

MAY 2025

# NEWSLETTER °1

## GO CLOUD GO SECURE

 **Say Hello to Go Cloud! Go Secure!**  
Hey there,

We've got some exciting news! Our brand-new project, **Go Cloud! Go Secure!**, officially took off in **November 2024** — and we're thrilled to finally share it with you.

This international **Erasmus+** project is all about helping small and medium-sized businesses (like yours!) confidently step into the world of cloud IT. Our mission? To give you the know-how and practical tools you need to boost your digital security and stay competitive in an increasingly tech-driven world.

We're teaming up with five expert organizations from across Europe to develop three super useful resources:

 **A Cloud Security Model**

 **A Cloud Security Matrix**

 **Hands-on Cloud Security Training Materials**

These tools are being designed with SMEs in mind — simple, practical, and effective. We'll be diving deeper into each of them in future newsletters, so stay tuned!

But before we go any further, we'd love to introduce the awesome partners behind the project. You'll hear a bit about who they are and why they're passionate about making cloud security more accessible for businesses like yours.

In this first edition, we're also sharing takeaways from our kickoff meeting and highlights from our first expert interview. Some great insights are already emerging!

So come along with us — we're on a journey to make the digital world a safer place for SMEs.

Cheers,  
**The Go Cloud! Team**



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# WHAT IS GO CLOUD! ABOUT?

 **New Project Launch: Go Cloud! Go Secure!**  
In November 2024, we kicked off an exciting new Erasmus+ project:

**Go Cloud! Go Secure! A Cloud Security Implementation Model for SMEs (KA220-VET-9446EA09)**

This 2-year initiative is designed to help small and medium-sized businesses build confidence in using cloud technologies — with a strong focus on practical cloud security.

 **Project timeline:**

**Start: November 1, 2024**

**End: October 31, 2026**

Over the course of the project, we'll be creating hands-on tools and training to help SMEs across Europe strengthen their digital resilience. Stay tuned — there's a lot of valuable content coming your way!

 **What's the goal?**

The main aim of Go Cloud! Go Secure! is to help SMEs in the service sector get serious about cybersecurity — especially when it comes to using cloud technology.

How are we doing that? By creating two key things:

- ✓ a tailored vocational training programme designed specifically for SMEs,
- ✓ a step-by-step Cloud Security Implementation (CSI) model.

In short, we're making cloud security more practical, accessible, and doable — no tech jargon required.

The professional teams, working together to get the best results are:

- **FH Joanneum Gesellschaft MBH (Austria)**
- **ETE Faros Ltd. (Cyprus)**
- **I.E.R.F.O.P Onlus (Italy)**
- **Acta Consulting (Bulgaria)**
- **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Csongrád-Csanád (Hungary)**

**The specific goals of the project are to:**

- develop a tailored **CSI Course** aligned with the needs of SMEs and micro-enterprises,
- integrate the **CSI Course** into VET curricula through collaboration with VET providers,
- enhance practical relevance by partnering with industry experts,
- establish the **CSI Matrix**, a framework to identify and assess cloud threats and risks,
- develop the **CSI Model**, a standardized, risk-based tool to help SMEs implement effective cloud security programs and boost resilience.





# GO CLOUD! PARTNER MEETING

## THE WORK HAS BEGUN

The Go Cloud Go Cloud project officially launched with its first transnational meeting, held in early December 2024 in the vibrant city of Larnaca, Cyprus. Hosted by ETE FAROS, the event brought together all project partners under skies that offered a dramatic mix of rain, wind—and plenty of sunshine. ☀️

This inaugural meeting was much more than a formality. Each partner organisation gave a brief introduction, setting the tone for what promises to be a productive and collaborative journey through to October 2026. Together, we dove into the essentials of project management and took a deep look at the work packages that will guide our efforts over the next two years.

A key outcome of the meeting was outlining our first major task: a comprehensive analysis of national standards related to cloud and information security management. We also agreed to engage cloud security experts whose insights will help shape our CSI Matrix—one of the project's key deliverables.

Of course, no meeting in Cyprus would be complete without a taste of the local culture. After our intensive working sessions, we enjoyed the chance to strengthen professional ties and personal friendships over delicious traditional Cypriot cuisine. Looking ahead, the team will continue to collaborate through monthly online meetings, with great anticipation for our next in-person gathering—this time in Sofia, Bulgaria.



# CLOUD SECURITY IN PRACTICE – Expert Insights for European SMEs

12 EXPERTS, 1 GOAL: SMARTER CLOUD SECURITY

INSIGHTS FROM EU-WIDE INTERVIEWS ARE SHAPING OUR CLOUD  
SECURITY IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

## ASK THE EXPERTS!

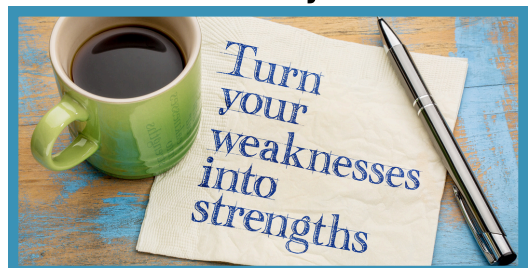
As part of the Go Cloud! Go Secure! EU project, leading experts from five European countries shared their perspectives on the most pressing cloud security risks facing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Drawing on these insights, Acta Consulting developed a report, which will be used to prepare an easy to follow and practical guide, designed to help SMEs strengthen their cloud security and safeguard sensitive data. This expert-informed resource is a valuable step toward making cloud technology safer and more accessible for businesses across Europe.



### TOP SECURITY RISKS IDENTIFIED



- ◆ **Data breaches & weak access control** – Poor settings can expose sensitive info.
- ◆ **Phishing & social engineering** – Staff might fall for scams without training.
- ◆ **Ransomware & DDoS attacks** – These can shut down systems and cause big losses.
- ◆ **Low awareness** – Many SMEs don't realize how vulnerable they are.



### COMMON WEAK POINTS



- ⚠ **Misconfigured systems, old software, and no two-factor login (MFA)** make it easy for hackers to get in.
- ⚠ **Employees often aren't trained on basic security steps.**

**Experts'**  
tips

### HOW TO STAY SAFE?



- ✓ **Use international standards like ISO 27001 and NIST**
- ✓ **Turn on MFA for all users**
- ✓ **Train your team on security**
- ✓ **Regularly check and update your cloud systems**
- ✓ **Use tools like CSPM to monitor your setup**



# MEET THE TEAM

## FH Joanneum Gesellschaft MBH

[fh-joanneum.at](https://fh-joanneum.at)

We at **FH JOANNEUM** are very proud and pleased to be the lead partner in this important project. **Cloud security** is an extremely important topic that will have a significant impact on the business and competitive ability of SMEs in Europe in the coming years. We will use our academic expertise and research results to strengthen cybersecurity in Europe.



Michael Brickmann



Stefanie Wieser



Florian Temel



**FH JOANNEUM**  
University of Applied Sciences

## ETE Faros Ltd.

[etefaros.eu](https://etefaros.eu)



Yiannos Gregoriou



Ikrame Saadi



**ETE FAROS** is a dynamic technology solutions provider specialising in innovative IT services, cybersecurity, and digital transformation, dedicated to empowering businesses through secure, reliable, and efficient technological solutions. Engaging in the **Go Cloud! (CSI)** initiative is strategically significant for us, as it directly supports our goal of improving cloud security and promoting trust in digital infrastructures. By joining forces within **Go Cloud!**, we enhance our capabilities and ensure that our clients gain access to state-of-the-art cloud technologies, cybersecurity solutions, and robust systems that protect and accelerate their digital transformation processes.

## Acta Consulting

[actaconsulting.eu](https://actaconsulting.eu)

**Acta Consulting** is a consultancy company founded in 2017 in Sofia, Bulgaria, with the mission to support SMEs and start-ups from various sectors in gaining competitive advantages through technological modernization and digital transformation. As businesses embrace the opportunities of digitalization, they also face new and complex challenges, especially when it comes to cybersecurity and data protection. That's why projects like **GoCloud** are so important to us. Through this initiative, we aim to provide our clients not only with the tools to transform digitally, but also with the knowledge and support to do so securely, confidently, and sustainably.



Admira Boshnyaku



Bianka Ivanova



## IERFOP Onlus

[ierfop.org](https://ierfop.org)



Claudia Serra



**IERFOP (European Institute for Research, Training and Vocational Guidance)** is an Italian organization focused on vocational education and training (VET) for disabled individuals, aiming to integrate them into the labor market. We are committed to disability inclusion through various Erasmus+ projects and offer services such as professional training, career orientation, consultancy for organizations, and support for self-employment initiatives. We play a key role in promoting a more inclusive society.



# Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Csongrád-Csanád

[cskik.hu](http://cskik.hu)

The **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Csongrád-Csanád (CSKIK)** is a 130-year-old institution representing over 1100 members and maintaining direct contact with more than 35,000 enterprises. Our main roles are economic development, improving the entrepreneurial environment, business matchmaking, consultancy, and vocational education coordination. The **Go Cloud! project** is important for us because it strengthens SMEs' digital transformation and cloud security readiness through tailored vocational training, thus supporting our mission to boost regional business competitiveness and sustainability. **Go Cloud** is of key importance to us because, on one hand, we see that businesses increasingly need cloud-based services, and on the other hand, as a business support organization, our fundamental goal is to ensure that our services meet the expectations of the modern age.



**Zsuzsanna Dr.  
Tráserné Oláh**



**Ágnes Cserkúti**



**Eva Đurović**



**Bálint Zsoldos**



# INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES FROM OUR WEBSITE

## Cloud Adoption on the Rise Among EU SMEs

Cloud computing is rapidly becoming a cornerstone for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the European Union. As of 2023, 45.2% of EU enterprises have embraced cloud services, marking a 4.2 percentage point increase since 2021

Adoption rates vary by company size:

- Large enterprises: 77.6%
- Medium-sized enterprises: 59%
- Small enterprises: 41.7%

This upward trend underscores the growing recognition of cloud computing's benefits among businesses of all sizes.



### Regional Variations in Cloud Utilization

Cloud adoption across EU member states shows significant disparities:

High adoption:

- Finland: 78.3%
- Sweden: 71.6%
- Denmark: 69.5%
- Malta: 66.7%

Lower adoption:

- Greece: 23.6%
- Romania: 18.4%
- Bulgaria: 17.5%

These figures highlight the uneven pace of digital transformation across the EU.



### Predominant Cloud Applications

Enterprises are leveraging cloud services for various functions:

- Email hosting: 82.7%
- File storage: 68%
- Office software: 66.3%
- Security applications: 61%

These applications demonstrate the cloud's role in enhancing operational efficiency.

**[Find out more on gocloudsecure.eu](https://gocloudsecure.eu)**





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