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Presentation title: Challenges and Opportunities: SMEs and Cyber Crime in Austria

Cybercrime increasingly affects small and medium-sized enterprises around the world. Does this also hold true for the Austrian case? And how well-prepared are national SMEs for the possibility of a cyber-attack? The Austrian KfV has decided to take a closer look at this particular target group. This paper is presenting a project conducted at the KfV that combined quantitative (questionnaire of 500 Austrian SMEs) and qualitative (semi-structured interviews with 4 experts) methods to look into the status quo of cybercrime against SMEs in Austria, their level of protection and self-awareness, as well as the external assessment of the enterprises' efforts to protect themselves. By taking into account both the self-perception of the actors as well as the assessment by experts on the topic, this paper offers unique results that portray the level of threat the Austrian SMEs are facing in the digital world, how they themselves are experiencing the threat, and also gives insights in what needs to be done in order to be better protected. Furthermore, the paper looks beyond the threat-layer of cybercrime and also shows how an active and state-of-the-art cybersecurity infrastructure can help small and medium-sized enterprises in economic competition. Thus, the paper fits nicely into the Stockholm Criminology Symposium's range of themes, particularly the second, more comprehensive one.