



NADJA EL FERTASI

CEO/FOUNDER THRIVE WITH EQ

BACKGROUND INFO

Cyber criminals manipulate people based on their emotions. We help you mitigate social engineering attacks through simulations & emotional intelligence training for your (remote) teams. Want to learn how?

PREVIOUS EDUCATION

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND MARSHALL MEMORIAL FELLOW

Fellowship | Completed May 2018

Building bridges between multinational security institutions and the private sector in embracing tech innovation to address pressing security challenges.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Master in IR | Graduated May 2014

Her focus was on security studies and geopolitical implications on the Middle East, China, Public Opinion, Transitional Justice and European Foreign Policy.

Master Thesis:

France's Quest for Security in the 21st Century: Between Ambition and Reality.

GET IN CONTACT

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

SENIOR EXECUTIVE NATO

December 2015 - May 2019

As a Senior Executive in NATO's Cyber Executive Arm, Nadja was responsible for translating the digital impact on political and military priorities for the Alliance and their members.

STEERING COMMITTEE WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY BRUSSELS (WIIS)

2018 - 2019

Women in International Security (WIIS) is the premier organization in the world dedicated to advancing the leadership and professional development of women in the field of international peace, security and defence.

SUMMARY

Nadja is the CEO/Founder of Thrive with EQ (Emotional Intelligence). She helps organisations mitigate social engineering attacks by tackling the root cause of human vulnerabilities in the digitized working world. She leverages her expertise and know-how in crisis management, strategic stakeholder engagement, and emotional intelligence to provide a holistic approach to addressing the human factor of cybersecurity.

Her last position was Senior Executive at the NATO Communications and Information Agency (Cyber Security), responsible for strategic stakeholder engagement and communications. Having worked closely with people from over 40 countries, she is uniquely skilled in fostering trust and understanding among diverse, global stakeholders in both the public and private sectors across various industries. Nadja has worked for nearly two decades at NATO, the world's largest crisis management organization.

Nadja designs and facilitates cyber-crime simulations to help people build emotional firewalls against social engineering attacks. She addresses the human factor by exercising collaborative engagement skills during cyber crises. Nadja possesses the latest credentials in the field of emotional intelligence and has trained with leading experts in the area.

In November 2020, Nadja led the regional cyber leadership approach webinars for the World Savings Banking Institute (WSBI). The webinars were part of a global initiative with partners such as Global Cyber Alliance (GCA) and Cyber Fin Project of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

During her 15+ years of experience in cyber security in NATO, Nadja is a seasoned practitioner and expert in her field. She has also been selected to be part of the book "Women in Cybersecurity in Europe" featuring Top 100 influential women in cyber security across Europe by the Women4Cyber foundation.

Nadja is also a Senior Associate with InterVentis Global, a world class team of experts who have in-depth knowledge, experience and skills relative to the complexities of crisis management, intelligence, training, scenario development, and investigations.

Nadja is fluent in Dutch, English, Arabic, French and has a good understanding of Italian and German. Nadja is an alumna of the 2018 German Marshall Fund Marshall Memorial Fellowship program, a postgraduate from the University of Cambridge in International Relations, and Co-Chair of the largest side event of the GLOBSEC 2019 Bratislava Forum.