

## **EU Cyber Rules are Coming – Is Your SME Ready?**

Do you know what the CRA is?

If you're an SME doing business in the EU, you should.

That's because the Cyber Resilience Act, which goes into effect 11 December 2027, will not only shape Europe's digital future, but also have a direct impact on SMEs.

"Unlike larger companies, most SMEs don't have dedicated IT security teams or compliance officers, which makes them particularly vulnerable to cyber threats and puts pressure on how they adapt to new cybersecurity regulations," says Asja Kamenica, Head of Professional School at 28Digital.

Because the CRA applies to all software and hardware products with a remote data processing solution, SMEs will be impacted both as a user of a digital products and as providers and integrators of European value chains.

To help SMEs prepare for these rules, the cybersecurity experts from the [SME4DD](#) and the [CURIUM](#) projects have joined forces to provide you with the concrete tools and knowledge you need to put these rules into practice.

"The regulation requires that all products with a digital element be designed, developed and produced in such a way that it ensures an appropriate level of cybersecurity based on risk," says CURIUM project coordinator Argyro Chatzopoulou.

An EU-funded project under the [Digital Europe Programme](#) and coordinated by [28Digital](#) (formerly EIT Digital), the SME4DD Project is designed to train SMEs for the digital decade by delivering short-term learning programmes in three strategic digital technologies: Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Cybersecurity.

With the goal of transforming Europe into a trustworthy certified digital valley, the CURIUM project, which is co-funded by the European Commission under the Digital Europe Programme in cybersecurity, is committed to helping businesses – including small businesses – adopt and comply with the CRA.

### ***Security moves to the front of the line***

According to Chatzopoulou, everything from mobile gaming applications to smartphones, laptops, home cameras, smart watches, connected toys, smart metres, firewalls, modems and sensors all fall under the auspices of the CRA. This means that before a product is released to the market, it must, amongst other things:

- Have no known exploitable vulnerabilities
- Offer a secure-by-default configuration
- Protect against unauthorised access
- Only process relevant data
- Be designed, developed and produced to limit the attack surface and the impact of an incident
- Provide security related information

"Security by design is at the heart of the CRA, requiring manufacturers to embed security into a system from its initial stages – during creation, design and development – rather than adding it later," adds

Chatzopoulou. “In doing so, a product should arrive on the market free of vulnerabilities and be able to protect the integrity of customer data.”

Manufacturers are further required to prove that their product complies with all security requirements.

While the bulk of the CRA is focused on manufacturers, it also applies to what it calls ‘economic actors’, those companies who import or distribute digital products. “Although the requirements are different for economic actors, what this means is that the CRA cast a very wide net – one that will include a substantial number of SMEs,” notes Chatzopoulou.

### ***The clock is ticking!***

2027 may seem like a long way off, but SMEs must remember that is when products must comply with the regulation. SMEs will already be required to report on vulnerabilities and security incidents in September 2026 – so the clock is ticking!

To help you prepare for this first milestone, CURIUM has developed a suite of cybersecurity tools designed to simplify CRA compliance. Tailored to the unique needs of SMEs, the innovative platform includes modules for self-assessment, cost-reviews, and risk mitigation, along with tools for assessing risks and documenting vulnerabilities, amongst other solutions. You can get more information [here](#).

The SME4DD project offers a course on Cybersecurity and Data Protection. The on-demand course is designed to provide SMEs, SME professionals and jobseekers with the essential skills they need to protect and manage information and implement best practices in cybersecurity. [More information and registration can be found here](#).