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PROVIDING SECURITY FOR E-BUSINESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova hosts the Information Security Laboratory, whose main goals are to generate both scientific and research activities among the students, doctoral degree seekers and young researchers in the field of information security and selection of young specialists to deal with information systems within governmental institution and private sectors.

One of the forms of scientific work is conducting surveys and questionnaires envisaging the present-day problems of information security. The last questionnaire dealt with the investigation of providing security of e-business.

The investigation aimed at examining the mechanisms for counteracting cybercrime in the e-business fields of the Republic of Moldova as well as the respondents' attitude towards the threats generated in the internal information security. It also sums up the information about significant threats to information security and the use of protective means and technologies as well as legal regulation of e-business in the Republic of Moldova.

The government policy of the Republic of Moldova in the informatization's field aims at providing

rapid development of IT decisions. This proves the growth of service market in telecommunications and information fields of science in the Republic of Moldova from 1391 million MDL in 2002 to 4495 million MDL in 2006. Similarly, there was an increase in the share of information technologies and telecommunications sector in the GDP from 6,2% in 2002 to 10,2% in 2006. There are 41 companies working now on the market of information services, whose amount of sales account for 226,3 million MDL, which is by 17% more than in 2006. The number of Internet service users in 2007 grew by 85,5% and exceeded 729,4 thousand, out of which 674,8 thousand are users of mobile Internet and 54,7 thousand users of fixed access to the Internet.

The questionnaire pointed out that absolutely all the respondents in it use personal computers, information technologies and Internet in everyday activity. This is not surprising because the volume of service market for Internet access and dedicated lines in the Republic of Moldova increased twice in comparison with 2003. We have to point out significant growth of number of personal computers per 100 inhabitants from 1,8 in 2002 to 15,3 in 2006. According to the investigation results made by International Union of Telecommunica-

tions in 2005, Moldova holds the 71-st place position out of 206 world countries and 32-d place position in Europe regarding the use of personal computers per 100 inhabitants.

The analysis of the received data regarding the number of personal computers showed that the biggest part of the questioned organizations lies on medium-sized and small businesses: 42,6% of respondents have less than 20 personal computers; big organizations account for 34,4%. This data shows that the informatization extent of the respondents' base is rather high. Thus, we may conclude that the respondents' basis includes all-size and all-type organizations from the smallest to the biggest.

The investigation based on 43,6% respondents from telecommunications organizations, providing IT services, 14,5% respondents related to financial services, 12,9% related to education, 6,5% related to ministries and 14,5% related to other spheres of activity. These figures show that commerce is present in all fields of activity and is a present-day issue. As to the form of ownership, 61,7% of respondents come from private organizations.

E-commerce. Nowadays, the biggest part of respondents (50,7%) does not use the e-commerce services. The most popular e-commerce services provided in the Republic of Moldova are payment through e-money - 20%, purchasing through on-line shops - 13,3% and financial operations on the Internet - 5,3%.

In spite of the increasing number of internet providers, users of Internet and the extension of Internet possibilities there are factors that restrict the development of e-commerce in the Republic of Moldova. 11,4% of the respondents think that the highest vulnerability of the e-commerce for deliberate criminals is a limiting factor for e-commerce development.

Legislative basis and formation. The legislative basis encompasses the set of laws and enactments that regulate the relationships in the information field. According to the analysis made 20,3% of respondents are not acquainted with the legislation of the Republic of Moldova, regulating the e-commerce; 83,6% of respondents pointed out that the law on E-trade was not put into practice effectively. The most popularity among the respondents in terms of knowing legislative acts enjoyed the law on e-document and digital signature. The results of the questionnaire showed that 77% of the respondents are informed that the acts of crime in the field of information science are punishable, whereas 16,4% only supposed that fact. Among the respondents there were people (6,6%) who didn't get interested in the issue, which shows disinterestedness of the population in the Republic of Moldova regarding legislation in the field of information technologies.

Threats to information security. According to respondents, the impact of information threatening in economy is mainly seen in the following fields:

39% – financial/credit system;

36% – systems for collecting, processing, storing and transferring financial, fiscal, customs and stock-exchange -related activity of the country;

11% – systems enterprise and organizations accounting;

7,8% – information automated accounting systems of the public administration bodies;

3,1% – government statistics system.

The respondents were given more than 120 questions related to various aspects of activity regarding the use of information technologies in business. Other aspects of providing e-business security are shown in detail in the report.

Conclusions. It has to be mentioned that the issues concerning the provision of information security in e-trade have some objective legal problems and namely the technologies develop much faster than the legislative basis, it is difficult to catch the deliberate criminals on the crime scene and it is easy to erase the evidence of the crime scene. All this conditions the necessity of a thorough elaboration of policy concerning the security of e-business. The full and absolute security is unachievable.

The issue of counteracting the computer delinquency is a complex problem. The laws should comply with requirements set by the modern level of information technologies development. With that end in view, it is necessary to do purposeful work to harmonize and improve the legislation, which regulates the spread of information in telecommunications networks. In addition, one of priority directions is the organization of interaction and coordination efforts of law-enforcement bodies, special service and judicial system. It is important to provide them with necessary material and technical basis as well as methodology of investigating computer delinquency.

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