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11TH GEORGIAN CYBER SECURITY AND IT INNOVATION REGIONAL CONFERENCE - GITI 2019



On June 4-5, Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and ICT Business Council held the 11th annual regional conference (exhibition, award) at "Sheraton Grand Metechi Palace". Main subjects of the conference were issues related to IT innovations, Cybersecurity and modern trends in

technological industry. 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 700 participants representing 10 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 given to E-governance development projects in Georgia as well as in the entire region, and the introduction of technological innovation processes in those projects (Continued on P. 2).



(Continued from P. 1) "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 and cyber security issues. GI-TI 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 11 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 dedicated to the Cybersecurity 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**, Chairman of the LEPL Data Exchange Agency.

The conference traditionally concluded with an award ceremony. This year 20 different projects both from the public and private sectors were presented in 15 nominations.

ACCESSIBILITY AND USE OF OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA BY TECH COMMUNITY



On June 26, representatives of business, startups, civil society, and academic community discussed the Accessibility and Use of Open Government Data by Tech Community.

The event was organized by Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) in partnership with Data Exchange Agency (DEA) and Georgian Innovations and Technologies Agency (GITA).

“Accessibility of Open Data will play a crucial role in the development of innovative applications and services in areas such as tourism. On the one hand, this will improve services, while, on the other hand, it will support the representatives of business and startups to create new, profitable products. Overall, open data accessibility will affect economic growth of the country. In order to achieve this goal, the government should consider Open Data as the main priority in the development process of digital economy”, – said IDFI’s Programs Director Levan Avalishvili in his welcome speech.

Chairman of the Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice, **Nikoloz Gagnidze** spoke about the importance of Open Data and noted that in the technological age we live now it is essential to use this kind of data effectively, for it can be hugely beneficial for society.

“One of the most important open data products is the open data portal, which was created by our agency and provides output of public institutions’ open data in computable and easily accessible way. It allows citizens, representatives of business, media, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies to use the abovementioned data without fail and get the necessary information without extra effort. I would like to point out the possibility of creating different mobile applications and e-services by using open data. With the help of open data, developers gets ready information in order to create various applications or e-services”, - **Nikoloz Gagnidze**.

At the meeting, DEA’s IT Project Manager **Dimitri Gugunava** spoke widely about DATA.GOV.GE and accessibility of open data in Georgia. **Teona Turashvili**, head of IDFI’s Media, Internet and Telecommunication Direction, presented applications/services created with the help of open data and existing international experience.

The event was co-financed by the Governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from International Visegrad Fund. The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.

DATA EXCHANGE AGENCY CONTINUES THE TRAINING CYCLE ON QUALIFIED TRUST SERVICE AND UNIFIED PORTAL OF ELECTRONIC SERVICES (MY.GOV.GE)



On June 25-28, representatives of public and private sectors, as well as educational institutions were trained on electronic signature, legal aspects of electronic trust services and practical purpose of Unified Portal of e-Services (My.gov.ge). The event was organized by LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice and supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and UK Aid of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The training was conducted by representatives of LEPL Data Exchange Agency. The aim of the training is to introduce broad audience with innovations and improve their practical skills in relation to electronic services, qualified electronic signature and cyber hygiene.

"We continue training cycle and are delighted that the interest is constantly growing. This training sessions are of great importance as it concerns substantial novelties related to the use of qualified electronic signatures on the electronic document and/or the use of qualified electronic stamps, as well as important changes applied to the My.gov.ge. Our goal is to provide more people with information on electronic services, electronic signatures, and to show them the benefits that can be obtained if they are used. The training course is conducted throughout Georgia and the target audience includes everyone - public servants, private sector employers, students, entrepreneurs and others." - **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.

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

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