



## Support to the anti-corruption strategy of Georgia (GEPAC)

### – project summary –

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CoE project No. 2007/DG1/NC/779

Project title	Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Georgia (GEPAC)
Project area	Georgia
Budget	EURO 700.000
Funding	The Netherlands (Ministry for Development Cooperation)
Implementation	Council of Europe (Economic Crime Division/Directorate of Co-operation / DG-HL)
Duration	24 months (September 2007 – August 2009)

### BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The people of Georgia consider corruption to be one of the key problems of their society. On 22 August 2006, GRECO published its Final Overall Assessment Report on Georgia's compliance with the recommendations addressed in June 2001, in the framework of GRECO's First Evaluation Round. This report concludes that - despite the disappointingly slow pace of the implementation of the recommendations in the first years after the adoption of the initial evaluation report - sufficient progress appears to have been made to allow GRECO to formally terminate the non-compliance procedure. GRECO, nevertheless urged the Georgian authorities to pursue their anti-corruption efforts in a vigorous manner and, above all, to implement their Anti-corruption Strategy and related Anti-corruption Action Plan. During its 31st Plenary Meeting, 4-8 December 2006, GRECO adopted the Second Round Evaluation Report for Georgia which was made public in January 2007.

In January 2005, the Government of Georgia initiated work on a new anti-corruption strategy and sought the support of the Council of Europe, which was provided under a joint programme of the Council of Europe and the European Commission. The "National Anti-corruption Strategy of Georgia" was prepared by a working group led by the National Security Council in May/July 2005 and adopted by the Decree of the President of Georgia n°550 from 24 June 2005.

The "Action Plan for the Anti-corruption Strategy (2005-2006)" was drafted by a working group led by, State Minister for Reforms Coordination and adopted by the Decree of the Government of Georgia n°377 of 12 September 2005. This was approved by the Decree of the President of Georgia n°155 on 28 March 2006. The State Minister for Reforms Coordination is empowered with supervising the implementation of the Action Plan.

Anti-corruption measures are now high on the agenda of the Georgian Government. In order to maintain the momentum created through the drafting of the Strategy and Action Plan a technical cooperation project has been required to provide the necessary expertise and to contribute to the actual implementation of this Plan in 2007 and 2008.

Thus, the technical assistance project aiming at contributing to these objectives will serve as one tool for providing and supporting reforms and interventions in the following areas:

- At the strategic level; and
- At Anti-corruption Action Plan specific measures level.

## OBJECTIVE, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>To contribute to democracy and the rule of law through the prevention and control of corruption in Georgia in accordance with European and other international standards as well as GRECO recommendations</b>
<b>Project objective</b>	<b>To support the implementation of Georgia's Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan</b>
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Capacity of the Office of the State Minister on Reforms Coordination (and Contact Points in cooperating institutions (Working Party) to manage, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Plan reinforced</b>
Activity 1.1	Inception Phase (2 months): Finalise workplan of activities with all counterparts; conduct the recruitment of staff and long term advisers; (commissioning, interviews, and contracting).
Activity 1.2	Organise a start-up conference with participation of all relevant stakeholders (Tbilisi)
Activity 1.3	Provide equipment required for efficient running of the Office of the State Minister
Activity 1.4	Advise and train the Staff at the Office of the State Minister on Reforms Coordination and Contact Points (Working Party members) on operational issues
Activity 1.5	Organise at least 2 study visits for the Staff at the Office of the State Minister on Reforms Coordination and relevant Contact Points (Working Party members)
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Anti-corruption Strategy Reviewed and Action Plan Updated</b>
Activity 2.1	Assist and advice the Staff of the Office of State Minister on Reforms Coordination to further elaborate and update the Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan in line with GRECO recommendations and other international commitments and obligations
Activity 2.2	Organise two corruption perception and attitude surveys on corruption levels
Activity 2.3	Organise a National Conference to review and overall monitor the implementation of the updated Anti-corruption Strategy and the Action Plan
<b>Output 3</b>	<b>At least 6 draft amendments and regulations elaborated in cooperation with the Staff of the Office of State Minister on Reforms Coordination and relevant partner institutions (Working Party)</b>
Activity 3.1	Draft amendments related to the accession to international legal instruments against corruption, including those pertaining to criminalisation of corruption
Activity 3.2	Contribute to elaborate amendments/implementing tools pertaining to the reform of the system of financing of political parties and electoral campaigns
Activity 3.3	Provide training on issues related to the newly enacted anti-corruption legislation
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>Capacities of the Prosecution to investigate and prosecute high level corruption strengthened</b>
Activity 4.1	2 in-country training sessions for the staff of units specialised in investigation and prosecution of high level corruption (case studies, pro-active and multidisciplinary approach)
Activity 4.2	1 in-country training session for the staff of units specialised in investigation and prosecution of high level corruption related
Activity 4.3	Up to 2 study visits for 6 prosecutors and 6 police officers from the specialised services
Activity 4.4	International conference on investigation and prosecution of high level corruption (Tbilisi)
<b>Output 5</b>	<b>Integrity and institutional capacity for preventing corruption strengthened (pilot project with the General Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Interior)</b>
Activity 5.1	Assist in elaboration and publication of internal corruption prevention plans for Prosecution: control, recruitment, promotion, rotation, conflict of interests

The project, while taking into account the specific needs of the project area, will also contain a strong element of regional interaction, and facilitate experience exchange and networking among anti-corruption institutions.

## **PARTNERS/BENEFICIARIES**

The main project partner from the Georgian side will be the Office of the State Minister on Reforms Co-ordination, which will play the key role in the national anti-corruption effort. Project beneficiaries will also include:

- the General Prosecutor's Office (Output 4 and 5)
- the Ministry of Interior (Output 4 and 5)

The project will operate at the national level through cooperation with national partner institution (Working Party) and beneficiaries and at the international level promoting international cooperation, networking and exchange of information.

## **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

During the implementation of the project short and long term experts (national and international) will be commissioned.

In Tbilisi, three long-term national experts will be recruited (one of which should be senior) as Project Implementation Unit (PIU) members responsible for the day-to-day implementation of major part of the activities of the project. The national experts (independent consultants) will be providing directly technical advice and support to the Office of the State Minister on Reforms Co-ordination and support the analytical and advice work of the Working Party. They will be supported by 1 Local Project Officer for administration and secretarial/translations assistance. The National Experts and the Local Project Officer will be based at the Project Office (within the premises of the Office of the State Minister on Reforms Co-ordination) and they shall not constitute or be considered as staff/civil servants of the Office of the State Minister on Reforms Co-ordination.

Overall administrative project management will be ensured by Economic Crime Division (Corruption and Fraud Unit/Economic Crime Division, Directorate of Cooperation, DG-HL) at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. A Project Officer (PO) in Strasbourg will be assigned to oversee the project's implementation and daily follow up of actions and assist the team in Tbilisi.

The project team will propose a Workplan detailing short-term and long-term international consultants/experts, including the long-term national experts that will be needed for the implementation of project activities. The Council of Europe will ensure the active participation of local professional skills where available, and a suitable mix of European and local experts in the project activities. All local experts are to be independent and free from conflicts of interests.

## **CONTACT**

For any additional information please contact:

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