E - G O V E R N M E N T . G E
N E W S L E T T E R

Issue #15   June, 2012

L A W   O N   I N F O R M A T I O N   S E C U R I T Y   I S   E M P O W E R E D

Since the attacks of 2008, rapidly growing dependence of the critical infrastructure and government services on the IT have largely increased concerns related to vulnerability of infrastructure to cyber incidents. Therefore, Government of Georgia considers information/cyber security to be part of the general security policy of the country, especially in the view of its increased reliance on the IT as a vehicle for delivery of government services.

A further step in institutionalizing information security was the establishment of the Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in 2010 as a central government entity responsible for development and implementation of e-governance policies and solutions. An important part of Agency's mandate is information security for the public sector and the private entities (where the latter are a part of critical infrastructure), which includes: adoption and implementation of information security policies and standards in public sector and critical infrastructure; providing consultancy services in the field of information security and performing information security audit; Awareness raising activities about information security issues in public as well as civil sector; and cyber security mandate though national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Law on Information Security was being worked out by Data Exchange Agency with active participation of NGOs, foreign experts and interested public institutions. The law was adopted in the final (third) reading in June 2012 and came into effect on 1 July 2012 .

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The draft Law relies heavily on the term "critical information system" which is used to denote what is usually called "critical infrastructure" in other states, implying protection of information systems – wither public or private-owned - that are an inherent part of state security framework.

The Law stipulates a number of obligations for critical information system subjects, such as a duty to adopt information security policies compliant with ISO 27000 minimum requirements, appointment of information security officers and cyber security personnel, as well as a duty to conduct information asset management to categorize these assets in terms of their criticality. The Law also confers the right upon critical information subjects to conduct information security audit, undergo penetration testing, ad/or install and manage a network sensor for the detection of cyber incidents. The Law lists extensively competences of CERT.GOV.GE as a national CERT and its interaction and exchange of data with owners of critical information systems.

DEA HELD TRAINING SESSIONS IN INFORMATION SECURITY FOR PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

On June 25-29, 2012 members of the Division of Information Security and Policy of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia administrated 2 training sessions for public organizations. Training sessions were in 2 major directions: **1) information security policy, instillation and audit in organizations; 2) computer incident identification and response.**

The first direction of the training aimed to develop special skills in specialized personnel on how to handle computer incidents. Additionally, Trainings covered principles of information security audit and information security management systems. Levels of information security were also discussed. This course is designed for every organization, which sees information as its core active and seeks to realize appropriate activities for provision uninterrupted and authentic information components.

The second course - **computer incident identification and response** – produced a chance to appropriate personnel to go into the details of cyber threats, the ways of their handling and prompt response, classification and comprehensive reporting tools to CERT.GOV.GE. Best practices of world's CERTs and system monitoring tools will also be discussed. Targeted audience for these trainings is IT and/or risk management mid and high rank personnel.

"From June 1, 2012 Law on Information Security came into effect. That is why it is important to provide representatives of various public institutions with comprehensive information on the regulations, liabilities and responsibilities derived from newly empowered law, so they can easily and successfully adopt new regulations related to the information security issues. Additionally, the training sessions will help participant organizations to have well-organized ICT systems, which are crucial for their effective functionality. Data Exchange Agency will continue to organize training sessions. This was the first time in Georgia when we administrated training sessions of such a big scale on information security issues and I have to admit that the outcome was very positive. We will broaden thematic variety of the trainings in the future, which will be dedicated for not only public, but private sector as well." – **Irakli Gvenetadze,** DEA Chairman.

Trainings were administrated by qualified trainers from Data Exchange Agency. All trainers possess appropriate knowledge with solid experience in information security.

At the end training participants received special certificates from Data Exchange Agency.

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE CONVENTION MEETING ON FIGHTING AGAINST CYBERCRIME

European Committee Convention meeting and international conference on fighting against cybercrime were held in Strasbourg on June 4-8, 2012. The event is held annually on behalf on European Council. Representative of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, who is currently in charge of coordinating joint projects of European Council and European Union in Georgia aiming to fight against cybercrime, along with top-level management of departments of international relationships and criminal police attended the event.

Major thematic of the meeting traditionally covered issues related to the development and practical usage of the European Convention of fighting against cybercrime adopted in 2001. In this regard, the meeting was especially important for Georgia as secretariat of European Council officially received testimonial certifying Georgia's entry into convention during the event. According to this fact convention on fighting against cybercrime will become affective for Georgia on October 1, 2012, after which Georgia will become a full member of the convention.

DEA representative made a detailed presentation on the preparation procedures of joining the convention and successful project of fighting against cybercrime in Georgia during the final session of the conference.

Data Exchange Agency will continue to coordinate project on fighting against cybercrime, which includes planning various events in Tbilisi and "Eastern Partnership" participant countries.

MEETING ON PUBLIC GOVERNANCE REFORMS WAS HELD WITHIN THE FRAMES OF "EASTERN PARTNERSHIP" PROJECT

On June 14, 2012 in the hotel "Marriott Tbilisi" a panel meeting between European Union and Georgia was held on Public Governance Reforms administrated within the frames of "Eastern Partnership" Project. The event was attended by the representatives of EU countries as well as "Eastern Partnership" participant countries (Azerbaijan, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Moldova) and European experts.

Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia along with Public Service Bureau is actively involved in the process of public governance reforms and organizes various events depicted in the action plan of the project. One of the meetings of such type was held in Tbilisi on April 23, 2012 regarding data exchange infrastructure development. Data Exchange Agency made detailed presentations for the panel participants on the current situation of data exchange infrastructure development process.

During the meeting DEA representative took part in various discussions concerning E-Governance development in Georgia.

WORKSHOP ON INNOVATIVE POLICIES IN ICTS

On June 3-10 Paata Sirbiladze, Project Management Specialist of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia participated in the workshop held in Finland concerning issues of innovative policies in ICTs.

Among participants of the workshop were policy-makers in ICT field from the countries, which cooperate with the World Bank (Georgia, Moldova, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Armenia, Lebanon and others – 18 participants in total) as well as experts from the World Bank, Professors of Finland's Aalto and Tampere Universities, high level managers of Nokia, Rovio and other leading Finnish technology companies. Among the speakers were representatives of Finnish Foreign Ministry, High ranking officials from the city halls of Helsinki and Tampere and various students' project leaders.

The workshop was mainly dedicated to the creation of innovative environment in modern ICT's, cooperation between public, private and research sectors. Other innovative projects currently going in Finland was also discussed.

DEA representative made a presentation for the workshop participants about current situation in Georgia in terms of E-governance development. Citizen's Portal MY.GOV.GE was also discussed during the presentation.

"The workshop brought together top level managers who are responsible for policy administration in various Hi-tech companies. Representatives of Finnish leading universities were also presented. This created a must-to-use atmosphere for us to introduce our projects. We had a discussion on E-Governance development issues in Georgia, highlighted achieved results and current challenges. Citizen's portal provoked a great interest among workshop participants. In return, it was very important for us to see and experience other countries' best practices." – **Paata Sirbiladze,** Project Management Specialist, DEA.

DEA HOSTED COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR OF MOLDAVIAN E-GOVERNMENT CENTER

On Just 4-5, Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia has hosted Communications Director of Moldavian E-Government Center of the Government of Moldova Ilona Spataru.
DEA representatives and Moldavian colleague had an interesting discussion during which Moldavian guest received detailed information on the accomplished, current and prospective projects of the Agency. Agency's communication strategy was also discussed.

During her visit, Ms. Spataru also had meetings in Communications Department of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, National Agency of Public Registry and Education Management Information System. She also visited Rustavi Public Service Hall and Economic Zone of Registration of Georgia Revenue Service.

"I am delighted to have an opportunity to fly in Georgia and see in person all the remarkable reforms you accomplished in the field of E-Governance development. I'd like to honestly note that I am under impressions by the information I've received here, which we definitely use in the process of E-Governance development in Moldavia." – **Ilona Spataru,** Communications Director, E-Government Center of Moldavia.

DATA EXCHANGE AGENCY: INTERNATIONAL VISITS

In June, 2012 representatives of DEA's legal and information policy and security divisions took part in various important international seminars and conferences.

On June 4-8 representatives of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia participated in conference CyCon – Cyber Conflict - organized by NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence. It was the 4th conference, which is held annually and is one of the important events in cyber security environment. The conference covered various themes related to the cyber security such are: classification of cyber threats during war time, cyber-attack regulation tools, international convention on cyber security and others.

In June representatives of DEA's Information Security and Policy Division traveled in Prague to participate in a workshop organized by US NAVY. The workshop was dedicated to the information security issues and was attended by well-known field experts.

DEA representatives made various presentations during the event and discussed current situation in Georgia regarding information security development, talked about Agency's activities and achieved results, discussed cyber-attack specifications unveiled during the war in August 2008.

In June Representatives of DEA's Information Security and Policy Division also took part in a conference held in Tallinn named - Cyber Security Symposium 2012. During the conference DEA's representatives made presentation about the attacks on governmental IT resources, which gained special interest from the attending audience.

"We are actively working with our foreign partners. It is very important for us to have a pleasure to be invited on various world-class events where we can talk about our activities and achieved results, establish important contacts and share other countries' experience in the field of information security." – **Irakli Gvenetadze,** DEA Chairman.

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