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CYBER-EXE GEORGIA 2015 – CYBER EXERCISE FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

On 27th of November, in the David Agmashenebeli National Defense Academy of Georgia, Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and LEPL Cyber Security Bureau with the partnership of the State Security and Crisis Management Council, held cyber security simulated exercise – „Cyber-exe Georgia" 2015.

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.

"Cyber Security is one of the main challenges of the 21st century. Raising country's cyber security level is treated as one of the major priorities by Georgian government. Data Exchange Agency has accomplished and is currently developing number of important projects in this direction. For keeping cyber security level at its highest point, it is essential for public and private organizations to employ well-trained personal with relative experience and skills. With this perspective, CYBER-EXE Georgia 2014 is a very important event enabling participants to experience real-modeled cyber security incidents and overcome potential threats." – commented Mikheil Sarjveladze, Deputy Minister of Justice.

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 .

"We at Data Exchange Agency and its subsidiary unit CERT.GOV.GE (Computer Emergency Response Team – Georgia's National CERT) are delighted that we were able to organize an event of this scale, which were greatly supported by the EU Delegation to Georgia and Cyber Security Fund of Poland. I would also like to pay special tribute to the representatives of Prime-Minister's advisory unit – State Security and Crisis Management Council for their support and courage." – Irakli Gvenetadze, DEA's Chairman commented.

There were 16 teams involved in exercise/contest. The teams were made up with IT specialists from both public and private organizations. CYBER-EXE Georgia is thought to become traditional event with even more opportunities for the upcoming years.

Cyber-Exe was held for the second time in Georgia. The aim of this event was to prepare IT specialists for cyber-attacks in critical situations in public and private organizations, which will contribute to the country's and thereafter, as well as the citizens' defense also.

DEA HAS STARTED ITS SECOND TWINNING PROJECT

On November 9, Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia launched the second EU funded Twinning Project on e-governance in Georgia to support the development of the concept and strategy of e-Georgia and align Georgia's e-governance and information security legislation with European standards.

The event, which was held at Radisson Blu Iveria, was started with opening remarks from the Minister of Justice of Georgia, **Tea Tsulukiani**, the Foreign Minister of Estonia **Marina Kaljurand** and the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration **David Bakradze**.

Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Kaljurand said at the launching event that Estonia gained a lot from the fast introduction of the e-government and e-services. "E-governance helped us to carry out reforms and make Estonia a democratic, transparent and modern country subject to the rule of law," Estonian Minister said. "Georgia is already advanced in IT solutions and I hope that knowledge and experience that Estonian experts bring to this project will take e-Georgia further," she added.

Estonian experts in cooperation with Italian colleagues will consult and train the specialists of the Data Exchange Agency of the Georgian Ministry of Justice and Georgian Government with the aim of enhancing their skills and knowledge for further development of e-Georgia.

In the words of the Resident Twinning Adviser Ivar Tallo e-Governance Academy has a lot of experience in consulting the governments and training the civil servants in many countries but this project is special. „This is an opportunity to conduct the whole knowledge transfer," Tallo said. "Whilst building e-government in Estonia we have acquired unique experience that is useful to Georgia today", he added .

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The Twinning Project „Support to Strengthening of e-Governance in Georgia II" is funded by the European Union in the amount of 1.3 million Euro and its duration is 18 months.

The Project is implemented by Estonian e-Governance Academy in cooperation of Estonian State Chancellery and Italian ICT Consortium CSI-Piemonte (Torino, Italy).

GEORGIAN CYBER SECURITY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT VII REGIONAL CONFERENCE/EXHIBITION AND IT INNOVATION AWARD (GITI 2015)

On November 19-20, Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and ICT Business Council organized the 8th 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. Conference ended on November 8th with award ceremony of this year's best IT project authors.

The event was opened by the first Deputy Minister of Justice **Alexander Tabatadze**.

This year's conference, which had a motto "Partnerships for Competitiveness, Innovation and Cyber Security", hosted an unprecedented number of participants. Approximately 400 participants representing 20 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 known to the achievements of other countries in the above mentioned issues.

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.

"The annual conference used to climb a new stage of development during these last 8 years of its existence. 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. 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 8 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." – **Alexander Tabatadze**, Deputy Minister of Justice.

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 brings the relationship of state and citizens to a new stage. This process is correlated to Information Security. As a result the conference is given a big importance .

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E-governance and Information Security issues are main directions Data Exchange Agency is working for." – **Irakli Gvenetadze**, 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.

GITI 2015

GITI 2015

DATA EXCHANGE AGENCY STARTS A NEW LEARNING COURSE

Data Exchange Agency of Ministry of Justice of Georgia and its Division of Information Security and Policy start a new free learning course for the talented young specialists, which aims to help popularize information security and raise awareness in this direction.

This is the second project intended to educate young professionals. The first one was "Cyber Class", which concluded successfully by issuing special certificates for those, who attended the course. The second learning course will be focused on the other important direction for ensuring information security – Information security management systems. The course enables attend-ants to gain knowledge about the importance of well-established management systems for the organization and their role in ensuring information security.

"It is one of our priorities to educate and master the young generation. That's why we decided to start the second project, which aims to give the students a chance to expand their knowledge in the area of management systems and organization at no cost. In today's conditions it is very important to achieve and maintain a high level of information security, which of course needs the qualified specialists, who have the appropriate skills and knowledge and know the importance of management systems for the organization. This is a unique opportunity for young people who are interested in this direction, to acquire basic knowledge in in this very important field", - **Irakli Gvenetadze**, Chairman of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

Through the course, students will acquire theoretical, as well as practical skills in the following directions: organization and organizational context analyses; governance and management; the nature of process; technologies and information systems; the levels or organization's develop-ment; continuous improvement; roles and responsibilities; resources; communication, documen-tation; management systems and their role.

The full course includes 6 training weeks. A week provides 2-3 hour session. Each lecture will in-clude a special laboratory work with theoretical material. The manual guides and practical exer-cises will be prepared for the course ., as well as according to specific a topic ,a number of ex-perts and specialists will be invited to conduct the workshops.

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