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On November 10-11, Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and ICT Business Council organized the 9th annual regional conference (exhibition, award) at "Hotels and Preference Hualing Tbilisi". Main subjects of the conference were issues related to Cyber Security and directions towards Information Technology development.

Conference ended on November 8th with an award ceremony of the year's best IT project authors.

The event was opened by the Minister of Justice **Thea Tsulukiani**.

This year's conference, which had a motto "Partnerships for Competitiveness, Innovation and Cyber Security", hosted an unprecedented number of participants. More than 500 participants representing 20 countries registered to take part in the conference, discussed the issues related to the development of Cyber Security and Information Technology, presented innovative IT projects developed during the year, and got known to the achievements of other countries in the above mentioned issues.

The second day of the conference was entirely dedicated to the Cyber Security issues. Worldwide recognized experts gave speeches about Cyber Security.

"Developing Information Technology is unimaginable without developing Information Security solutions. Nowadays Georgia is facing an important stage of E-governance development. Different public institutions develop a number of services based on information technologies, which simplifies and brings the relationship of state and citizens to a new stage (Continued on P. 2).

(Continued from P.1) This process is correlated to Information Security. As a result the conference is given a big importance. E-governance and Information Security issues are main directions Data Exchange Agency is working for.” – Stated **Nikoloz Gagnidze**, Acting Chairman of the LEPL Data Exchange Agency.

The conference traditionally concluded with an award ceremony. This year 50 different projects both from the public and private sectors were presented in 15 nominations.



CYBER-EXE GEORGIA 2016 – CYBER EXERCISE FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS



On 8th of November, at Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and with the support of State Security Service of Georgia held cyber security simulated exercise – „Cyber-exe Georgia” 2016.

The aim of the event is to prepare IT specialist representing public and private organizations for cyber security crisis situations and to establish forms of cooperation between them.

The event was opened by the Deputy Minister of Justice, **Mikheil Sarjveladze**, who stated:

“Cyber Security is one of the main challenges of the 21st century. Raising country’s cyber security level is treated as one of the major priorities by Georgian government. Data Exchange Agency has accomplished and is currently developing number of im-

portant projects in this direction. For keeping cyber security level at its highest point, it is essential for public and private organizations to employ well-trained personal with relative experience and skills. With this perspective, CYBER-EXE Georgia 2014 is a very important event enabling participants to experience real-modeled cyber security incidents and overcome potential threats.” – commented **Mikheil Sarjveladze**, Deputy Minister of Justice (Continued on P. 3).

(Continued from P. 2) The above mentioned exercise is intended to have a form of contest, which involves participants pooled in several teams. This practice is common in the world and called "Red and Blue Team" exercises. During the process, the teams are challenging each other in various cyber-attack scenarios.

"We at Data Exchange Agency and its subsidiary unit CERT.GOV.GE (Computer Emergency Response Team – Georgia's National CERT) are delighted that we were able to organize an event of this scale. This is the third time we have held the event and I am proud to say that if we needed help from our foreign colleagues in preparing the previous two events, this time we have been able to form every aspect of contest – including questions and scenarios – by our own recourse. This means that we moved to a whole new level of development." – **Nikoloz Gagnidze**, DEA's acting Chairman commented.



EU PROJECT ORGANIZES WORKSHOP ON UPDATING E-GEORGIA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

A workshop on the update of e-Government Development Strategy of Georgia was organized by LEPL of Ministry of Justice of Georgia Data Exchange Agency (DEA) and EU funded Twinning Project "Support to Strengthening of e-Governance in Georgia II".

E-Georgia Development Strategy is being developed in close cooperation between international experts and Georgian side. The Strategy aims at further development of Georgia as IT-based governance state which implies the increase of access to e-services for businesses as well as for citizens, strengthening of transparent and open governance, defining the role of information-communication technologies in the process of administration reform, etc.

The participants discussed directions that will be defined by the Strategy during the upcoming two years and final version of which has to be approved by the Government of Georgia.

The Chairmen of DEA talked about the importance of the Strategy, noting that: „We are actively working on e-Georgia Development Strategy, this document is a guideline which is based on international and local experiences and best standards in practice. The Strategy unites all state institutions and identifies the necessary activities implementation of which can turn Georgia into sustainable e-Governance model state” – stated **Irakli Gvenetadze**.

Representatives from the Government Administration, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, all other line ministries and public entities working in the field of e-Governance development in Georgia participated in the workshop. International experts from Great Britain, Austria, Estonia and Denmark presented their recommendations for the document.



CYBER CLASS PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED CERTIFICATES OF COURSE COMPLETION



Computer Emergency Response Team of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia - CERT.GOV.GE has held certificate giving ceremony for the students participating in the second phase of Cyber Class. The project aims at helping young professionals to deepen their knowledge in the basics of cyber security and to share experience accumulated in the agency in this direction.

The project enables students to smarten their practical and theoretical skills in the following fields: System information gathering; computer expertise; penetration testing; malware analysis; recap and log file analysis; basics of information security.

The full course was comprised of 7 learning weeks with 1-2 hour sessions held on weekly basis. All sessions included theoretical as well as laboratory exercises. Special text books and practical tests were prepared for the course and tasks were assigned by

invited industry experts and renowned professionals.

Each sessions was held according to the following plan: presentation and discussion on predefined topics; discussions around laboratory works and reviewing presentations prepared by the students; explaining laboratory works and assigning home works.

"The education and training of young generation is one of the priorities of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. Cyber Class gives students the opportunity to expand their knowledge in Cyber security. We are proud that we have successfully finished our second program, which we used to call Cyber Class and issued certificates for the participants. Nowadays, it is very important to achieve and maintain a high level of cyber security, which of course needs the qualified specialists with appropriate skills and knowledge. This is a unique opportunity for young people to represent themselves in mutual competition, and expand their experience"-**Davit Kvatadze**, CERT.GOV.GE Manager stated.

ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION, SECURITY SERVICES, CYBER AND INFORMATION SECURITY - SEMINAR IN BRUSSELS

Within the project of HDM (Harmonization of digital market) the first seminar was held in Brussels with the guidance of European Commission on 12-13th of October, which was devoted to electronic identification, security services, cyber and information security (electronic identification and electronic trust services (eIDAS) and cyber security).

The purpose of the seminar was to establish ways and means, which will create opportunity for the Eastern Partnership countries, on the one hand to get closer to each other, and on the other hand to the EU countries, which will ultimately create a framework for the joint action.

At the seminar were presented the countries of Eastern Partnership (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus), also several EU countries took participation (Finland, Luxembourg, Estonia, Lithuania).

At the seminar, Georgia was represented by the employees of LEPL Data Exchange Agency and LEPL State Services Development Agency.

The first part of the format of the seminar included sharing the experience, achievements and opportunities between participating countries in the direction of electronic identification, security services and information security; and the second part was intended for the processing such kind of important documents and agreements, such as action plan and cooperation protocol.



RECOGNITION OF DEA'S STAFF MEMBERS' COMPETENCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL CONTINUES



The representative of Computer Incident Emergency Response Team (CERT.GOV.GE) of LEPL Data Exchange Agency of Ministry of Justice of Georgia has successfully completed the internationally recognized certification program and has received the certificate in the direction of cyber security.

The young specialist of CERT.GOV.GE, **Lasha Khasaia** has successfully passed the Certified Information Systems Security Professional exam (CISSP®) and gained the certificate.

"We pay attention to enhance the qualification of the employees. When we talk about cyber and information security, we should expect that this area is changing attitudes and improving daily - their methods are improving as the so-called Hackers, and experts, who act against them as well. That is why it is necessary to have professionals with renewed knowledge in the team, who will be able to cope with new challenges better. It is specially worth noting that our young team members are very active and eager to develop their professional skills. Having said that is backed with the fact that they have already gained three international certificates this year", - **David Kvatadze**, the manager of CERT.GOV.GE.

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