Simulation exercise
Managing Data Loss Risks in a VET research project

Simulation Exercise Title: Managing Data Loss Risks in a VET research project

Objective: The primary objective is for the learner to enhance adaptability and flexibility when facing unexpected data-related challenges, developing their skills in identifying, assessing and mitigating cybersecurity risks.

Background: Dr. Emilia Chatzi, a researcher in a Vocational Education and Training Institute, is leading a national-funded research project that aims in developing a comprehensive online platform for skill development and career guidance in the post-pandemic era. The platform is designed to store and analyse personal and educational data from thousands of users to tailor personalized learning paths.

During the last months of the research phase, the project faces a critical challenge: a cyberattack targeting the platform leads to a significant data breach. This breach not only threatens the security of sensitive information of thousands of users but also endangers the project's credibility and legal standing.

As a researcher you have to identify, analyse and mitigate the risks associated with this data loss. Navigate through the crisis. Make decisions and develop a robust risk management strategy to recover from the attack and ensure future data integrity.

Data Provided:

Due to a major cyberattack, the personal data of thousands of platform users has been compromised, threatening not only the security of individuals but also the project's credibility and raising significant legal concerns.

Task

Use the information provided by the online article "Project Risk Management: A Guide to Mitigating Risks in 5 Steps", along with "9 Best Practices for Data Management in Research" and:

- **Identify, analyse and mitigate the risks associated with this data loss. To do so, you can use the embedded Risk Assessment Table.**
- **Develop a robust risk management strategy to recover from the attack.**
- **Establish a strategy to ensure future data safety and integrity.**

Guidelines:

- **Use the information and guidelines provided by the article "Project Risk Management: A Guide to Mitigating Risks in 5-Steps", along with "9 Best Practices for Data Management in Research" in order to identify, analyse and mitigate the risk associated with the data loss presented. More specifically:**
    - **Use brainstorming to identify the associated with the data breach risks.**
    - **Complete the Risk Register Table in the next page.**
    - **Choose one of the described analysis techniques and conduct a brief risk analysis.**
    - **Rank risks using the small table scale provided along with the Risk Register Template.**
    - **Develop specific actions and assign responsibilities to enhance data security in the future.**
    - **Set up monitoring tools for conducting periodically status update checks.**

Deliverables: By the end of this activity, the learner is expected to have this template filled out with the required information and complete the Project Risk Register found below.

Project Risk Register

Description of activity / area being assessed		**Location**	
Manager responsible		**Signature & date**	
Assessed by (name & role)		**Signature & assessment date**	

Description of Hazard (H) hazardous event (HE) consequence (C)	Risk Owner (RO)	Risk likelihood (the probability of the risk, ranked from low to high)	Risk Impact (RI)	Risk Rating (RR) (A rating that combines the likelihood and impact of the risk, to help prioritize them)	Risk Response (RRE) (Whether you plan to mitigate, avoid, transfer or accept the risk)	Management Plan (MP) (How you will mitigate and manage the risk)	Contingency Plan (CP) (What you would do if the risk happens and derails your plans)	Dependencies (D)

Add more rows if needed

Periodic Review

Review date:					
Review by:					
Signed:					

If there are changes, please save assessment as a new version and archive previous version.

Consequence						
	Catastrophic	Medium	High	Very High	Very high	Very High
	Major	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
	Moderate	Very low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	Minor	Very low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
	Insignificant	Very low	Very low	Low	Low	Low
		Very unlikely	Unlikely	Fairly likely	Likely	Very likely
		Likelihood of hazardous event				