



Municipality of The Hague Challenge



The Hague

Introduction:

Traditionally, disinformation and cybersecurity have been approached as separate domains, but in 2025 they increasingly overlap and amplify one another. From AI-generated deepfakes used for phishing campaigns to bots that spread false narratives on social media, the digital tools used to deceive, manipulate, and divide citizens are evolving rapidly. The Hague is the international city of peace & justice; the Dutch parliament resides there, as well as international organizations such as the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. As such, cybersecurity is a top priority for city officials. Imagine yourselves as cybersecurity consultants advising a city like The Hague on how it can better understand and counter online disinformation campaigns.

Part of the answer to combatting online disinformation lies outside of the domain of cybersecurity (fact-checking, content moderations etc); but to what extent do disinformation campaigns and 'classic' cyberattacks make use of the same IT infrastructure and TTPs?

Key Tasks + Objectives

In this challenge you will analyze and explore the ways in which cybersecurity professionals and their best practices can play a role in combatting online disinformation. In your answer, consider the following points:

1. Identify the threat: what cyberattack tactics are also being used to accelerate the online spread of disinformation in democracies?
2. Assess existing tools: to what extent can existing cybersecurity methods be used to help address this problem?
3. Evaluate alternatives: To what extent are other initiatives (e.g. the DISARM framework) sufficient/not sufficient?
4. Spot the gap: what is still missing? What can practically be done in the cybersecurity domain to help protect our online spaces to defend our democracies against targeted disinformation campaigns?

5th November 12:00 CET / 16:30 IST is the deadline for you to hand in a video of max. 3min to cyberschool@hcss.nl, in which you explain your Challenge solution and proposal. This is the final submission moment and from this submission, a Challenge-winning team will be determined. More information on this will be communicated via email.



The Hague Centre
for Strategic Studies



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Contributor:

The Hague is renowned as the international city of peace and justice and has also built up a strong reputation in the field of cybersecurity. After all, peace, justice and security go hand in hand.

For more than a decade, The Hague has been committed to combating the cyber threats of today and tomorrow by focusing on knowledge sharing, innovation and cooperation. The city has built a unique network that brings together knowledge and innovation in the field of cybersecurity. Private, public and knowledge organizations work together every day to protect the digital world.

The presence of globally recognized institutions such as the European Cybercrime Centre Europol (EC3), the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI), the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), and the thriving community of cybersecurity companies and knowledge institutions demonstrates The Hague's leadership in this field.

In The Hague, new innovative solutions that transform and improve the digital security landscape are being developed every day. This is how scalable solutions are developed in the city for the Netherlands and beyond to ensure a safe and secure digital future