Sophia learnt how to be cyber aware through her bad experiences, but you do not have to wait until your first attack. Cyber security starts from each single citizen. Support our work at the ECHO project to act together for a more secure Europe.

Sophia is an everyday teacher in an everyday country within the European Union. She uses her personal laptop for preparing her lessons. She uses her mobile to check her Instagram, post on Facebook and look for new ideas on Pinterest. Sometimes she shops online for gifts for her loved ones and books for holidays on her tablet. One afternoon she went online to order her dinner, using her credit card for payment.

Fortunately, she did not panic, and immediately contacted her bank manager. He confirmed that she must have been a victim of a cyberattack. He immediately blocked her card, and offered a special course in cybersecurity to educate her on how to better protect her data in the future.

A couple of days later, suddenly without any online activity she received a text message from her bank “Sophia, you just made a purchase for 857 EUR to a special organization.”

KEEP YOUR SECRETS, SECRET: Don’t share your personal information online unless you are certain that you are dealing with a genuine web site.

JUST DON’T CLICK: Do not click links in emails from suspicious sources. If in doubt go to the site and log on directly.

KEEP YOUR SYSTEM UP TO DATE: Ensure Antivirus software is active and up to date in all IT devices, in addition to activating personal firewalls.

ALWAYS STAY WELL-INFORMED: Upgrade your digital skills, technologies and methods (processes, procedures) to interact with others in the digital dimension.

ALWAYS HAVE A BACKUP: If all else fails, have a backup of all your files to ensure that you can be back to normal in no time!

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Increase and spread knowledge and awareness on cyber threats.

Create and maintain a solid knowledgebase on sectorial and inter-sectorial approaches for cybersecurity.

Develop practices and methods and implementing instruments to strengthen protection.