

- Development of the training programme on preventive health care;
- Development, translation, publication and distribution of thematic and awareness-raising materials for prisoners and staff dealing with persons in closed institutions;
- Evaluation of needs in harm reduction and psycho-social rehabilitation;
- Strengthening health care in prisons through a series of round tables, training sessions and study visits;
- Purchasing medical equipment for the penitentiary medical facilities;
- Activities directed at improving the mental health complaints mechanism;
- Awareness-raising among NGOs and the social sector on human rights issues related to mental health;
- Assessment of the state's strategy and action plan for the fight against ill-treatment and impunity for 2011-2013 and assistance in developing a new one;
- Strengthening the capacity of monitoring and investigative bodies.



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HUMAN RIGHTS IN PRISONS AND OTHER CLOSED INSTITUTIONS



Contact Information:
Council of Europe Office in Georgia
26 Kakabadzebi Brothers St.
0108 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel.: (995 32) 291 38 70

www.coe.ge
www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia



Since joining the Council of Europe in 1999, Georgia has made considerable progress in advancing democratic reforms. The Council of Europe and the European Union have been Georgia's main partners in promoting democracy, human rights and rule of law.

Georgia acceded to many Council of Europe Conventions, including the **European Convention on Human Rights** and the **European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**, thereby committing itself to cooperate fully with the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture in monitoring the treatment and strengthening the protection of persons deprived of their liberty. Together with other Council of Europe member states, Georgia adopted various Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, such as the **European Prison Rules** and the **European Code of Ethics for Prison Staff**, as well as other recommendations on psychiatry and human rights, on protection of the human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder, and on legal protection of such persons placed as involuntary patients.



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The reforms undertaken in Georgia were intended to encompass standards in the field of criminal legislation, police and penitentiary reforms, as well as to enhance the process of legislative reforms and the functioning of the institutions concerned.

Following regular monitoring, the Council of Europe has indicated that efforts have been made to upgrade the legislative and institutional human rights protection framework in Georgia. However, various problems as regards the protection of persons deprived of their liberty persist and further efforts are needed to improve the protection of human rights of inmates and detainees, whether they are in a prison, a police cell or a psychiatric institution.

With the aim of strengthening the reforms in Georgia as regards the protection of human rights of people deprived of their liberty in prisons, police and other closed institutions, including their right to health, with the support of the European Union, the Council of Europe launched this Joint Programme.

The programme "**Human Rights in Prisons and Other Closed Institutions**" aims to

- Improve the provision of health care in prisons and police detention facilities, in line with European standards;
- Strengthen the human rights protection of persons with mental disorders in prisons, police detention facilities and other closed facilities, such as psychiatric institutions, in line with European standards; and

- Strengthen the monitoring and investigative functions of state bodies to prevent and combat ill-treatment and impunity, in line with European and other international standards.



The **target group** of the programme includes the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, Ministry of Interior – Police, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, medical and non-medical staff of prisons, police officers, police detention facilities and psychiatric institutions of Georgia.

The **expected results** of the programme will be improved access to health care for inmates. Improved standards, institutional framework and capacity building for the provision of psychiatric care in prisons, police detention facilities and other closed facilities are also among the targets to achieve. National monitoring and investigative systems for preventing and combating ill-treatment are expected to be reinforced as well.

In order to achieve these results, the Council of Europe will implement a **wide variety of actions** and activities in the framework of the programme, including:

- Legislative support to the national authorities;
- Assessment of the implementation of the penitentiary system health care strategy and action plan for 2013-2014 and the assistance in developing a new one;