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On December 20, the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-GOV-GE) of LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia held the 6th annual National Cyber Exercises (CyberEXE Georgia 2019) at the University of Georgia for the cybersecurity professionals from public and private organizations.

The event was organized with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the British Government and the Embassy.

This event has been held for the sixth time this year and it aims to prepare the information technology specialists of public and commercial organizations for crisis situations of cyber-attacks that will support the country and, therefore, the protection of citizens in this direction.

The event was opened by Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia **Alexandre Tabatadze**.

As Alexandre Tabatadze noted in his welcome speech, Cyber Security is one of the major challenges of the 21st century and Georgia attaches great importance to increasing the level of cybersecurity (Continued on P.2).



(Continued from P.1) "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 staffs equipped with appropriate skills in both state and private organizations. I am glad that already for the fifth time in Georgia, the staff of the relevant state and private staff is able to participate in real exercises and test themselves in the process of simulating cyber-attacks ", - the Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia added.

The event is characteristic of the competition, in which each participant team carries out the operation of the virtual space in the preliminarily prepared cyber-attack. As a result of the exercise, the weak and strong sides of each team are analyzed and the recommendations are made to strengthen the teams.

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

"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 I would like to point out with pride that from the technical point of view, the last four events, including the current one were entirely organized by DEA's own resources and the contest technical agenda was drawn up by our specialists. At today's event, members of up to 25 teams from different state or private sector organizations tried their knowledge and capabilities. I hope that such exercises will strengthen our country in the fight against cyber threats, "- said **Nikoloz Gagnidze**, DEA Chairman.

Participants of the exercises were given specific assignments, namely, to reveal the complexity of the cyber-attack 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 all day long.

The first "CyberEXE Georgia" was held by Data Exchange Agency in 2014. This year, the event was support by the University of Georgia and Association GRENA. Sponsors: GREEN-NET, UGT, Orient Logic.



DATA EXCHANGE AGENCY TOGETHER WITH PARTNERS HELD THE FIRST CYBER HACKATHON

On December 20-21, Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-GOV-GE) of LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, in partnership with the non-profit organization OWASP and the University of Georgia, held the first cyber hackathon, within the framework of which, participants have created open-source programs based on web applications and cybersecurity principles (Continued on P.3).



(Continued from P.2) The event was organized with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the British Government and the Embassy.

The cyber hackathon participants were able to test their knowledge in a practical setting in the process of designing specific programs. At the end of the hackathon, a competent jury, comprising of specialists from both the public, private and educational sectors, unveiled the winning teams, members of which were awarded the prizes.

The cyber hackathon lasted two days and was attended by individually registered professionals of various backgrounds as well as staff members from public, private, and educational organizations.

The cyber hackathon was open to all interested professionals who had the desire and idea to develop a cyber security product.

"The principle of cyber hackathon is exactly in line with the purpose of our event. It is our desire that everyone, especially young people, be given the opportunity to test their knowledge and practical skills in a competitive environment and develop a variety of cybersecurity-based programs. It should be noted that these programs are so called open source, which means that all interested individuals and organizations can use them. This type of event promotes programming and cybersecurity among young professionals, which in turn is important for the country as a whole." – **David Kvatadze**, CERT-GOV-GE Manager.

"The idea of the hackathon was co-developed with Data Exchange Agency and its main purpose is to provide young professionals with practical knowledge in programming and cybersecurity. This event is a good opportunity to find ideas and solutions to specific tasks and to solve problems in a particular environment and concrete time. The University of Georgia is constantly striving to help young people develop the skills needed for professional development and deepen their knowledge in specific areas of interest." – **Sulkhan Sulkhanishvili**, Head of IT Department, the University of Georgia.



Cyber Hackathon sponsors: GREENNET, UGT, Orient Logic.

DATA EXCHANGE AGENCY HELD INFORMATIVE MEETING WITH EMPLOYEES OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GEORGIA ON UNIFIED PORTAL OF ELECTRONIC SERVICES (MY.GOV.GE) AND E-SIGNATURE



LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia held the first informative meeting with the staff of The National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. The meeting is the outcome of memorandum signed between the two organizations in August and aims at popularizing the use of electronic signature portal (My.gov.ge) and electronic signature.

services through electronic signatures.

The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness among library staff members on the practical benefits of the Unified Portal of Electronic Services (My.gov.ge) and to highlight the advantages of using different services through electronic signatures.

"Our agency signed a Memorandum of cooperation with the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia in August and today's meeting was the outcome of this Memorandum. We have provided detailed information to the staff members of the library on the Unified Portal of Electronic Services (My.gov.ge) and demonstrated specific benefits that can be received by both individuals and legal entities through the use of such services. These advantages include flexibility, security, the ability to access any type of electronic service from home or office, and more. We pay particular attention to qualified electronic signatures, the use of which greatly simplifies the process of dealing with various state structures. It is noteworthy that we plan to hold similar meetings for staff of libraries in the regions in 2020." - **Eka Gordadze**, Manager of Legal Researches and Analysis in E-government and Cybersecurity of LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

All participants of the meeting, along with other branded products created with the assistance of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), were gifted a special ID card reader, which enables them to receive various services from the Unified Portal of e-Services and carry out electronic signature.

DATA EXCHANGE AGENCY HELD ANOTHER CYCLE OF TRAINING IN INFORMATION SECURITY

Representatives of Information Security and Policy Division of the LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia conducted the next cycle of information security trainings for information security managers and middle and senior level management of various organizations. The event has become available through the support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Government of Sweden.

Training program included the following topics: Information security: introduction, implementation and audit; Risk management of information security management system; Internal auditor of information security management system (Continued on P.5).



(Continued from P.4) During the training, special attention was paid to the issues such as management system and information security, risk management, information security management system's audit and the organization's benefits gained by using mentioned approaches.

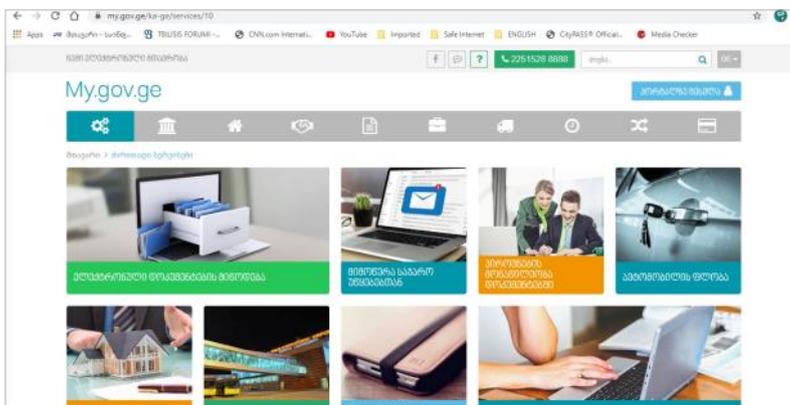
Training participants also got acquainted with ISO 27001:2013 requirements, fulfillment of which is essential for ensuring organization's information security. Mentioned standards play crucial role for not only concrete organizations, but for reaching and maintaining high level of information security throughout the entire country.

Training program also covered practical cases, which provided more clarity in illustrating the importance of requirements set by the standard.

LEPL Data Exchange Agency conducts training sessions on a regular basis for the organizations not only representing critical subjects of information security, uninterrupted operation of which bears critical significance for the country, but for companies as well, that are free from fulfilling the requirements of Georgia's law on Information Security. The goal of including such companies is to improve the level of information security within those particular organizations and, in general, make standards more conforming to the norms, recognized internationally.

"During this training cycle we have observed an unprecedented number of participants, which shows an increased interest and a level of engagement from organizations." – **David Bulavrishvili**, Information Security and Policy manager at Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia commented.

THE PROCESS OF ADDING NEW SERVICES TO THE UNIFIED PORTAL OF E-SERVICES (MY.GOV.GE) CONTINUES



Along with other services, Electronic Document Delivery service and a number of new services provided by the National Agency of Public Registry have been added to the Unified Portal of e-Services (My.gov.ge). Electronic document delivery service greatly simplifies the process of getting feedback from various state organizations, since authorized and unauthorized users of My.gov.ge are now able to review and download those documents prepared

within the service boundary of Public Service Hall through the online format, without leaving an office or residence.

"Adding new services to the Unified Portal of Electronic Services is actively taking place. This process will continue in the future, as we aim to offer portal users one-stop shop opportunity for all the services that can be delivered electronically. As a result of active work, the portal already has more than 400 different electronic services in different categories and their number, as I have already mentioned, will increase continuously in the future." - **Nikoloz Gagnidze**, DEA Chairman.

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