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Issue #59

November, 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
YOU WILL READ

10TH ANNIVERSARY - GEORGIAN CYBER SECURITY AND IT INNOVATION CONFERENCE / GEORGIAN IT INNOVATION AWARDS - GITI 2017

GITI 2017	1
4TH SEE REGIONAL FORUM ON CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERCRIME	2
WORKING MEETINGS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS	3
CYBER-EXE GEORGIA 2017 - CYBER EXERCISE FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS	3



On November 16-17, Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and ICT Business Council celebrated the 10th anniversary of 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.

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. Up to 600 participants representing 30 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 acquainted with the achievements of other countries.

Special attention was paid to E-governance development projects in Georgia as well as in the entire region, and the introduction of technological innovation processes in those projects.

"From year to year the number of participants of the conference, which was established after the war between Georgia and Russia in 2008, is gradually increasing. Today, we can safely declare that the conference organized by Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and ICT Business Council is one of the trusted and well-established events in the region dedicated to IT and information security issues. (Continued on P. 2).



(Continued from P.1) GITI brings together a number of leading players in ICT industry from the US, Europe and Asia, representatives of public and private bodies and renowned experts. It is really important that the conference, during the period of last 10 years, has created a unique example of Public-Private Partnership, under which private and governmental organizations are working hand in hand for ensuring a robust development of ICTs." – **Thea Tsulukiani**, the Minister of Justice commented.

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 takes the relationship of state and citizens to a whole new level. 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 on and we are very delighted that from the very beginning, DEA is one of the founders of the event" – 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.



4TH SEE REGIONAL FORUM ON CYBERSECURITY AND CYBERCRIME



On October 30-31, 2017 the 4th SEE Regional Forum on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime was held in capital city of Bulgaria, Sofia.

David Kvatadze, manager of Computer Emergency Response team (CERT.GOV.GE) of LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia attended the forum

and took part in a panel discussion, during which issues related to prospects of future cooperation between public and private sectors for ensuring better cybersecurity were reviewed. Mr. Kvatadze also attended seminars ran by representatives of Microsoft, Facebook, IBM and other companies.

"Forums of this type are very important, which enable us to get acquainted with current challenges existed in cybersecurity industry, share experience of our partner countries and better plan prospects of future cooperation." – **David Kvatadze** commented.



WORKING MEETINGS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS



On November 26-28, representatives of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia held working meetings in Brussels, at Nato Headquarters.

Along with meeting held with representatives of Georgia's Mission to NATO, discussions also took place with officials from other divisions of the organization - NATO's Science for Peace and Security Program and NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC).

Project proposal initiated by Data Exchange Agency of establishing cybersecurity research and learning regional center was discussed with NATO SPS representatives. DEA representatives received valuable recommendations from NATO side on updating project proposal and preparing it for official submission.

In parallel to this, during the meeting held as part of NATO-Georgia commission, on behalf of Data Exchange Agency, presentation was made about progress and achievement in cybersecurity Georgia has observed since 2015 and the ways the country is addressing current challenges. Representatives of NATO member countries appreciated Georgia's efforts with one voice. It worth noting that with respect to future cooperation, the possibility of Georgia joining NATO's Cyber Pledge was also underscored.

CYBER-EXE GEORGIA 2017 - CYBER EXERCISE FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS



On December 15, 2017, at Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and will hold another round of cyber security simulated exercises - „Cyber-Exe Georgia 2017“.

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 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.

The aim of this event is to prepare IT specialists from public and private organizations for cyber-attacks in critical situations, which will contribute to the maintaining a high level of the country's cybersecurity.

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