

Assessment of preparation levels for NIS2 implementation within SME businesses in Ireland

What is NIS2

The NIS2 Directive is a unified legal framework to uphold cybersecurity in critical sectors across the EU. It also calls on Member States to define national cybersecurity strategies and collaborate with the EU for cross-border reaction and enforcement.

NIS2 is a major upgrade to the existing NIS framework. A major change is the inclusion of new sectors of industry previously not covered by the directive. This could present significant challenges to business that have not needed to conduct IT compliance audits in the past.

What methodology will be used to conduct the survey?

The survey questions will be made up of both qualitative and quantitative questions. The quantitative element will be made up of tightly defined questions with either yes/no answers or limiting it to multiple choice answers such as “Under NIS2 is your organisation an important or essential entity or don’t know?”.

The qualitative element will use more open questions such as “Where do you feel the most resource constraints that might prevent your organisation meeting the compliance deadline?”.

Why conduct this research?

There is currently no published academic research in this area.

The first NIS directive typically applied to large business entities in limited sectors or the economy. SMEs in a wider selection of sectors of industry are considered important entities under the NIS2 directive and are now in scope.

The SMEs in these sectors of the economy typically have faced limited cybersecurity compliance requirements.

This research is to examine the SMEs in the affected sectors and assess their progress towards compliance. The research will shed light on the issues and should help lead to a greater level of compliance.

Useful Links



NIS2 Directive

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/nis2-directive>

NCSC’s NIS2 information site

<https://www.ncsc.gov.ie/nis2/>

