



JANUARY MONTHLY REPORT No. 01/2010

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 January – 31 January 2010
Reporting Date	1 February 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 public awareness, in particular civil sector and academia on AC strategy and involve them in the process of AC strategy formation
Outcome	<p>GEPAC project organised a half day workshop on AC strategy for national non-governmental organizations and academia at the State Chancellery on 15 January 2010. The public announcement of this event was sent by mails to the interested representatives from non-governmental organizations and academia. In total thirteen participants attended the workshop.</p> <p>The AC strategy was presented by Mr. Vakhtang Lejava, the Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia, followed by a round-table discussion. Materials distributed to the attendees included the draft AC strategy and the template for submission of comments. The participants were invited to submit their comments and suggestions on AC strategy by the end of January.</p>
Follow up	The Analytical Department of Ministry of Justice, as the secretariat of the AC Council, will provide the GEPAC project team information about the inputs from state institutions and/or non-governmental organizations, academia, media, etc.
Activity	Support to the Coordination Council in the organization of a workshop on the results of corruption surveys
Output Reference	Activity 2.3
Aim	To raise awareness among media representatives, and through them, the Georgian public, about the AC strategy and corruption surveys
Outcome	The presentation of two corruption surveys – General Public and Public Officials – was made for media representatives at the State Chancellery on 29 January 2010. The surveys were conducted by the public opinion research company GORBI (Georgian Opinion Research Business International), the Georgian affiliate of Gallup International. The public announcement about this event was sent by mails to the journalists. Mr. Merab Pachulia, Director of GORBI, presented survey methodologies and findings, while Mr. Vakhtang

	Lejava, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia, outlined the draft AC strategy. Discussions followed each session. In addition, the draft AC strategy and survey presentation materials were disseminated among the participants. In total, 16 participants attended.
Follow-up	Completed
CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PLANNED REMEDIAL ACTIONS	
OTHER DEVELOPMENTS	
<p>Evaluation: The 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.</p> <p>Study Visit: The project manager contacted the counterpart institution, Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (CPC), in Slovenia. The work on the draft agenda has started. The President of the Commission, Mr Drago Kos, informed Strasbourg about a new established highly specialised police unit for the fight against economic crime and corruption in Slovenia (the National Bureau of Investigation). He suggested a visit to this unit during the study visit. This was communicated to the Georgian counterparts and feedback is to be received soon.</p>	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD	
<p>The main activities planned for February 2010 and beyond are the following:</p> <p>Output 2 – Update and revision of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 2.1: Advice to Government of Georgia on the Anti-Corruption Strategy <p>During the meeting with Mr. Vakhtang Lejava, Chief Adviser to the Prime-Minister of Georgia on 21 January 2010, the GEPAC project team was proposed to change the date of the presentation of Project's Short-Term Adviser Ms. Marijana Trivunovic on monitoring and reporting on AC strategy implementation. It was suggested to organize it in the fourth week of February (the date should be discussed in consultation with the international expert as well). Also it was suggested to combine this workshop with the additional session on how to set implementation benchmarks for AC strategy monitoring (to be discussed). In the meantime, further inputs from state institutions and/or any interested person from non-governmental organizations and academia is expected.</p> <p>Output 4 – Capacities of the prosecution to investigate and prosecute high level corruption strengthened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 4.2 – 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 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 in influence and money laundering <p>Several training topics were identified for the project lifetime. They are: criminal liability of legal persons: internal inspections for Inspector General of the Ministry of Justice; and corruption in the private sector. In this regard, the GEPAC project team plans to meet with the relevant persons at Ministry of Justice in order to discuss appropriate activities (identifying the responsible people who will work with the international expert to elaborate the training module(s), finding potential local trainers, etc.). A meeting on these issues is scheduled in the first week of February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 4.4 – Up to 2 study visits for representatives of specialized units (law enforcement) to European counterpart institution <p>During the January meetings with Mr. Vakhtang Lejava, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Georgia, the nomination of candidates for the study visit was raised. In total, five people will take part in the study visit. The</p>	

Analytical Department of the Ministry of Justice named two representatives: Ms Rusudan Mikhelidze, Deputy Head of Analytical Department and Ms Guranda Khokhobashvili, Adviser to the Analytical Department. The rest three candidates will be nominated in consultation with Mr. Vakhtang Lejava in the first week of February.

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**

After consultation with Mr. Vakhtang Lejava, Chief Adviser to Prime Minister of Georgia, two half-day trainings for tax inspectors are proposed. This could be discussed further and amended in consultation with the expert/trainer. The suggested training venue is possibly outside, but not far from Tbilisi. A list of 25 potential participants was provided by the Ministry of Finance. The trainings are proposed to be organized in February, but the date will be reviewed in consultation with the expert/trainer. The focus of the training should be on improving the ability of tax inspectors to detect corruption offences, and implementing OECD guidelines. A training of trainers approach may also be considered.