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## Cybersecurity Risk is a Board-Level Issue

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### *Short description:*

For years we as the cyber security professionals have struggled to bring up to the management's attention the importance of proper and timely dealing with the information security risks. We were dealing with obstacles such as understanding of the business versus technology terminology, understanding the exact nature of the information security risks, explaining to business what may be the consequences of having the cyber risks materialize, and what appropriate actions the responsible business owners should take in order to mitigate the cyber security risks. We have established the understanding, with a help of compliance requirements and of regulations, although the most responsible companies did not have to wait for laws and regulations in order to set their risk management systems right. We have done a good job as a professional community, however, it is time to move forward, or one level up – cybersecurity now more than ever needs to be seen not only as the regular agenda point on management's meetings, but also discussed as an important Board issue too. And the CISOs – Chief Information Security Officers, need to be prepared to step up once they are called to the Board meeting.

This presentation will give an overview of the contents that should be presented to the Board, ways to gather and structure the information on cyber security risks exposure, and methods of presenting it in relatively short time given at the Board meetings, in a way that is understandable to the Board members in order for them to make informed decisions in alignment with their responsibilities as a Board. It will also examine the prerequisites for having such a successful cyber risk management system that can deliver the requested outcome at any moment in time - a clear picture of the cybersecurity risks exposure and expected trends for all the relevant stakeholders.

### **More about Biljana Cerin:**

Biljana Cerin is the Director of Ostendo Consulting, a company specialized in providing information security and risk management, IT governance, personal data protection and compliance related consulting services. Biljana has 20 years' professional experience in leading successful information security projects for clients in financial, telecommunication, government, oil and gas, energy, biotechnology, higher education, and IT services sectors worldwide, such as Fortune 500 biotech Amgen, Stanford University Hospital and Clinics, MGM Resorts International, Merck and other leading world, regional and domestic companies.

Biljana is serving on the Board of Directors of the largest international association of information security professionals, (ISC)<sup>2</sup>, is the president of the (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Croatia Chapter, vice president of the IT association and president of the cybersecurity association at the Croatian Chamber of Economy.

In 2019 she was selected to the Top 50 Women of Influence in Cybersecurity in Europe, by the SC Magazine UK.