Beyond the Algorithm: The Road to a Quantum-Safe Europe

The SPQR Cluster and the PQ-REACT project brought together EU quantum specialists in Bucharest to ensure a smooth transition to the quantum era.

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The SPQR Cluster and the PQ-REACT project successfully hosted the **"Beyond the Algorithm: The Road to a Quantum-Safe Europe"** event, bringing together leading experts, researchers, policymakers, industry representatives, and innovators to discuss the forthcoming quantum transition and Europe's readiness for this new era.

If not now, then when?

As advances in quantum computing continue to accelerate, the event provided a timely platform for exploring the technological, regulatory and operational challenges associated with the transition to **post-quantum cryptography (PQC).** Throughout the day, participants exchanged knowledge, shared practical experiences with a key highlight of the live demos, and discussed strategies to ensure Europe's long-term cyber resilience in the face of emerging quantum threats.

Funded by the European Union

The event opened with an introduction to the SPQR Cluster's vision and objectives, highlighting the importance of collaboration among European projects working towards a quantum-safe future. Representatives from the cluster's projects presented their missions and ongoing activities, demonstrating how complementary efforts across research, technology development, and deployment are advancing post-quantum security.

A key highlight of the event was a series of live demonstrations showcasing practical post-quantum cryptography use cases developed from the SPQR Cluster projects. These demonstrations presented how quantum-safe solutions are already being tested and applied in real-world environments, helping organisations and individuals better understand the opportunities and challenges associated with future adoption.

The event also featured presentations from the **PQ-REACT Open Call 2 winners**, who presented their innovative projects funded and developed through the projects' second open call. Their projects demonstrated the importance of EU funding for research and development, especially in an area that is rapidly advancing.

The afternoon sessions focused on the broader post-quantum landscape, bringing together experts from academia, industry and public institutions to discuss the latest developments in standardisation, policy, regulation and adoption. Discussions highlighted progress towards

establishing a robust framework for post-quantum cryptography, while also addressing the practical considerations organisations face in preparing for the transition.

One message resonated strongly throughout the event: **the quantum era is no longer a distant topic. While large-scale quantum computers capable of breaking current cryptographic systems may not yet exist, organisations should begin assessing their infrastructures, data and communication systems today. Early preparation will be essential to ensure a smooth and secure transition to quantum-safe technologies in the years ahead.**

The event further reinforced the importance of collaboration across sectors and borders. By bringing together stakeholders from research, industry, public administration, and policy, the SPQR Cluster demonstrated the value of coordinated European efforts to address one of the most significant cybersecurity challenges of the coming decades.

As Europe continues its journey towards a quantum-safe future, the SPQR Cluster remains committed to fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange and innovation in post-quantum security, helping organisations navigate their transition to the post-quantum era.

About the SPQR Cluster

The SPQR cluster was established through collaboration between the **QUBIP** and **PQ-REACT** EU projects, with the shared goal of strengthening the European Union's preparedness

for the post-quantum cryptography era. It now brings together a growing number of European projects, including **PQ-NEXT**, **Q-FENCE**, **QARC**, **FOCAL**, **FORTRESS** and **POSEIDON.**

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and evolving security threats, our joint effort is promising to smooth the transition and enhance the European Union's cybersecurity. Leveraging cutting-edge technologies and visionary strategies, our collaboration is poised to redefine cybersecurity and ensure a smooth and secure transition into the quantum era.

ECCC – PQ-REACT panel discussion
Round 1
How do you see the progress of quantum computers evolve
supported by
pq·react

ECCC
Beyond the Algorithm

SPQR