USEA Strengthens Grid Resilience in Eastern Europe Through Cybersecurity Assessments

The United States Energy Association is reinforcing grid resilience across Eastern Europe by guiding five electric utilities through in-depth cybersecurity assessments as part of its Utility Cyber Security Initiative. These efforts are helping modernize national power systems, reduce vulnerabilities, and lay the foundation for future collaboration with U.S. technology providers to build stronger, more secure energy infrastructure.

As cyber threats to critical infrastructure become more frequent and severe, the United States Energy Association (USEA) is helping Eastern Europe strengthen the digital infrastructure of its power systems. Through its Utility Cyber Security Initiative (UCSI), the USEA supported five regional utilities in completing the Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (C2M2) assessment, a critical step in building modern, resilient electric grids.

These assessments provided utilities with a structured framework to evaluate their current cybersecurity posture in both IT and OT environments. By identifying their strengths and weaknesses, the utilities were able to prioritize strategic investments, reduce their systems' vulnerabilities, and strengthen their operational continuity in the face of evolving threats.

These efforts have directly contributed to enhancing the resilience of national and regional power systems.

- Georgia: Two assessments were conducted for the national transmission operator, GSE, helping to reinforce system stability and continuity.
- Ukraine: The regional distribution utility Khmelnytskoblenergo used the C2M2 to identify necessary upgrades and improve incident response capabilities.
- Kosovo: The transmission system operator, KOSTT, took critical steps toward improving its ability to detect, withstand, and recover from cyber disruptions.
- Moldova: Moldelectrica completed its first C2M2 assessment, advancing grid modernization and resilience planning efforts.

These assessments demonstrate each utility's proactive approach to protecting critical infrastructure. This ensures grid operations remain reliable and adaptive, even under adverse conditions. Strengthened cybersecurity translates directly into reduced downtime, faster recovery from disruptions, and a more robust defense against systemic risks – all of which are key pillars of grid resilience.

USEA's implementation of the UCSI program supports broader U.S. objectives as well. By helping foreign partners strengthen their power systems, the program decreases the likelihood of cascading impacts from regional outages, promotes the adoption of trusted U.S. standards, and paves the way for future collaboration with American technology and service providers.

Through these efforts, USEA enhances the resilience of Eastern Europe's electricity systems and contributes to the global push for secure, adaptive, and future-ready energy infrastructure.