Global Good Practices

Practice: **Enhance capacity building outreach through regional hubs**

#RegionalHubs

> **Capacity building programmes may be hard and costly to implement at multiple locations around the world, especially in distant regions. How can we effectively reach out with capacity building support in a particular region? What if a decentralised model were encouraged, supporting local champions to develop and help others?**

Related thematic areas:

Cooperation and community building

Cybercrime

Culture and skills

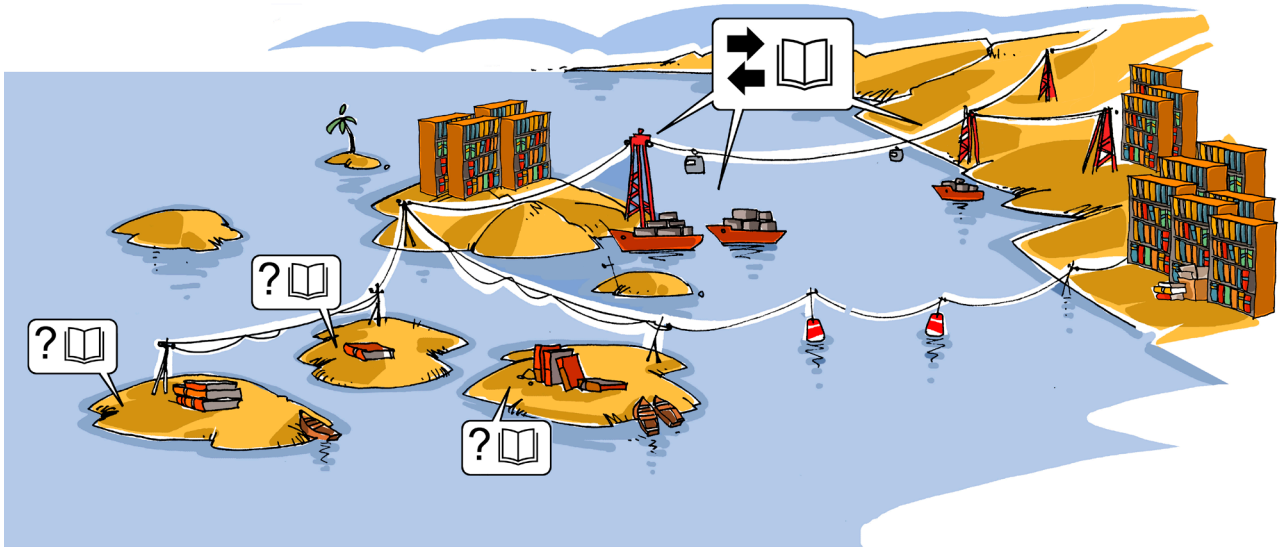**Of particular interest to:**

LAW ENFORCEMENT

GOVERNMENT

Description

Countries that have benefitted from capacity building activities previously, that have reached a certain level of maturity, and have experience to share may serve as **regional hubs to share their experience within their respective regions**.

Actors (or who this is for)

- International organisations, donors, and other national, regional, and international stakeholders offering resources and support for capacity building in the cybersphere.
- Government ministries, national bodies, law enforcement authorities, and training institutions in countries that already promote regional cooperation and wish to provide further support, establishing themselves as a reliable partner in a region.

The big picture

Global capacity building initiatives sometimes appear remote, less accessible, and less relevant to actors in a given region, if the initiative is designed and managed from far away. Despite the type of communications channels used today, the lack of immediate contact, cultural differences and scarce information flows can act as inhibitors for full awareness of the availability of support for capacity building.

Establishing capacity in one country of a region, however, could help strengthen capacity in neighbouring countries as well. Having a local hub and a champion in a region can facilitate awareness-raising of the opportunities for accessing a global programme that may appear somewhat distant at first. The support provided through local hubs can also reduce costs and increase responsiveness to the needs of those requesting support and resources for capacity building.

Such an approach can also be a good way to reach out to distant regions, such as the Pacific Islands. In addition, a regional hub can lead to the interest of other neighbouring countries in such a programme, and they may request assistance.

Instructions

- Select a country that could serve as a hub and engage in a dialogue.
- Define the skills and experiences that this country could share within its region and with project support.
- Liaise with other organisations and projects active within the country to seek synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Further strengthen the capacities of the hub country, for example, by supporting the organisation of regional training events.
- Support the chosen partner country in reaching out to other countries in the region to raise awareness about needs, and opportunities offered by the capacity building programme.
- Support the chosen partner country in delivering or co-delivering capacity building support to other countries in the region.

Political and other sensitivities within regions need to be considered when selecting and supporting hubs. Not all countries in a region will be prepared to cooperate. Political changes may also affect the readiness to cooperate.

Timing

Once a hub has been selected, the process can be initiated at any time by organising a regional activity and by using that momentum for follow up.

Examples

The GFCE Initiative relates to Global Action on Cybercrime Extended (GLACY+) project, a joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Union. It follows the GLACY project from 2013 to 2016.

GLACY+ relies on the lessons learnt, materials developed, and best practices identified from the experience of seven priority countries in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region – Mauritius, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Tonga – in the strengthening of their criminal justice capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence and enhancing their abilities for effective international cooperation in this area.

Several of these GLACY countries now serve as hubs under GLACY+. In West Africa, ECOWAS has now also become a partner.

Source, support, and mentoring

The source for defining this practice is the joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe – GLACY+.

More information:
- GLACY+ summary: https://rm.coe.int/168063f695

- About GLACY+: http://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/glacyplus
- GFCE Initiative GLACY+: https://www.thegfce.com/initiatives/g/glacy

Contact points:
- Matteo Lucchetti (matteo.lucchetti@coe.int)
- Manuel de Almeida Pereira (manuel.pereira@coe.int)

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