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THE FOURTH NATIONAL CYBER OLYMPIAD – CYBER CUBE 2019

On May 31, Up to 120 students from universities and schools across Georgia took part in the Cyber Olympiad Cyber Cube 2019 organized by the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-GOV-GE) of the Data Exchange Agency (DEA) under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

The main goal of the cyber Olympiad is to promote and support the development of cyber security field, as well as to identify and motivate talented young people, who possess the technical knowledge and competence.

All persons under age 25 interested in cybersecurity could have participated in the Cyber Olympiad. Potential contestants had to create a team of up to 3 members in advance according to the requirements. The principle of selection of participants was based on their knowledge and experience in programming, networking and web technologies.

Speaking at the opening of the Olympiad, **Alexandre Tabatadze,** Deputy Minister of Justice, highlighted Georgia's evident progress in developing Information Technologies and cyber security. **Nikoloz Gagnidze,** Chairperson of the Data Exchange Agency, noted the role of Cyber Olympiad in educating new generations of Georgian IT professionals
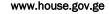
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(Continued from P. 1) "The annual Cyber Cube shows the notable progress in skills and abilities of its participants. We also see that more young people are interested in choosing cyber security as a professional path." - **Gagnidze** said.

Divided into 42 teams, Cyber Cube participants compete to fulfil a variety of tasks related to preventing cyber crisis situations and recovering from cyber security incidents caused by hard drive failures or attacks by adversaries. Most of the tasks are based on the real case scenarios from international experience and the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) practice.

"It is encouraging to see talented and motivated young people willing to contribute to the development of their country. Since 2016 when we held the first Olympics, we are constantly trying to offer a more updated program every year, as cybersecurity tactics and strategies are rapidly changing and we have to follow these developments. This project is an example of a systemic approach towards cybersecurity, which is very important because one of the main features of the successful modern state is to ensure and then maintain high levels of cybersecurity." – **David Kvatadze,** CERT-GOV-GE Manager.

Cyber Cube 2018 is the fourth Cyber Olympiad organized in Georgia since 2016. University of Georgia will cover one year tuition fee for the winner team. The participants were awarded certificates.

Sponsors: British Embassy Tbilisi, UKAID, ISSP, University of Georgia, UNDP.

Supporter: Association GRENA.

A MEETING WITH THE FRENCH DELEGATION WAS HELD ON CYBER SECURITY

Deputy Minister of Justice **Aleksandre Tabatadze** received delegation of the General Secretariat for Defense and National Security of France (SGDSN). The visit of French delegation is aiming at strengthening cooperation in the field of cyber security between the two countries. The meeting was also attended by **Nikoloz Gagnidze,** Chairman of Data Exchange Agency.

The Deputy Minister of Justice introduced the French side to the results achieved by Georgia in cyber security in recent years. Deputy Minister has overviewed Georgia's vision and underscored the importance of providing open, safe and secure cyberspace that develops the information community and strengthens the public and private sectors by creating a reliable environment for e-commerce, IT technologies and transactions and e-governance services.

"Cybersecurity is one of the contributing factors to uninterrupted functioning of the country, its national and civil security, defense and socio-economic development. Georgia is the leader in the South Caucasus and the Black Sea region in terms of cyber security excellence and stands ahead of a number of countries in Eastern and Central Europe. Georgia's advance is relatively shown in the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) rankings - Global Index for Cyber Security (GCI - Global Cybersecurity Index). According to the estimates of legal, technical and human resources, collaborative formats and organizational components, Georgia is ranked 18th in the world and 9th in Europe (2018). It is also worth mentioning that in 2017 Georgia with 0.81 points shared 2nd and 8th places with France in Europe and in the world respectively." – said **Alexander Tabatadze.**

LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice is the principal body in Georgia responsible for strengthening information and cyber security in critical information infrastructures.

DEA HAS MADE PRESENTATION ABOUT E-GOVERNANCE AND CYBERSECURITY COMPETENCY CENTER AT THE SEMINAR HELD IN TASHKENT

At the international workshop on current trends in e-Governance development held in Tashkent, **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 has made a presentation about the Georgian model of e-Governance and Cybersecurity Competency Center, which is currently being formed in Georgia by the initiative of Data Exchange Agency and with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

"Our agency is actively engaged in establishing e-Governance and Cybersecurity Competency Center, which will bring together Georgia's achievements and important reforms that have successfully been implemented in our country and form a common place for information/knowledge sharing that will help import Georgia's experience to other countries that are interested in strengthening e-Governance and cybersecurity platforms. Workshops like the one we have just had in Tashkent are important for spreading the word about the Competency Center over the international community. Audience attending the workshop was interested in the Georgian model of Competency Center and was engaged in a very interesting discussion during which our foreign partners were provided with detailed information about the project." – **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.

Ms. Gordadze also introduced workshop participants with those reforms Georgia has implemented and is currently implementing in the field of e-Governance and cybersecurity.

The workshop was organized by the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the support of the United Nations Development Program.

DATA EXCHANGE AGENCY HELD TRAINING ON QUALIFIED TRUST SERVICE, UNIFIED PORTAL OF ELECTRONIC SERVICES (MY.GOV.GE) AND CYBER HYGIENE FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF MEDIA AND NGO

On May 23-24, representatives of media and NGO sector attended the training on electronic signature, legal aspects of electronic trust services, practical purpose of Unified Portal of e-Services (My.gov.ge) and cyber hygiene held at Borjomi Palace. The event was organized by LEPL Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice and supported by German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ).

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

(Continued from P.4) "This training is 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. As it comes to information-communication technologies, we decided to add the Cyber Hygiene Module to the original course, which is also very important. The training course is conducted throughout Georgia and the target audience includes everyone - public servants, private sector employers, media and NGO representatives, 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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