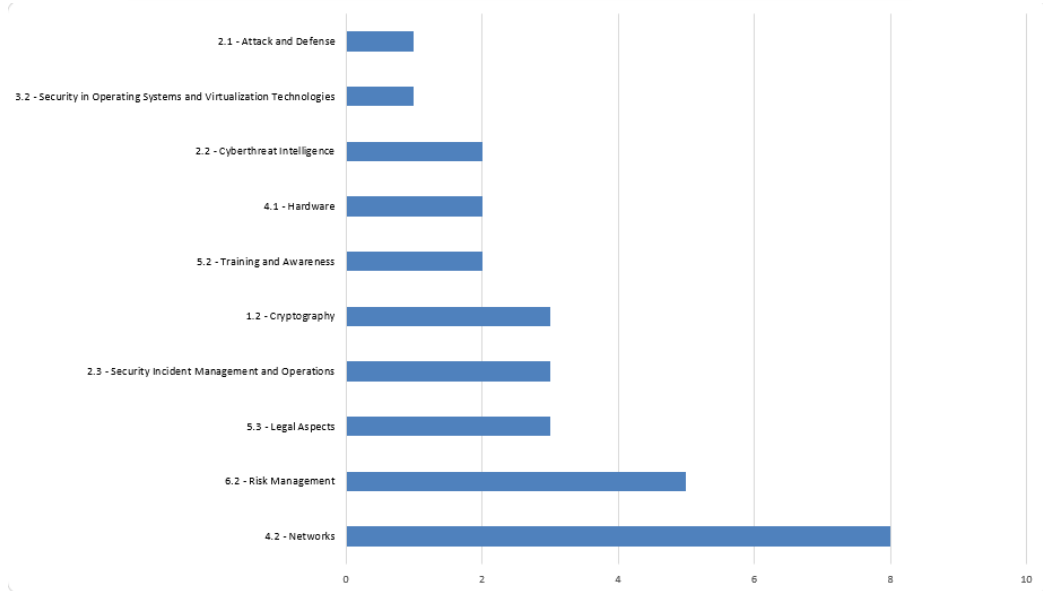


XLI Cycle Projects by R&I Agenda EDT



In particular, the number of funded projects relating to Quantum Technologies and Satellite Systems increased compared to the previous cycle

XLI Cycle Projects by R&I Agenda Subarea



Also by virtue of the awards provided for in the call, there are projects funded in the Non-STEM sub-areas Risk Management, Legal Aspects and Training Aspects