# OWASP Frankfurt Mentoring Program

Program Framework



# Silvia Gutierrez

- Senior Software Security Developer and IT Security Consultant
- Master's Degree in Cybersecurity and Information Security
- Advocate for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
- Mentor in non-profit organizations to support the participation of Women in Cybersecurity









silviagutierrezpuertas



silvia.cgutierrez@owasp.org















# **Cybersecurity Talent Gap**



**ABOUT** 

**Cybersecurity Jobs Report: 3.5 Million Openings In 2025** 

RESEARCH

NEWS

LISTS

RADI

SSS ISACA

**State of Cybersecurity 2022:** 

Cyber Workforce Challenges

(ISC)<sup>2</sup> **CYBERSECURITY** WORKFORCE STUDY

A critical need for cybersecurity professionals persists amidst a year of cultural and workplace evolution

2022

We estimate the size of the global cybersecurity workforce at 4.7 million people - the highest we've ever recorded. According to our research, however, the cybersecurity field is still critically in need of more professionals. To adequately protect cross-industrial enterprises from increasingly complex modern threats, organizations are trying to fill the worldwide gap of 3.4 million cybersecurity workers. To fully contextualize the state of cybersecurity in 2022, we'll analyze the field through multiple lenses.



atistic is reverberating in cybersecurity: million unfilled cybersecurity jobs globally by

e prediction has come true and the world's open tadiums.

50.000 workers — with around 465.000 of them ted by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Standards and Technology in the U.S. Departmer

#### Hiring Challenges

ruggle



**HAVE UNFILLED** cybersecurity positions (up 8 points from 2021)

cybersecurity teams are understaffed

REQUIRE university degrees for entry-level positions (down 6 points from 2021)

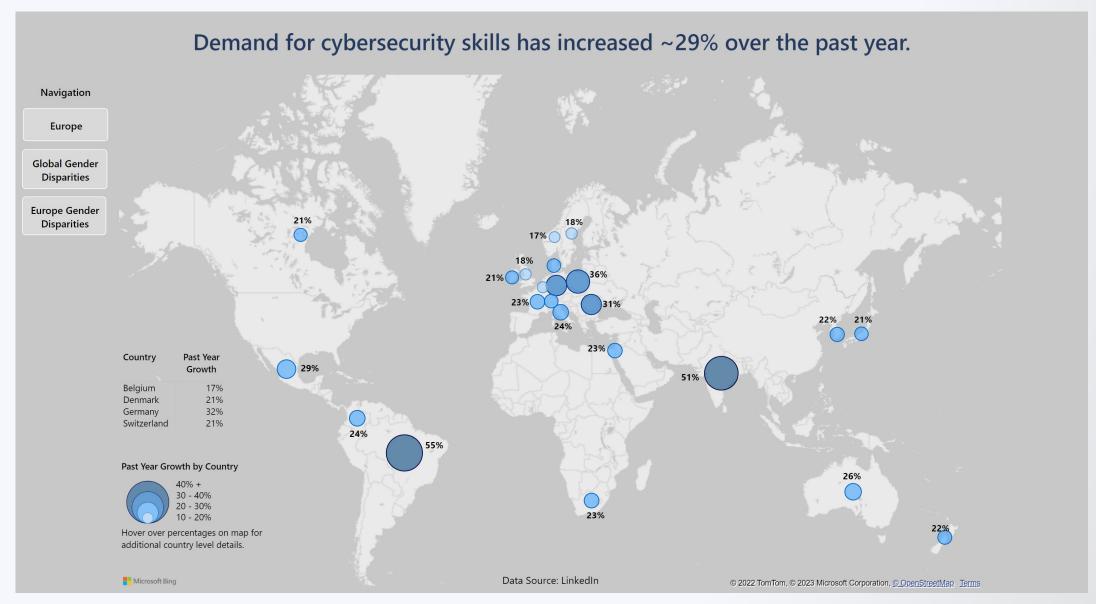


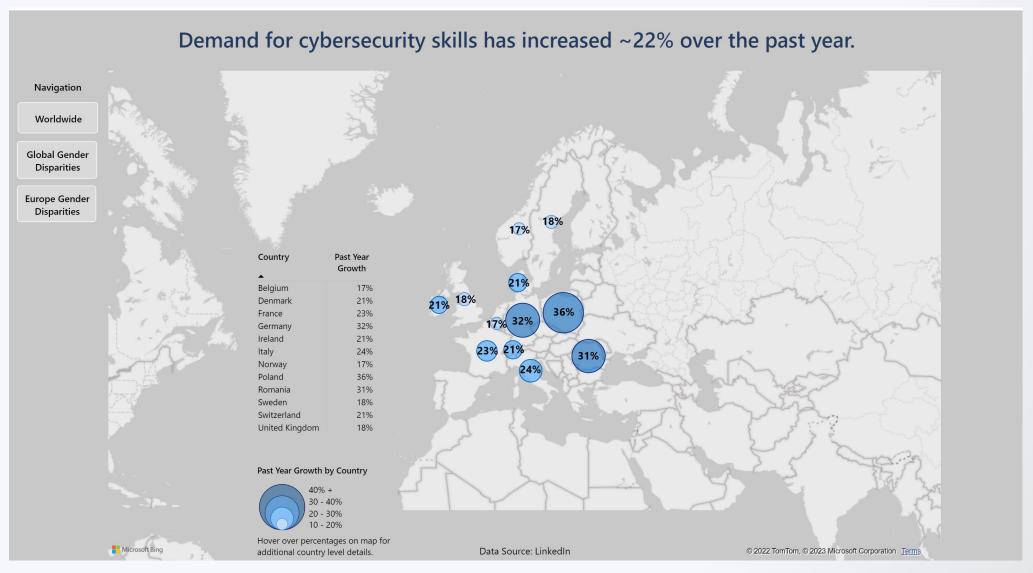
say it takes MORE THAN 6 MONTHS to find qualified cybersecurity candidates for open positions

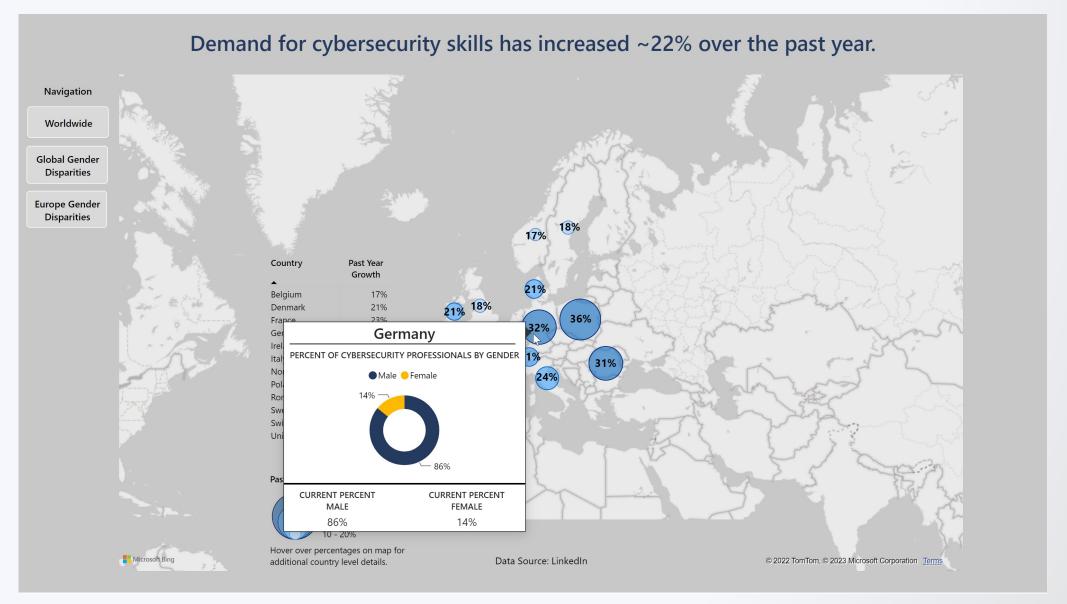


**OWASP FOUNDATION** 

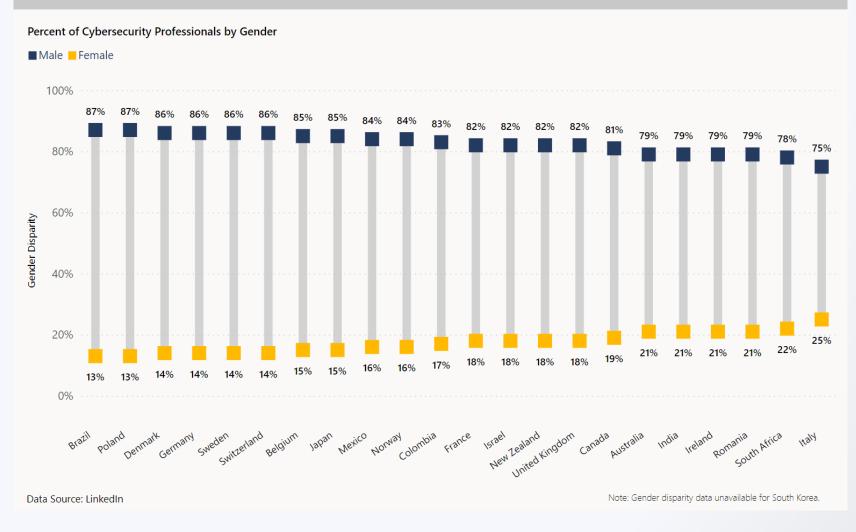
owasp.org

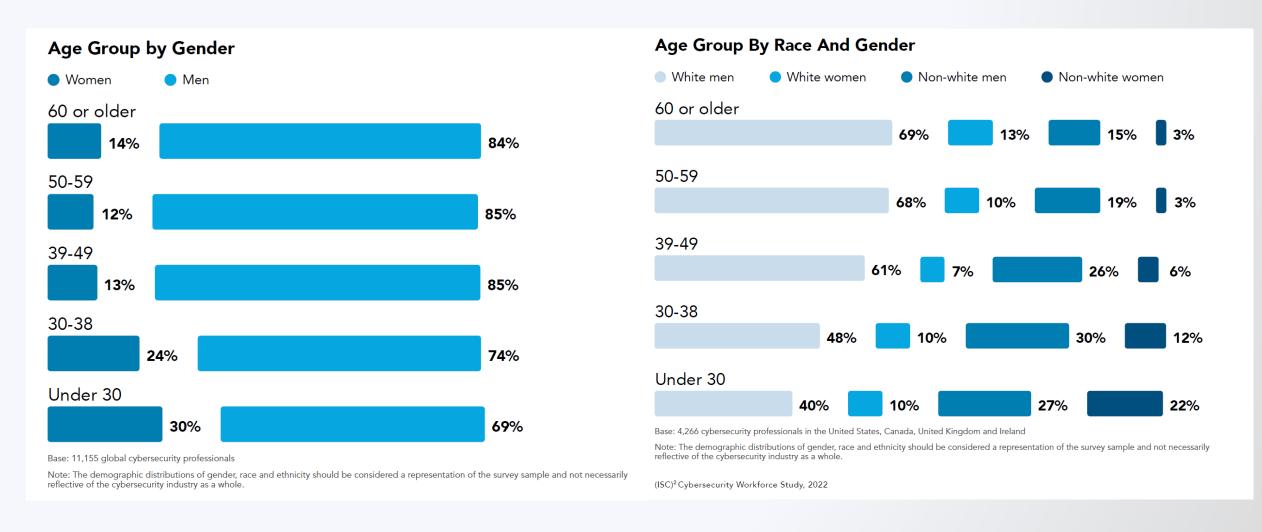






### **Gender Disparity by Country - Global**





Source: (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Cybersecurity Workforce Study 2022 <a href="https://www.isc2.org/Research/Workforce-Study#">https://www.isc2.org/Research/Workforce-Study#</a>

# **OWASP Frankfurt Mentoring Program**



# **PLAN**

### 1. Objectives and Indicators

- Purpose: Focused on promoting diversity and inclusion within the InfoSec/AppSec industry and allow people from different backgrounds to change their career into security and encouraging contribution to OWASP projects and the OWASP community.
- Type of mentoring: Group mentoring (1 mentor group of mentees). Mentor-guided and mentee-driven.
- Tracks: Builders (developers), Breakers (testers, red team), and Defenders (DevOps, blue team).
- Timeline: min 6 months max 12 months, Ideal: 8-10 months.
- Frequency to meet: 1 per month (1-1.5h).
- Setting: preferably virtual for mentoring, hybrid or face-to-face for workshops and events
- Flexibility about how the mentor-mentees are going to work.
- Indicators:
  - How many mentors?
  - How many mentees?
  - How many successful partnership created?

### 2. Eligibility criteria and Enrollment process

#### Mentor:

- Define requirements for be mentor: skills, experience, be able to commit time. Paid OWASP member
- Outline benefits to be mentor:
  - Developing mentoring/coaching skills
  - Enhancing communication skills
  - Enhancing leadership skills
  - Enhancing delivering feedback skills
  - Becoming a good listener
  - Increased self-confidence
  - Increased self-awareness
  - Gain new and different perspectives
  - Networking opportunities
  - Personal satisfaction
- Define enrollment process for mentors

#### Mentee:

- Define requirements for be mentee. Paid OWASP member
- Outline benefits to be mentee:
  - Developing technical knowledge or skills
  - Being supported, encouraged and empowered in professional development
  - Being helped to identify and achieve career goals
  - Gain new and different perspectives
  - Increasing self-confidence
  - Increasing self-awareness
  - Networking opportunities
- Define enrollment process for mentees.

### 3. Communication

- Teaser, Let people know that the program is coming and is going to be here soon
- All the benefits for mentors and mentees
- How easy is going to enroll
- Ongoing communications: take advantages of events/webinars, advertisement, newsletter, enrollment reminders

# 4. Matching/Peering

- Define matching criteria, matching questions.
- Profiles mentors/mentees

### **IMPLEMENT**

### 1. Setup enrollment

Make it easy

### 2. Communicate the program

Objectives, structure of the program, commitment...

### 3. Enroll mentors & training for mentors

- Mentors should be enroll first before starting enrolling mentees to make sure to get a good solid pool of mentors
- Training for mentors: one session
  - To make sure the mentors fully understand what their role is, the program...
  - Clarify questions
  - Advice on how to be a good mentor

### 4. Enroll mentees & training for mentees

- 5. Matching
- 6. Formal Kick-off
- 7. Formal Closure/Celebrating together

# **EVALUATE**

- How many mentors enrolled?
- How many mentees enrolled?
- How many relationships were made?
- Make sure mentor-mentees had their first meeting
- Mentee-Mentor Midpoint Survey (after 3 months)
- Mentee-Mentor Exit Survey (after 6 months)

# **MANAGE**

- Mentoring Program Manager
- Marketing: Keeping the program alive
  - slack workspace only for mentors
  - slack workspace for all mentors/mentees. Channels: general, announcements, resources, celebrate...
- Credit mentors.. e.g Mentor of the month/quarter