USEA Bolsters Eastern Europe's Energy Security Through Cyber Resilience

The United States Energy Association is advancing Eastern Europe's energy security by helping five regional utilities complete internationally recognized cybersecurity assessments through its Utility Cyber Security Initiative. By strengthening cyber resilience in countries like Georgia, Ukraine, Kosovo, and Moldova, USEA is protecting critical infrastructure, promoting U.S. cybersecurity standards, and opening doors for American companies in global energy markets.

As cyber threats targeting energy infrastructure continue to escalate globally, the United States Energy Association (USEA) has taken decisive action to strengthen the energy security of Eastern Europe. Through its Utility Cyber Security Initiative (UCSI), USEA successfully supported five electric utilities in the region in completing the Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (C2M2) assessment. This assessment is a vital step in defending critical energy systems from increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks.

These comprehensive assessments, guided by best practices for Information Technology (IT) and Operational Technology (OT), have empowered utility leaders to evaluate their current cybersecurity posture, identify vulnerabilities, and develop clear, strategic plans to enhance resilience. The C2M2 framework, developed by U.S. Department of Energy experts and leading industry professionals, is internationally recognized for advancing cyber readiness in the energy sector.

The program's regional impact includes:

- Georgia: Two C2M2 assessments were conducted for the national transmission system operator, GSE, helping the utility strengthen its defenses and reinforce energy reliability.
- Ukraine: Khmelnytskoblenergo, a key distribution company, completed its first C2M2 assessment amid heightened regional cyber threats.
- Kosovo: The national transmission operator, KOSTT, participated in the program to identify and address cyber vulnerabilities.
- Moldova: Moldelectrica, the country's transmission system operator, finished its assessment. This marks a significant step toward modernizing and protecting the grid.

These efforts significantly improve the reliability and security of the regional energy grid by reinforcing the cyber resilience of critical utilities. This, in turn, supports the uninterrupted delivery of electricity to millions of people, making cyber defense a cornerstone of national energy security.

These achievements not only represent technical improvements but also align with U.S. strategic objectives. By strengthening the cybersecurity of allied utilities, we can safeguard American investments in regional power systems, limit the transnational spread of cyber threats, and promote the international adoption of U.S. cybersecurity standards. These partnerships also lay the groundwork for future engagement with American technology and service providers in global energy markets.

USEA's work through UCSI demonstrates how targeted technical assistance can have a lasting impact on regional energy security, global stability, economic resilience, and diplomatic cooperation.