Astus d.o.o. - Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Policy

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1. Purpose

This ESG Policy outlines our commitment to responsible environmental practices, positive social impact, and strong governance. As a cybersecurity news organization, we recognize that trust, sustainability, and accountability are essential to our role in the digital ecosystem.

2. Environmental Responsibility

We strive to minimize our environmental footprint while operating a digital-first organization.

- Prioritize energy-efficient and low-carbon hosting providers where feasible.
- Optimize digital infrastructure to reduce unnecessary data transfer and resource usage.
- Encourage remote work and virtual collaboration to reduce travel-related emissions.
- Reduce waste by operating as a primarily paperless organization.
- Periodically review vendors and partners for environmentally responsible practices.

While our environmental impact is limited compared to physical operations, we remain committed to continuous improvement.

3. Social Responsibility

3.1 Ethical Journalism & Public Interest

- Report on cybersecurity issues in ways that inform without inciting panic or harm.
- Promote awareness of digital safety, privacy rights, and responsible technology use.
- Avoid coverage that normalizes cybercrime, exploitation, or unethical hacking.

3.2 Inclusion & Respect

- Foster a workplace and contributor network that is inclusive, respectful, and free from discrimination or harassment.
- Evaluate contributors and sources based on merit, expertise, and integrity.
- Strive for diversity of perspectives, geographies, and experiences in coverage.

3.3 Community & Reader Trust

- Protect reader privacy and respect anonymity where possible.
- Maintain transparent editorial and correction practices.
- Engage constructively with readers and the wider cybersecurity community.

3.4 Responsible Use of Technology

- Use data, analytics, and AI tools responsibly and transparently.
- Avoid technologies that compromise user privacy or security.
- Regularly assess security risks to protect our platforms and audiences.

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4. Governance

4.1 Ethical Leadership

- Operate with integrity, independence, and accountability.
- Ensure editorial decisions remain free from improper influence.
- Maintain clear separation between editorial, advertising, and sponsored content.

4.2 Risk Management & Security

- Implement reasonable security controls to protect internal systems and reader data.
- Regularly review cybersecurity risks relevant to our operations.
- Respond promptly and transparently to security incidents.

4.3 Compliance & Oversight

- Comply with applicable laws, regulations, and journalism standards.
- Maintain internal policies addressing conflicts of interest, data protection, and professional conduct.
- Provide clear processes for reporting ethical or governance concerns without retaliation.

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5. Transparency & Accountability

- Clearly disclose ownership, sponsorships, and funding relationships.

- Be transparent about corrections, updates, and editorial standards.
- Review this ESG Policy periodically and update it as our organization evolves.

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6. Continuous Improvement

We view ESG as an ongoing commitment. We will:

- Periodically assess our practices and risks
- Adapt to evolving expectations in journalism, cybersecurity, and sustainability
- Seek feedback from staff, contributors, and readers