Preface

Increasing computerization of government infrastructures has given rise to new vulnerabilities and challenges. Information Technologies (IT) have improved workflow efficiency, while exposing governments to new threats, which challenge not only national security, but also socio-economic development. Certain technologies deliver powerful weapons that can be used for new forms of warfare and cyber crime, undermining the availability and integrity of reliable and confidential information vital for the continuity of government services. The International Relations and Security Network (ISN) has launched a new training program to strengthen the information security skills of government professionals throughout the Euro-Atlantic region, to cope with these threats and to develop information protection mechanisms. The seminar curricula are designed to raise EAPC/PfP defense policy makers' awareness of the existing and emerging information security risks, and to develop information security specialists' skills to guarantee the maximum possible security of national information systems.

The current publication is a follow-up to the first ISN Partnership for Peace (PfP) Seminar on Information Security held at the ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) in August 2003 as an effort to further a more consistent and formally structured education and training of the EAPC/PfP professionals in the field of information security. In today's networked environment, there is a considerable need for hands-on and professional education in information security throughout the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council region. A wide range of non-profit and commercial organizations offer information security training and qualifications. A careful selection from globally available training tools and products matching the professionals' organizational needs and local conditions is key to sustainable information security education.

The objective of the ISN Information Security Qualifications Handbook is to deepen the understanding of EAPC/PfP information security specialists on the existing range of information security qualifications and facilitate a professional selection of appropriate training programs supporting their specific job responsibilities and organizational priorities. For this reason, the Handbook covers in depth two types of information security qualifications: vendor neutral and vendor qualifications.

The Handbook has been developed in cooperation with Danielyan Consulting LLP, an Information Security consultancy and an ISN Cooperating Partner. Special thanks go to Danielyan Consulting LLP for its stocktaking work and for sharing its first-hand experience with the information security professionals in the EAPC/PfP community.

We very much hope that the ISN Information Security Qualifications Handbook will serve as a reference book for the interested community. The publication forms an integral part of the ISN's commitment to promote and enhance information security through training and education within the framework of Switzerland's commitment to fighting asymmetric threats throughout the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council region.

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