



**European Bank**  
for Reconstruction and Development

**EBRD**

Supporting Cybersecurity Service Providers  
in Morocco

In today's rapidly changing digital landscape, Companies and individuals around the world face a range of evolving cybersecurity risks. This is especially critical in Morocco, a country with a long history of cyber-attacks, where SMEs make up over 90% of the economy. The ability of companies, especially SMEs to respond to such threats, depends to a great extent on the availability of quality cybersecurity services in the local market.

Thus, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is spearheading a project to enhance the cybersecurity landscape in Morocco, by developing and codifying standards for key cybersecurity services. Developed in collaboration with CREST, an international non-profit and global leader in cybersecurity service providers standard certification, this project is designed to help SME cybersecurity providers in Morocco by assessing them against international best practices and offering them support in improving, thus contributing to their competitiveness and capacity across four crucial industry disciplines:

- **Penetration Testing**

The purpose of the Penetration Testing Accreditation Requirements is to establish a clear and structured framework that organisations must follow in order to achieve accreditation in penetration testing. These requirements ensure that organisations demonstrate consistent quality, security, and professionalism in their penetration testing services.

- **Security Operations Centre (SOC) as a Service**

The CREST Incident Response Accreditation Requirements provides a structured and rigorous framework that organisations must follow to achieve accreditation in the field of incident response. These requirements are designed to ensure that organisations consistently demonstrate high levels of expertise, professionalism, and adherence to best practices in managing cyber incidents.

- **Incident Response**

The CREST Incident Response Accreditation Requirements lay out a structured and rigorous framework that organisations must follow to achieve accreditation in the field of incident response. These requirements are designed to ensure that organisations consistently demonstrate high levels of expertise, professionalism, and adherence to best practices in managing cyber incidents.

- **Security Architecture**

The Security Architecture Accreditation outlines a comprehensive approach to developing a Security Architecture for a client. This standard ensures that all aspects of the assessment process --from high-level business requirements to detailed implementation plans and operational management-- are thoroughly planned, executed, and reported.

For each of these four disciplines, Moroccan cybersecurity providers may fill out a free, convenient self-assessment via online portal. The responses to each assessment will be validated by CREST, including follow-up questions to ensure fidelity. Participating companies may then receive either: CREST Pathway Plus Certification –an international certification demonstrating their competency— or a gap analysis, clearly outlining the steps they should follow to become ready for certification.

Building on the gaps identified, participating service providers may also become candidates for a later Technical Assistance pilot programme, to help them close any identified gaps with the proper tools, manpower and processes. Thus, this project represents a critical first step in nurturing, measuring, and enhancing the capabilities of cybersecurity providers, ensuring they can effectively safeguard companies in Morocco and around the world against cyber threats.

### **What are the next steps if my application is successful?**

- If your application is successful, CREST will progressively contact the companies selected and send a self-assessment form directly to the companies.
- CREST will create a company account.
- The company will be asked to carry out a self-assessment via the CREST platform.
- All companies who have successfully completed the self-assessment will receive a detailed gap analysis report, providing clear insights into their current cybersecurity maturity, strengths, and areas needing improvement.
- Eligible companies requiring further development will, at a later stage, have the opportunity to work closely with the EBRD SME Finance & Development team to receive tailored consulting support identified in the gap analysis.
- Companies demonstrating sufficient maturity can get fully funded access to Pathway+ status from CREST. This recognition enables your organisation to showcase its progress towards CREST accreditation by using the Pathway+ logo for one year.

More information on full membership and accreditation can be found [here](#).