In today's information-driven global economy, the competitive position of commercial organizations depends to a large extent on the information they have at their disposal. Information has become a highly significant production factor representing considerable economic value.

**Protecting trade secrets**

The (particular) knowledge and information that enable commercial organizations to achieve their competitive advantage are known as trade secrets. Trade secrets enable to steer decision making processes in such a way as to achieve economic benefits. They serve to create accessibility thresholds for competing organizations that aspire to exploit the same market segment.

Determining what information needs to be protected and to what extent, is one of the most challenging phases when developing an information security plan.

**Information Security defined**

The foundational principles of information security are confidentiality, integrity, and availability. Nevertheless, the ultimate objective is to provide management with the necessary information to make well-founded decisions regarding the protection of sensitive information. For this reason, clear and measurable information security objectives need to defined beforehand to prevent poor design decisions that may lead to uncomfortable realities after implementation.

**The Information Security development cycle**

Information security development is not a one step process but requires a systematic cyclic approach. The image below shows a graphical representation of the information security development cycle.