



FEBRUARY MONTHLY REPORT No. 02/2010

Project title	Support to the Anti-corruption Strategy of Georgia (GEPAC)
Reference number	2007/DG1/VC/779
Project duration	1 September 2007 – 31 March 2010
Implementation	Economic Crime Division, Directorate of Co-operation , DGHL Council of Europe
Project budget	700.000 Euros
Reporting Period	1 February – 28 February 2010
Reporting Date	1 March 2010
SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT AGAINST INDICATORS	
Activity	Assist and advise the Coordination Council on how to further elaborate and update the AC Strategy and AP in line with GRECO recommendations and other international commitments and obligations with respect to specific AC measures
Output Reference	Activity 2.1
Aim	To raise awareness for the members of the AC Coordination Council and of the Analytical Department on Indicators and Reporting Tools for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of Georgia
Outcome	<p>GEPAC project organised a Round Table Discussion on Indicators and Reporting Tools for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of Georgia at State Chancellery of Government of Georgia on 24 February 2010. In total six persons attended the event.</p> <p>The Project's Short Term Advisor, Ms. Marijana Trivunovic made presentation and led the discussion on indicators and reporting tools, using examples and good practices from other countries. The participants discussed the elements of implementation plans, "process" vs. outcome indicators and the challenges in defining good indicators, as well as the elements of effective tools and mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption programmes. The participants also expressed an interest in the steps following the adoption of AC Strategy of Georgia, particularly the implementation plan, where concrete measures and responsibilities for their implementation would be defined.</p>
Follow up	Potential repeat of the round table discussion for members of the Analytical Department, the de facto secretariat of the AC Coordination Council, who would be responsible for elaborating much of the implementation plan and the monitoring and reporting on its implementation.
Activity	A training module is developed within the Ministry of Justice through consultation with the other relevant ministries to sustain and consolidate the implementation of the training beyond the work of the project
Output Reference	Activity 4.2
Aim	To develop a specialized anti-corruption training module for investigators in order to incorporate it in the training curriculum of the Ministry of Justice

Outcome	<p>The workshop to develop a specialized anti-corruption training module for Investigators was conducted at the Ministry of Justice on 22-25 February 2010. The international expert, Mr. Michael Ocvirk, an investigator of the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption in Austria (BIA), presented BIA's basic training programme, including specific lessons, case studies, and interactive exercises. The local expert, Mr. Giorgi Jokhadze, led the discussion about how the Austrian materials and approaches may be adapted to the Georgian context. The discussion throughout the training addressed both the content and methodology of the future Georgian training, and a number of future needs were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For national specialised AC training, additional topic were identified as well as desirable interactive training approaches • For future trainings involving international experts, emphasis was placed, content-wise, on specific operational practices and techniques, and method-wise, case study approaches. • Participation of Georgian trainers in other institutions' trainings to observe good training practices and consider the applicability of content. <p>A total of 17 participants were present.</p>
Follow-up	<p>The list of topics within the specialised training module should be finalized and approved by the Ministry of Justice Training Centre and sent to the project team by March 10. GEPAC will review the possibility of elaborating one or more lessons within the training curriculum within the framework of the project.</p>
CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PLANNED REMEDIAL ACTIONS	
OTHER DEVELOPMENTS	
<p><u>Analytical Department Human Resources challenges:</u> GEPAC Project Team met with the representatives of Analytical Department at the Ministry of Justice on 24 February 2010. Mr. Otar Kakhidze was appointed as the new Head of the Analytical Department after Mr. Giorgi Jokhadze moved to another position. Mr. Kakhidze understood the need for additional human resources dedicated to supporting the AC Coordination Council and stated that they intend soon to recruit a new staff person who will be responsible for the anti-corruption related activities, including communication with GEPAC project.</p> <p><u>AC Strategy finalisation:</u> Several AC members (Georgian Young Lawyers Association, Transparency International and Ministry of Finance) sent recommendations to the Analytical Department, which serves as the secretariat to the AC Council. They were reviewed in consultation with Mr. Vakhtang Lejava, and some were incorporated into the Strategy. The resulting draft was sent by mails to all AC Council members, and discussions are to take place about its finalisation and adoption by the AC Council, possibly before the end of GEPAC.</p> <p><u>GEPAC closing event and possible follow up:</u> The project team met with Mr. Vakhtang Lejava, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia, at the State Chancellery of Government of Georgia on 25 February 2010 to discuss the GEPAC closing event, as well as recommendations for a possible follow up project. It was agreed that the closing event should be a presentation of the major project achievements, organized tentatively March 25 or 26, although further details need to be discussed. In addition, Mr. Vakhtang Lejava shared his ideas about priority activities under a possible follow up project: assistance with the development of an implementation plan and its monitoring/reporting system; continued training and exchange of international practice with investigators and/or prosecutors; expert assessments and advice on particular topics such as funding of the political parties. He further recommended that any follow up project would ideally concentrate on a fewer number of outputs but include a greater number of preparatory activities and a more realistic timeline for organising high quality activities under each output.</p>	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD	
<p>The main activities planned for March 2010 are the following:</p> <p>Output 4 – Capacities of the prosecution to investigate and prosecute high level corruption strengthened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity 4.3 – Training on criminal liability of legal persons to all officials concerned with a view to ensuring that full use of the provisions is made in cases of bribery, trading influence and money laundering <p>Identifying the appropriate expert for the training is underway. The GEPAC project team contacted experts</p>	

from France and one from Spain as these countries are known among few countries that have introduced this system of liability.

- **Activity 4.4 – Up to 2 study visits for representatives of specialized units (law enforcement) to European counterpart institution**

Study Visit: GEPAC Project team identified 6 participants for the study visit in Slovenia. The Commission for Prevention of Corruption in Slovenia is the main counter-part for the study visit. The other partners are Group of State Prosecutors for the Prevention of Organised Crime; the National Bureau of Investigation of Slovenia (a newly established anti-corruption unit); Ministry of Justice (Judges specialised for corruption cases). All the necessary logistics to realise the study visit are underway.

Output 5 – Integrity and institutional capacity for preventing corruption at the General Prosecutor’s Office

- **Activity 5.3 – Training to improve the ability of tax inspectors to detect corruption offences, in particular as regards bribes concealed as legitimate expenses**

GEPAC project team was proposed to organize a two half-day training for tax inspectors. A list of 25 potential participants was already provided by the Ministry of Finance. The possible dates will be reviewed in consultation with the experts/trainers. The focus of the training should be on improving the ability of tax inspectors to detect corruption offences. A training of trainers approach may also be considered. Identifying the appropriate expert for the training is underway.

Evaluation: GEPAC is to be evaluated before the end of the project, in the second half of March 2010. The project management team identified an independent external evaluator. The evaluator, the project team, the counterparts and the donor representative were consulted on availability for the evaluation period. The project team started working on a draft agenda. It is agreed in principle that the previous project officers in Strasbourg and the previous national long-term advisors shall also be interviewed for a better insight of the project progress.