

Introduction

The .ie Cyber Security Fund 2025 is designed to support registrars in strengthening their cybersecurity capabilities.

Registrars and .ie will be required by law to adhere to the upcoming legislation implementing the EU NIS2 Directive. This includes measures to ensure that the .ie domain space remains safe and secure. To help with the transition phase of NIS2, we have created the .ie Cyber Security Fund, open to all registrars to apply, to help improve best practices in regulatory compliance, risk management, and cybersecurity.

It will provide part-funding to help registrars achieve certifications and compliance with key regulatory frameworks.

The goal is to enhance trust, compliance, and security within the .ie domain ecosystem.

By investing with the support of the Cyber Security Fund, .ie registrars can improve operational security, ensure compliance with regulatory frameworks, and contribute to a safer and more resilient .ie namespace.

What it covers

The .ie Cyber Security Fund 2025 is open to all .ie registrars who wish to avail of co-funding opportunities with .ie to improve their security capabilities. The following areas are covered:

- **ISO Certification:**

Support Registrars in obtaining ISO certification to ensure they meet international standards for managing sensitive information and mitigating risks.

- **NIST Framework alignment:**

Assist Registrars in aligning their cybersecurity practices with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework, improving their ability to identify, protect, detect, respond to, and recover from cyber incidents.

- **NIS2 compliance:**

Provide resources and training materials to ensure compliance with the NIS2 Directive (Network and Information Security Directive 2), which enhances cybersecurity across essential services.

- **Training:**

Fund cybersecurity training programs to build internal DNS expertise, ensuring that staff are up to date with current threats, vulnerabilities, and cybersecurity best practices.

How does it work?

The fund is open from **1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**. During this period, a fund of €100,000 is available to all .ie Registrars.

The funds will then be made available to reimburse up to:

- 60% of the eligible costs of pre-approved cybersecurity initiatives for Gold Partners
- 50% for Silver Partners
- 40% for Bronze Partners

How do you apply?

An application must be completed for each cybersecurity initiative and sent to us for approval. A registrar can submit multiple applications during the timeframe, provided funds are available in the €100,000 fund.

You will be asked to:

- Provide detailed evidence of the plan (benefits, expected outcomes)
- Complete a final report before the funds will be released, including proof of payment.

Fund overview | Key Dates

Commencement date: 1 January 2025

End date: 31 December 2025

Close-out period: 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025

The fund will close for applications on 31 December 2025. If initiatives have not been completed by this date, we will allow an additional closeout period of 3 months to give Registrars time to complete the approved initiatives, so that payment can be made. Applications must be received before 31 December 2025 to avail of the close-out period.

Terms & Conditions

1. This fund supports cybersecurity initiatives.
2. An application form must be submitted by each Registrar for each cybersecurity initiative that they want to be considered for co-funding with .ie (see Appendix A - application form).
3. The following types of expenses are not eligible and will not be covered:
 - Studies or research
 - Staff time costs
 - Cost for intellectual property rights protection
 - Investment in any kind of capital expenditure
4. Evaluation of the proposal - the following will be assessed by .ie:
 - Admissibility and eligibility
 - Projected outcomes
 - Content and added value
 - Suitability of the activity
 - The quality and accuracy of the information supplied in the application form
5. All applications will be evaluated, and feedback will be provided directly to Registrars within 5 working days.
6. If the proposal is approved, a formal agreement will be completed with the Registrar, which must be signed by a Registrar-authorized person and returned to us.
7. If the proposal is rejected, Registrars will be notified via email and provided with the reasons for rejection. Registrars are free to re-apply with an updated application form.
8. For successful implementation of approved proposals, we will reimburse up to a max of 60% of the eligible costs of pre-approved cybersecurity initiatives for Gold Partners, 50% for Silver Partners and 40% for Bronze Partners.
9. Registrars must provide evidence that the Cyber Fund initiative was successfully completed and demonstrate its impact before the final payment is made. This will entail completing a "Final Report" that is signed off by a Partner-authorized person which covers the following:
 - Implementation of the proposal
 - Impact of the proposal
 - Proof of payment of third-party invoices may be required
 - Metrics will be required
10. Reimbursement payments will be made on receipt of the Final Report.
11. Funds remaining in the €100,000 Fund on 31 December 2025 can be accessed for a further 3-month closeout period up to 31 March 2025. Any funds not availed of by this date will expire.