



Project name and abbreviation: Defend Iceland: National bug bounty platform – ICEDEF.

Programme: Digital Europe Programme.

Project duration: 2 October 2023 – 21 October 2026.

Budget: € 2.531.938.

ICEDEF in a nutshell:

The Icelandic National Contact Point (NCP) for Cluster 3 has been working closely with Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Iceland to support companies in finding opportunities in EU funding programmes.

The focus has primarily been on Cluster 3 in Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme.

In the face of increasing cyber attacks, Icelandic society has had to adopt robust security measures. One standout success story is Defend Iceland, an innovative company specializing in cyber security.

Defend Iceland's groundbreaking idea and implementation to enhance cyber security secured a €2.6 million grant from the Digital Europe Programme, achieving the highest possible application score. This remarkable success highlights the impact of EEN's cooperation and support.

The Defend Iceland (ICEDEF) project aims to enhance Iceland's cybersecurity by creating a national vulnerability reporting platform where ethical hackers can safely disclose security flaws and receive monetary rewards through bug bounty programs. Co-funded by the European Commission's Digital Europe Programme, the initiative promotes responsible vulnerability disclosure, fosters collaboration among institutions like the University of Iceland and Reykjavik University, and integrates fixes into software development lifecycles. Educational events like hackathons and workshops are also part of the project to raise awareness and improve secure development practices.

By strengthening Iceland's cybersecurity ecosystem, ICEDEF seeks to proactively protect the nation's digital infrastructure and build safer digital communities. The project supports ethical hacking, encourages public and private organizations to participate in vulnerability reporting, and increases trust in digital systems. With this initiative, Iceland not only bolsters its national cybersecurity readiness but also serves as a model for integrating ethical hacking and vulnerability management into global cybersecurity practices.

The EEN team and the Cluster 3 NCP at Rannís continues to follow Defend Iceland's journey and hopes their story (see video below) will inspire others to pursue similar initiatives.

[Link to Video](#) – it is in Icelandic but the text is in English.

More information about the project: <https://defendiceland.is/en/>

Video about the project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5y-59NdMx8>