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CYBER-EXE GEORGIA 2018 - CYBER EXERCISES FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS



On December 6th, Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-GOV-GE) of LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia organized the next National Cyber Exercises, held at the Radisson Blu Iveria hotel, which was attended by private and public sector representatives.

This event has been held for the fifth time this year and it aims at preparing respective specialists from public and private organizations for cybersecurity crisis situations that, in return, will support the country improve the level of cybersecurity and better protect its citizens.

The event was opened by the Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia Mikheil Sarjveladze. The opening ceremony was also attended by Ms. Pirit Pikker, deputy director of the NATO Liaison Office, who wished success to the participating teams.

As Mikheil Sarjveladze noted in his welcome speech, Cybersecurity is one of the major challenges of the 21st century and Georgia attaches great importance to increasing the level of cybersecurity.

"LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia actively works in this direction. It is impossible to ensure a high level of cybersecurity without personnel equipped with appropriate skills in both state and private organizations. I am glad that already for the fifth time in Georgia, representatives of the relevant state and private organizations are able to participate in real exercises and test themselves in the process of simulating cyber-attacks", - the Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia added (Continued on P. 2).

(Continued from P.1) The event has a form of competition, in which each participant team carries out the operation of the virtual space protection from the preliminarily prepared cyber-attacks. As a result of the exercise, the weak and strong sides of each team are analyzed and the recommendations for improvement are made.

A similar format is a practice taken in the world called exercises of "red and blue" groups.

"When we launched Cyber-Exe Georgia for the first time in 2014, we did not have proper experience and our foreign colleagues helped us to create a full-length format of activities. Now with pride, I would like to point out that the last three events are entirely organized by the resources of Data Exchange Agency and the training program is drawn up by our specialists. At today's event, 25 teams from different state or private sectors will participate. I hope that such exercises will strengthen our country in the fight against cyber threats."- said **Davit Kvatadze**, CERT-GOV-GE Manager.

Contestants were given specific assignments, namely, to reveal the complexity of the cyber-attacks and to eliminate them timely. Each team consists of at least one and a maximum of three members and the total number of participants exceeds 60. Exercises lasted all day long.

The first CYBER-EXE Georgia was held by the initiative of Data Exchange Agency in 2014. This year the event was supported by Huawei and NATO-Georgia Professional Development Program (NATO-GEORGIA PDP).



TRAINING ON QUALIFIED TRUST SERVICES AND UNIFIED PORTAL OF E-SERVICES HAS BEEN HELD FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

On December 13-14, Seminar led by DEA and PSDA for the representatives of Public and Private Sectors on legal framework for e-signature & trusted services as well as practical use of unified portal of e-services (My.gov.ge) was held at Tbilisi Marriott Hotel. The event was organized by LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice and supported by USAID's Democratic Governance Initiative (GGI).

The aim of the training was to introduce innovations for the representatives of public and private sectors and to improve their practical skills in relation to recent changes, which, in return, is supposed to ensure high quality service provided to the customers (Continued on P.3).

(Continued from P.2) "This training is of great importance as it concerns the development of qualified electronic signature on the electronic document and / or the use of qualified electronic stamps, as well as the fundamental changes implemented on the unified portal of electronic services. We specially selected two segments - representatives of public and private sectors, since they are first to bring these changes to the public. As you know, a unified portal of electronic services features an absolute majority of services requiring the use of electronic signature / stamp, and that is why it is also important to make the information clear about those changes made to the portal."- said **Nikoloz Gagnidze**, Chairman of Data Exchange Agency of Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

Qualified electronic signature / stamp is an inseparable part of modern form of communication and it is virtually impossible to fabricate due to compliance with the highest standards of security. The use of qualified electronic signature / stamp simplifies the relationship between different agencies, service providers and business partners.

From July 1, 2018 (and from January 1, 2019 - in case of participating in state procurement) if a physical entity or legal entity of private law chooses the electronic form of communication with the administrative body and the presented documents require signature/stamp, it is mandatory to use qualified electronic signature/stamp on such documents. The use of qualified trust services establishes high standards of secured electronic document.

It is noteworthy that on April 21st 2017, the Law of Georgia on Electronic Document and Electronic Trust Services, which defines the legal basis for the use of electronic document, electronic signature and electronic trust services was adopted by the parliament.

The mentioned law states that the electronic and traditional signatures bear equal legal power and its usage is admissible in the administrative and judicial proceedings. According to the law, exception from this rule is only possible in exceptional cases defined by the governmental decree.

LEPL State Services Development Agency, according to the Law of Georgia on Electronic Document and Electronic Trust Services, has undergone audit conducted by an internationally recognized Auditor Company and approved as the only trusted service provider in the country.

LEPL Data Exchange Agency has launched an updated version of the unified portal of electronic services (My.gov.ge), which incorporates services that require the usage of electronic signature / stamp.



WORKING MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF LEPL SMART LOGIC



On December 22-23, 2018 at the Kvareli branch of Training Center of Justice of Georgia, a working meeting with the employees of LEPL Smart Logic was held by joint participation of the representatives of Information Security and Policy Division of LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and Director and Information Security Manager of LEPL Smart Logic of the same Ministry.

The meeting was dedicated to the actions carried out by LEPL Smart Logic related to the compliance issues with Georgia's law on information security and its respective sub laws. During the meeting information security incidents and the ways of their prevention were reviewed and summarized by Information Security Manager of LEPL Smart Logic and Members of the Information Security Council.

The mentioned meeting was preceded by one-year long agreement signed between LEPL Data Exchange Agency and LEPL Smart Logic, under which information security management system was successfully implemented in the latter organization by active involvement of both sides.

Information security management system implemented in LEPL Smart Logic, enables organization to protect its information assets from both internal and external threats. In order to better achieve this goal, LEPL Smart Logic elaborated an effective in-house information security policy and the rules of its execution, which acts as a road map in the process of information system management and protection.

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