

State of infosecurity in the Republic of Moldova

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The increasing severity of cybercrime and the rising complexity of cyberattacks accentuate the importance of research/development in infosecurity. Ensuring infosecurity is very complex, multidimensional and long-term and requires considerable investment. In conditions of an acute deficit of financial resources, characteristic to the Republic of Moldova, it is of paramount importance to support and promote the balanced development of areas that will subsequently ensure sufficiently fast (depending on the development phase) and massive (large enough) further actions related to infosecurity in support of economic growth in the republic. The first step before large works in the domain is to identify the state of infosecurity. In this aim, based on indicators of 12 international programs and methodologies and of five national programs/documents, the use of a set of 24 indicators is argued. Of course, this set of indicators is relatively narrow. It permits only the incipient assessment of infosecurity state in enterprises/organizations /institutions (EOIs) of the Republic of Moldova.

Through an online survey, the respective information is collected and processed, EOIs being differentiated into five categories according to the number of employees, within each of which are distinguished ICT-EOIs (EOIs related to Information and Communication Technologies sector - ICT) and non-ICT-EOIs (EOIs not-related to ICT sector). The weighted average value of the percentage of EOIs (%EOI), of the percentage of ICT-EOIs (%ICT-EOIs) and of the percentage of non-ICT-EOIs (%non-ICT-EOIs) on 23 indicators of infosecurity are: overall for EOIs - 71.7%, for ICT-EOIs - 73.3%, and for non-ICT-EOIs - 66.1%. The state of infosecurity of ICT-EOIs is better than that of non-ICT-EOIs. The biggest difference %ICT-EOIs – %non-ICT-EOIs is with reporting the infosecurity vulnerabilities of the implemented software, with performing the infosecurity audit of new IT applications/systems before implementation and with the implementing of an internal infosecurity policy. The dependence of the average value (on 23 indicators) of %EOIs on the number of employees is increasing. Moreover, the percentage of EOIs with 100% infosecurity performance for EOIs with over 500

employees is about twice as high (91.7%) as that for EOIs with up to 10 employees inclusive (43.8%).

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